

Bylaw 19395

To Fix the Fees for Assessment and Tax Services of the City of Edmonton - Amendment #4 to Bylaw 17693

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 19395 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, 2020, to provide notice to search account holders of the change in fees effective January 1, 2021.

If Council wishes to give three readings during a single meeting, then prior to moving third reading, Council must unanimously agree “That Bylaw 19395 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 2021 fees recommended for Council approval are set out in Schedule “A” to this bylaw. These fees are updated annually and remain comparable to other jurisdictions, based on a survey of eight Alberta municipalities. For the majority of property information services, fees reflect an increase of less than five percent over 2020, consistent with increases in the previous five years. Charges for staff assisted products such as historical searches, s.299/300 requests and new property account searches have been increased to more closely reflect cost recovery. The higher fees for staff assisted tax searches and certificates are intended to encourage the use of online service, with 99% of all searches and certificates being ordered through the

website. In addition, local improvement details, assessment details and other property and assessment information is available on the MyProperty site at no charge to the property owner.

Corporate Outcomes and Performance Management

Corporate Outcome(s): The City of Edmonton has a resilient financial position.			
Outcome(s)	Measure(s)	Result(s)	Target(s)
Charge reasonable fees for assessment and tax related products, and motivate users to obtain services through the self-serve website.	No. of Staff-Assisted (full-serve) Services performed	2019: 671 full-serve Tax Searches & Certificates 2018: 1,292 full-serve Tax Searches & Certificates	Decrease number of services performed on a full-serve basis, that are also available on a self-serve basis, by 20% from 2018 to 2023.

Public Engagement

Public engagement was not undertaken for this report as the bylaw continues a long-standing Council decision to establish fees for assessment and taxation services.

Budget/Financial Implications

Passage of this bylaw is expected to achieve the budgeted assessment and taxation tax search and certificate revenues of \$2.425 million in 2021.

Attachments

1. Bylaw 19395
2. Survey of Fees - Alberta Municipalities

Others Reviewing this Report

- B. Andriachuk, City Solicitor