

COUNCIL REPORT

To: Mayor and Council

From: Finance

Date: April 8, 2026

Subject: 2026 Water, Sewer and Garbage Bylaw Amendment

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council receives this report for information.

BACKGROUND:

Utility services (water, sewer, garbage) provided by local governments are intended to be fully funded through user fees, meaning the full cost of the programs, including the costs related to managing the life cycle of capital assets are covered by those user fees. User fees are typically adjusted annually to offset any changes in the cost of delivering the service.

At the March 23rd Council meeting staff presented Mayor and Council with a variety of options for bylaw rate increases for utility services. Listed below are the approved rate increases:

- Water – 11%
 - The increase to water rates covers all necessary operational costs and projects and provides a transfer to reserves in the amount of \$351,938 for current and future capital projects.

- Sewer – 11%
 - The increase to sewer rates covers all necessary operational costs and projects and provides a transfer to reserves in the amount of \$295,261 for current and future capital projects.

- Residential Garbage – 1.5%
 - The increase to residential garbage rates covers all the necessary operational costs and provides a transfer to reserves in the amount of \$98,562 for replacement of garbage truck and garbage bins.

- Commercial Garbage – 4.0%
 - The increase to commercial garbage rates covers all the necessary operational costs and provides a transfer to reserves in the amount of \$85,862 for replacement of commercial garbage truck and garbage bins.

Residential Customers

Below is the annual impact of the bylaw rate increases for residential customers for water, sewer and garbage:

Water billing increase	\$56.32
Sewer billing increase	\$35.15
Garbage billing increase (weekly service)	\$ 3.19
Overall annual increase of \$94.66 or \$7.89/month	

*bi-weekly garbage service would see an increase of \$94.17 or \$7.85/month

Commercial Customers

Below is the annual impact of the bylaw rate increases for commercial customers for water, sewer and garbage. The rate increase will affect four bi-monthly billing cycles from May – Dec.

Water billing increase (minimum charges)	\$33.64
Sewer billing increase (minimum charges)	\$27.84
Garbage billing increase (3yrd bin 1 pickup per week)	\$41.92
Overall annual increase of \$103.40 or \$25.85 bi-monthly	

*4yrd bin, 1 pickup/week customers would see an increase of \$112.16 or \$28.04 bi-monthly

Next Steps

Rates would become effective May 1, 2026. Residential customers would have their new rates shown on their 2026 property tax bill and commercial customers will have the new rates shown on their May/June utility billing.

A copy of the associated bylaws have been included in the Bylaw section of the agenda for Council's consideration.



COUNCIL PRIORITY:

Strong Governance and Finances

- As the municipality's elected governing body, we serve all residents and businesses in the community. We engage residents and stakeholders on important issues and make our decisions through open and transparent processes. We are careful in our use of resources, mindful of the need to maintain programs and services, while also meeting the community's infrastructure needs.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Kerri Borne, Chief Financial Officer

Reviewed By: Corporate Services

Approved By: Chief Administrative Officer