
Subject: FW: Email - Request to Speak - Sherry Tarasoff - Councillor M Loewen - Curbside Organics - CK 7830-7
Attachments: presentation_to_council.pdf

From: Web NoReply <web-noreply@saskatoon.ca>
Sent: Monday, August 30, 2021 7:31 AM
To: City Council <City.Council@saskatoon.ca>
Subject: Email - Request to Speak - Sherry Tarasoff - Councillor M Loewen - Curbside Organics - CK 7830-7

--- Replies to this email will go to [REDACTED]

Submitted on Monday, August 30, 2021 - 07:31

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Date Monday, August 30, 2021
To His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council
First Name Sherry
Last Name Tarasoff
Phone Number [REDACTED]
Email [REDACTED]
Address [REDACTED] Peterson Cres
City Saskatoon
Province Saskatchewan
Postal Code [REDACTED]
Name of the organization or agency you are representing (if applicable)
Subject Item 14.2 Councillor M. Loewen - Curbside Organics
Meeting (if known) REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL - Monday, August 30, 2021
Comments
I would like to speak to item 14.2 at today's Regular Council Meeting and I have attached a copy of my presentation. You may reach me at the number indicated above. Thank you.
Attachments
[presentation_to_council.pdf](#)
Will you be submitting a video to be vetted prior to council meeting? No

The results of this submission may be viewed at:

[REDACTED]

Good afternoon Your Worship and City Councillors,

Thank you for this opportunity to speak. My name is Sherry Tarasoff. I have a few comments about the Motion to proceed with a waste UTILITY funding model for curbside organics and black bin garbage programs, instead of the current PROPERTY TAX funded model.

It appears as though this rush to implement a utility system RIGHT NOW is just an effort to mitigate a large property tax increase for the next multi-year budget. This is an IMPACTFUL change and, as such, should not be rushed. The Administration estimates that a SIGNIFICANT amount of planning and system configuration is required to move waste programs to a utility within the current billing software. What will THAT even cost? Whatever it is, it was stated that this cost and all future management costs would be captured in the USER'S utility rate.

This decision should be made with a clear indication of cost, both of the entire build-out and the impact on end-users. The current case made by Administration is that an AVERAGE single family household would pay an additional \$10.26 per month in 2023. Properties with lower-than-average assessed values would see their average monthly costs increase by MORE than this amount. And that is not the entire picture, because we DON'T KNOW all the costs yet.

Scenario	Average Single Family Monthly Property Tax to Waste	Single Family Monthly Waste Utility Bill	Total monthly cost for waste for the average single family household
2023 Indicative Budget Status Quo	\$6.32	\$7.47	\$13.79
Move Curbside Organics & Single Family Garbage to Utility Fee	\$1.13	\$22.92	\$24.05

In the City's 2017 "Waste Diversion Opportunities" report from Dillon Consulting, it was noted:

• To switch to a full utility-style model, the City will have to remove the current cost of garbage from the property tax. When adding the cost of garbage to the utility bill, the City should ensure that the waste diversion initiatives are incentivized. This means that the base cost of the garbage collection service should be able to cover some or all of the cost of recycling or organics collection services. As a result, the City can offer cheaper rates for waste diversion programs and waste disposal is seen as a higher cost. The City may also consider offering different cart sizes for garbage and recyclables, with higher costs for the larger garbage cart size (and potentially recycling). This may increase awareness of total waste generation and create an incentive to reduce waste.

There are currently no waste diversion initiatives presented, like in 2018 when this was last debated at Council. Even at that time, though, the setting of the rates for the various black bin sizes would have been based on a rate setting philosophy that had not yet been approved by City Council. More unknowns.

Comments were made at the last meeting that many taxpayers have often asked why waste hasn't been funded as a utility yet. Did these questions come from lower-income households? In the City's 2021 "Equity Toolkit for Projects", it states:

Real world context:

Understand that despite good intentions and best efforts, some equity groups may not have time to engage on projects or the energy to care about city programs as they are more focused on basic needs for survival such as shelter, food or safety.

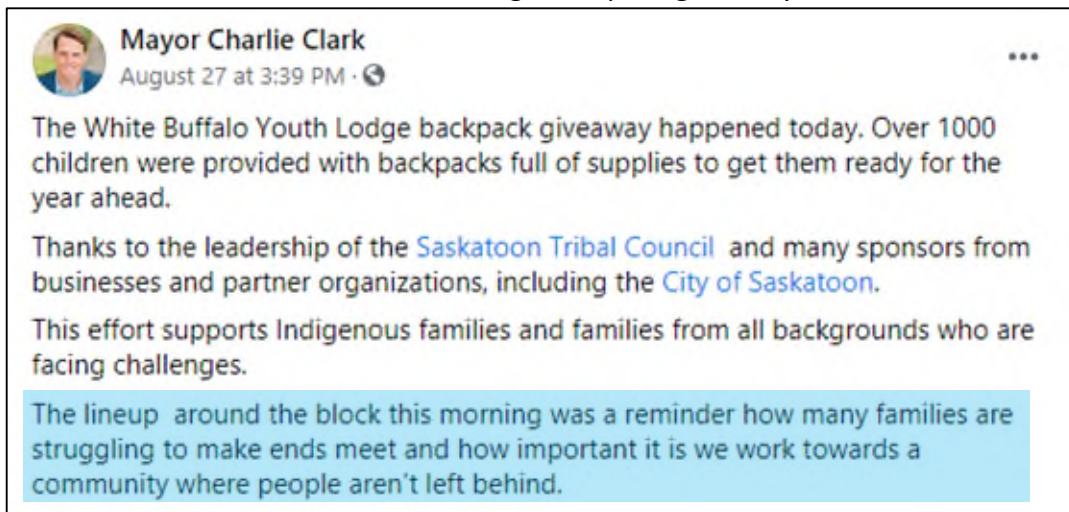
For examples on how to mitigate inclusion issues, see the checklist for success section on *accessing the initiative or engagement*.

Administration has already confirmed that moving the waste program from property tax funding (which includes all properties in the city) to utility funding (smaller base of residential users) does mean that this shift in funding will adversely affect those with lower income levels. Has the City heard from the neighbourhoods that experience extreme rates of energy poverty (Pleasant Hill, Westmount, and Mount Royal)? They are already struggling. A transition grant to switch to utility funding will only delay the inevitable cost and, like most utilities, rates RARELY decrease.

The [LEAP Energy Poverty Explorer Tool](#) shows the percentage of households experiencing energy poverty in Saskatoon. It includes household data by census tract for those spending 6%, 10%, and 15% of their after-tax income on energy costs.

In terms of extreme rates (spending at least 15% of income on energy) of energy poverty, approximately 8.7% of households located in Pleasant Hill, Westmount, and Mount Royal; and 6.4% of households located in Greystone Heights.

In conclusion, there are strong arguments for switching to utility funding for waste. My concern is timing. Why rush it through RIGHT NOW? Maintain the status quo for solid waste for the next multi-year budget cycle. Get all the numbers gathered NOW so that the bottom line is very clear and THEN prepare taxpayers for a rise in City utility bills. Don't add stress to families and make it difficult to pay bills now, particularly while the pandemic is still impacting people. As Mayor Clark commented in his Facebook post last week about the White Buffalo Youth Lodge backpack giveaway:



Thank you.