Agenda – Council – May 22, 2025

Report – Standing Policy Committee on Water, Waste and Environment – May 5, 2025

Item No. 1 Solid Waste Utility

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On May 13, 2025, the Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Water, Waste and Environment and submitted the following to Council:

1. That in accordance with Section 16(4) of the Procedure By-law No. 50/2007, an extension of time of 60 days be granted for the Standing Policy Committee on Water, Waste and Environment to submit a recommendation on the Council Motion of March 27, 2025.

2. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

Report – Standing Policy Committee on Water, Waste and Environment – May 5, 2025

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On May 13, 2025, the Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Water, Waste and Environment and submitted the matter to Council.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On May 5, 2025, the Standing Policy Committee on Water, Waste and Environment considered the Council Motion of March 27, 2025, and recommended to the Executive Policy Committee and Council:

1. That in accordance with Section 16(4) of the Procedure By-law No. 50/2007, an extension of time of 60 days be granted for the Standing Policy Committee on Water, Waste and Environment to submit a recommendation on the Council Motion of March 27, 2025.

2. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

On April 11, 2025 the Standing Policy Committee on Water, Waste and Environment laid the matter over for 30 days.

COUNCIL DECISION:

On March 27, 2025, Council ruled automatic referral of the following motion to the Standing Policy Committee on Water, Waste and Environment:

Moved by Councillor Gilroy,
Seconded by Councillor Mayes,

WHEREAS the Solid Waste Utility Financial Plan and Rate Model 2025-2027 outlines a new user fee for residents;

AND WHEREAS this user fee will be a new charge with an increase of above the rate of property tax and water and sewer rates increases;

Report – Standing Policy Committee on Water, Waste and Environment – May 5, 2025

DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

COUNCIL DECISION (continued):

AND WHEREAS large increases to the sewer and water rates are already forecast in future years;

AND WHEREAS there are still some unknown costs associated with the solid waste utility for an organics program;

AND WHEREAS a user fee is regressive and not as equitable as funding through property tax because it does not account for a person's ability to pay;

AND WHEREAS the municipal property tax is more equitable for residents;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the following be referred to the 2026 Budget Update Process:

1. That a 1% property tax increase be dedicated to the Solid Waste Utility to offset a portion of the costs of the new utility model to make it more affordable for residents.