

## Bylaw No. 8880, The Private Sewer and Water Service Connection Bylaw – Changes to Tapping Services

### ISSUE

Bylaw No. 8880, *The Private Sewer and Water Service Connection Bylaw, 2010* (“Bylaw”) currently states that all live tapplings to water mains on property owned by the City of Saskatoon (City) will be conducted by the City.

### RECOMMENDATION

That the Standing Policy Committee on Environment, Utilities and Corporate Services recommend to City Council:

1. That the proposed amendments to Bylaw No. 8880, *The Private Sewer and Water Service Connection Bylaw, 2010*, be approved; and
2. That the City Solicitor be requested to prepare the required amendments to Bylaw No. 8880, *The Private Sewer and Water Service Connection Bylaw, 2010*, as outlined in this report.

### BACKGROUND

Tapping water lines refers to connecting individual water service lines to the main lines of a public utility. Live tapplings are performed while the main line is pressurized instead of turning the water supply off. As such, live tapplings prevent disruption of water service to surrounding residents and business properties. Currently, as per Bylaw 8880, all live tapplings to water mains owned by the City shall be conducted by City crews. Licensed contractors are responsible to arrange in advance with the City the time live tapping is expected to occur. Unforeseen circumstances at a site can alter schedules as well as City crews may be called to other urgent work, which can make work difficult to coordinate and potentially result in delays.

Based on contractor feedback, the Administration has reviewed the current practice of City water and sewer crews solely providing tapping services on the City’s water main infrastructure. The review has identified opportunities to improve efficiencies to restore water in a timelier manner and is recommending that the Bylaw be amended to permit live tapplings to water mains on City property by persons other than the City with the written approval of the General Manager.

### DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

The recommended change would allow the City to continue to control water service connection tapplings but in a more flexible manner. The recommended change would align the City’s operations to those of other municipalities. When evaluating this option, Administration found many cities had similar options to varying degrees. By implementing new language in the Bylaw, more options will be provided for all property owners and developers to restore water services in a timelier manner. The City would still maintain control through the approval and inspection processes.

**FINANCIAL AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

The are no privacy, legal, social, or environmental implications identified.

**NEXT STEPS**

Upon approval by City Council of the proposed changes, the City Solicitor's Office will prepare the required amendment to the Bylaw. City Council's consideration of the proposed amendment is anticipated in spring 2024.

Further, the Administration would establish a phased pilot project to clarify situations where licensed water and sewer contractors may be permitted to perform live tappings as opposed to relying on the City's water and sewer crews. Criteria will be developed to ensure that the integrity of the water service is maintained. As the pilot progresses, contractors' performance will be monitored and evaluated.

Discussions with licensed water and sewer contractors is ongoing and if approved, contractors will be notified of the changes.

**Report Approval**

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Laura Thomson, Legal Counsel, City Solicitor's Office  
Approved by: Angela Gardiner, General Manager, Utilities and Environment