

Report

Date	March 5, 2025	File:
Subject	Fees & Charges Bylaw Amendment Bylaw No. 4007, 2025 for first three readings	

PURPOSE

To introduce Fees and Charges Amendment Bylaw No. 4007, 2025, which proposes to increase cemetery interment fees by 3% annually for five years from 2025 until 2029 and other minor amendments.

BACKGROUND

In accordance with section 8 of the Fees and Charges Bylaw, Council must review the fees and charges on an annual basis to ensure that they are sufficient to offset their associated service-delivery costs.

DISCUSSION

Cemetery

In response to increasing material costs, inflation, and wage increases, staff have completed the annual review of cemetery-related fees and services and recommend updating them as follows:

- Schedule D – Interment Fees
 - Items 1 through 41, increase fees by 3% per year
 - Items 1 through 41, insert a 5-year fee structure from 2025 until 2029

Aside from a burial fee increase in February 2024 due to local contractor fee increases, the cemetery fees and charges have not increased since 2020. In 2016, Council approved a 3% increase over a five-year period; however, from 2021 until now, no other fees have increased. Since then, cemetery operations have continued to operate while incurring inflationary and material costs without increasing fees. Given the new cost pressures the cemetery continues to encounter, staff recommend that a 3% fee increase be applied to all cemetery services from 2025 until 2029. Staff will continue to conduct annual reviews of the fees and make any necessary recommendations to Council for future changes should it be warranted.

Please note that Fees and Charges Amendment Bylaw No. 4007, 2025 (which includes resident rates for eligible veterans) is scheduled for adoption at the March 5, 2025, meeting before Council considers the first three readings of Fees and Charges Amendment Bylaw No. 4007, 2025. It is cumbersome to have an overlap of two bylaws amending the same section of the Fees and Charges Bylaw simultaneously. Therefore, staff have included the amendment to charge eligible veterans the resident rate in this bylaw, assuming that Council will adopt Fees and Charges Amendment Bylaw No. 4007.

Garbage and Recycling

In response to the increased costs of the recycling contract, the annual waste collection fee must be adjusted from \$153 to \$157 annually, effective 2025.

- Schedule C – Development and Permitting Fees (section 2, Engineering Fees)
 - Item 30 has been amended from \$51 to \$52.34

OPTIONS

1. **(Recommended Option)** THAT Council gives first, second, and third readings to Fees and Charges Amendment Bylaw No. 4007, 2025.

IMPLICATIONS

In accordance with Part 7, Division 2 of the *Community Charter*, fees and charges may only be imposed if established through a bylaw. It is expected that revenues will increase as a result of the 3% increase related to all services and fees provided by cemetery operations. The increase in garbage and recycling rates will cover the increased costs of recycling in 2025.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council gives first, second, and third readings to Fees and Charges Amendment Bylaw No. 4007, 2025

Report prepared by:




Neil Pukesh
Director, Parks and Recreation

Report reviewed by:



George Farkas
General Manager, Planning, Development and
Community Services

Approved to be forwarded to Council:



Ted Swabey
Chief Administrative Officer

Attachment:

- (1) Fees and Charges Bylaw Amendment Bylaw No. 4007, 2025