

REPORT

Engineering Services

To: Mayor Johnstone and Members of Council
Date: March 27, 2023

From: Lisa Leblanc
Director of Engineering Services
File: 05.1035.10

Item #: 2023-186

Subject: **Engineering User Fees and Rates Bylaw Amendment for Three Readings – Bylaw 8386, 2023**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council give three readings to Bylaw No. 8386, 2023 as presented in Attachment #1 of this report.

PURPOSE

To bring forward an amendment to the Engineering Fees and Rates Bylaw to temporarily suspend Street Occupancy Permit fees for block parties.

BACKGROUND

At the February 27th Council Meeting, Council directed staff to temporarily suspend Street Occupancy Permit fees for block parties to encourage neighbourhood vitality and sociability. This change requires an amendment to the Engineering User Fees and Rates Bylaw, 7553, 2013.

Council passed the following resolution at the February 27th Council Meeting:

BE IT RESOLVED that to encourage more community engagement as we emerge from out of the COVID pandemic, Council amend the Engineering Fees and Rates Bylaw, 7553, 2013 to provide to eligible residents a no-charge street occupancy permit to host a 'block party' in their neighbourhood; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that applicants are able to host up to one no-fee block party per calendar year in 2023 and 2024 and that standard fees will apply for any additional permits; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that staff provide an update to Council regarding how the no-fee permits have impacted the number of community and street events after the first 12 months of implementation

EXISTING POLICY/PRACTICE

The current Engineering User Fees and Rates Bylaw includes a Street Occupancy Permit fee of \$39.00 per block (local streets only) for all block parties. Applicants are charged this fee during the approval process and it partially offsets the costs for delivery and pick-up of barricades and signs.

ANALYSIS

The proposed amendment to the Bylaw will allow applicants and eligible residents one no-fee block party in their neighbourhood per calendar year in 2023 and 2024. The first permit will be free of charge. For any subsequent permits on the same block, a standard fee of \$39.00 will be applied.

This change requires additional work for staff to administer the adjusted fee structure. Staff is required to set up two different fees in Tempest system and to review applications and monitor issuance of permits to determine whether fees should be charged or not. Staff will also be required to run system reports to check and monitor the impact of the change.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

The intent of the fee change is to encourage residents to have more block parties in the neighbourhood and, as such, recommended amendments will provide for better connectivity between neighbours and residents and will facilitate a healthy, active, livable and vibrant community.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

In 2022 there were approximately 34 permits issued under this category, of which 11 were for special events with no fee attached, as they were grant-related. The remaining 23 permits for residential block parties brought revenue of approximately \$1,200.00 for 2022. This revenue will be lost in 2023 and 2024 unless numerous neighbourhood blocks host more than one block party per calendar year.

INTERDEPARTMENTAL LIAISON

Staff from the Legislative Services and Finance departments have been involved in the review of the report and amendment Bylaw.

OPTIONS

The following options are presented for Council's consideration:

1. THAT Council give three readings to Bylaw No. 8386, 2023 as presented in Attachment #1 of this report;
2. THAT Council provide other direction.

Staff recommend option #1.

CONCLUSION

Under the provisions of the Community Charter, the City is required to adopt Engineering User Fees and Rates Amendment Bylaw No. 8386, 2023.

To enact the changes to block party fees as approved by Council on February 27, 2023, it is recommended that Engineering User Fees and Rates Amendment Bylaw No. 8386, 2023 be given three readings.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – Engineering User Fees and Rates Amendment Bylaw No. 8386, 2023

APPROVALS

This report was prepared by:
Ruzica Kragulj, Administrative Services Coordinator

This report was reviewed by:
Mike Anderson, Manager, Transportation

This report was approved by:
Lisa Leblanc, Director of Engineering Services
Lisa Spitale, Chief Administrative Officer