

From: [KATE MARSH](#)
To: [Council](#)
Subject: Winter water fees
Date: Tuesday, January 16, 2024 12:58:02 PM

Dear Mayor Douglas and Council members,

Happy New Year!

Once again, I must preface my request with an acknowledgment of your excellent decorum as you deliberate on what is best for your constituents.

Mayor Douglas, you have excellent chairing skills and I greatly appreciate all the outreach you have been doing with the staff and organizations in the community.

And all of you - thank you for your service and for bringing your view points to the deliberations.

I am writing you today to request that you waive extra charges on water this winter. I think there are many constituents that may have had broken pipes due to the severe weather, and there could be overages. I expect plumbers are working at capacity and people may have to wait for repairs and of course would need to turn on their water for cooking, etc. Not sure if code requires shut offs at all outdoor taps, might be a good addition.

It would be more efficient not to send out bills in the spring for overage, and have them call in to say, their pipes had burst.

I remember a few years ago when I got a bill for \$ 425.00, and it turned out the break was at the meter, and I was not required to pay. It was again, a time when there was snow on the ground. Though I had the funds, it was a huge bill and certainly not in my monthly budget. I was so relieved not to have to pay it.

So many folks are living right on the edge, from income to income and with rising rents, food costs, fuel and interest rates it's fair to say many constituents are stretched to the max. Constituents paying for water overages this winter would do nothing to bring the water back and it could cause increased stress, hardship and pressure on many of them as they navigate this unprecedented time. Wages, pensions and social assistance are in no way what they should be when juxtaposed with the costs of everything.

I appreciate your consideration of this request, for the sake of people who need it. My request is that you make it universal this winter in this incredibly cold time.

Best,

Kate Marsh

 FIPPA s. 22(1)

PS: so far my pipes are good.