

BYLAW 20274

To Fix the Fees for Assessment and Tax Services of the City of Edmonton - Amendment #6 to Bylaw 17693

RECOMMENDATION

That Bylaw 20274 be given the appropriate readings.

Purpose

To amend Bylaw 17693, to establish the fees to be charged for assessment and taxation services provided by the City of Edmonton.

Readings

Bylaw 20274 is ready for three readings.

A majority vote of City Council on all three readings is required for passage.

Three readings are required by October 31, 2022, to provide notice to account holders of the change in fees effective January 1, 2023.

If Council wishes to give three readings during a single meeting, then prior to moving third reading, Council must unanimously agree "That Bylaw 20274 be considered for third reading."

Position of Administration

Administration supports this Bylaw.

Report Summary

This Bylaw establishes the fees associated with a number of the Assessment and Taxation information services provided by the City of Edmonton.

REPORT

The 2023 fees for existing services recommended for Council approval are set out of Schedule "A" to this bylaw (Attachment 1), and remain unchanged from 2022. These fees are reviewed annually with consideration to the cost to provide the service as well as the fees imposed by other jurisdictions (Attachment 2). For 2023, a number of minor changes were made to the descriptions

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of the types of services offered by the Assessment and Taxation Branch. These were updated primarily to add clarity to the descriptions of services offered as well as to ensure the fees were located under the appropriate heading in the Schedule. A comparison showing the changes to the bylaw is provided in Attachment 3.

There was one new fee added for 2023:

- **Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT):** This is a service offered to lending institutions that allows them to make payments by electronic funds transfer directly to the City's bank account, on behalf of taxpayers. While these are encouraged during the May-June Tax Payment Period, lending institutions continue to use EFTs throughout the year to make small dollar amount payments. These cause issues for staff at multiple levels as identifying and processing these EFTs involves multiple work areas and is administratively time consuming (one EFT can require an hour or more in terms of investigation and data entry time). Attempts have been made to communicate to lending institutions that there are more efficient methods for them to use for payments outside of the annual tax notice payment period. A fee would incent them to use alternative payment methods, or at the very least allow the City to recover some of the administrative costs involved with EFTs.

Tax and assessment notice copies, local improvement details, assessment details, as well as tax account balances and transaction history are available on the secure MyProperty site at no charge to the property owner.

Budget/Financial Implications

Passage of this bylaw is expected to achieve the budgeted Assessment and Taxation tax search and certificate revenues of \$3.3 million in 2023.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Bylaw 20274 - To Fix the Fees for Assessment and Tax Services of the City of Edmonton - Amendment #6 to Bylaw 17693
2. Survey of 2022 Fees for Municipalities
3. Side by Side Comparison to Bylaw 17693 and Bylaw 20274

OTHERS REVIEWING THIS REPORT

M. Plouffe, City Solicitor