



Council approves changes to Fees and Charges Bylaw

Monday, March 6, 2023 (Wetaskiwin, Alberta) — Heading into 2023, the City will see several changes to fees and charges for its services.

City Council approved the [Fees and Charges Bylaw 2028-23](#) during its [February 27, 2023 regular council meeting](#). The changes were made to ensure any service provided accurately reflects the costs incurred, accounting for increased inflation rates.

The bylaw was originally approved during the [December 12 regular council meeting](#), with Administration bringing the adjusted bylaw back to Council on [February 13](#) for further deliberation.

“No one likes paying more for anything, much less utility bills,” said Mayor Gandam. “We understand the impact this will have on our community and will continue to look for efficiencies wherever possible.”

Several adjustments to existing fees and additional fees have been implemented, including but not limited to:

Significant utility fee adjustments

At the recommendation of [Peace Hills Utilities Inc.](#), monthly wastewater and water fees will increase 16 per cent as of February 1, 2023, with an additional 15 per cent increase to begin on July 1, 2023. The utility rate increases are required to ensure sufficient revenue is generated for the provision of utilities to customers and to cover the costs of operations and the repayment of the debt associated with the construction of the new wastewater treatment facility starting in 2024.

Based on the typical monthly water usage of 15 cubic metres by a family of four (4), the average Wetaskiwin household receives a water and wastewater bill of \$125 per month. The new rates would see that increase to approximately \$145 in February and to approximately \$167 in July. Council received a presentation for information from the Peace Hills Utilities Board about the proposed rates during their [October 24, 2022 council meeting](#).

Please direct any questions or concerns about the utility increases to Sue Howard at Sue.Howard@Wetaskiwin.ca so that they can be properly addressed by the Peace Hills Utilities Inc. board.

New fees

- *Credit Card Processing Fee*: a 2.4 per cent processing fee for all in-person and online credit card payments.
- *Paper Bill Fee*: there is currently no fee for paper bills. Once e-billing is implemented, a \$2 fee for paper bills will be implemented to help cover internal costs.
- *Drill Hall Fees*: new fees for setup/take down at the Drill Hall will be charged at a rate of \$40 per hour per staff member.
- *Storm Sewer Maintenance Fees*: monthly fees will be introduced to help recover costs related to storm sewer maintenance at the following rates:
 - Residential: \$0.70 per month.
 - Multi-family residential: \$1.30 per month,
 - Industrial, commercial, and institutional: \$2.60 per month.
- *Airport Tie Down Fees*: introduction of a tie-down fee of:
 - Daily: \$2.50
 - Monthly: \$35





- Annual: \$375
- Winter access snow removal for tie-down fee: \$15 per month between October and March each year.

Fee adjustments

- *Keeping pace with inflation:* fees and charges associated with several City services will be increasing by 7.4 per cent, to keep pace with the Consumer Price Index (CPI) increase seen in 2022. This includes but is not limited to:
 - Planning and Development: fees for residential development permits, non-residential new construction and additions, signage, compliance certificates, building safety codes, and more.
 - Waste Management: fees for waste services and Wetaskiwin Sanitary Landfill tipping fees.
 - Municipal enforcement: animal licences and taxi licences.
 - Cemetery: columbarium and cremains plots fees.
 - Fire Services: false alarm responses and fire inspections.
 - Recreation: memberships and admission for the Manluk Centre; rental fees for Drill Hall, Memorial Arts Centre, ice, ball diamonds, fields, and other facilities.
- *Non-Sufficient Funds Fee:* the fee for non-sufficient funds charges will increase to \$25, which is in-line with the fees Administration is charged by the bank for non-sufficient funds.
- *No charge for support:* private support staff accompanying a client with a disability will not be charged admission at the Manluk Centre.

The City assesses the fees and charges bylaw each year to ensure amounts are in line with cost recovery efforts. These reports are shared with the public through Administration's presentations to Council. For a full listing of City fees and charges visit wetaskiwin.ca.

Residents are encouraged to share their thoughts on the levels of service provided by the City by reaching out directly to council. Contact information for mayor and council is available at wetaskiwin.ca/mayor-council.

About the City of Wetaskiwin

Wetaskiwin is a secure, connected, and inclusive community, home to a diverse population of nearly 13,000 people. Located only 30 minutes south of Edmonton International Airport, the City of Wetaskiwin provides a high quality of life through ample recreation opportunities, diverse cultural activities, and a modernized, business-friendly downtown.

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