

Bylaw 19367 - To Amend Bylaw 12294, EPCOR Edmonton Regulated Utilities Procedure Bylaw

Recommendation

That Utility Committee recommend to City Council:

That Bylaw 19367 be given the appropriate readings.

Purpose

Bylaw 19367 repeals the current Bylaw 12294 EPCOR Edmonton Regulated Utilities Procedures Bylaw, which sets out the process for Council to approve rates applicable to any utility service provided by EPCOR, within the boundaries of the City of Edmonton, that the City has authority to approve. Financial and Corporate Services report FCS00306, also at the February 5, 2021, Utility Committee meeting, provides a proposed process and timelines schedule that would instead formalize the regulatory process for the performance based rates applications being submitted by EPCOR Water Services Inc. to establish customer rates for water services for the five year period April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2027, and for wastewater and drainage services for the three year period April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2025.

Readings

Bylaw 19367 is ready for three readings.

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

If Council wishes to give three readings during a single meeting, then prior to moving third reading, Council must unanimously agree “That Bylaw 19367 be considered for third reading.”

Position of Administration

Administration supports this Bylaw.

Report Summary

This report recommends three readings of Bylaw 19367.

Report

In February 2021, EPCOR Water Services Inc. (“EWSI”) will be submitting performance based rates applications for approval by City Council to establish customer rates for water services for the five year period April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2027, and for wastewater and drainage services for the three year period April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2025. Financial and Corporate Services report FCS00306, also at the February 5, 2021, Utility Committee meeting, provides the proposed regulatory process for Utility Committee and City Council to assess the reasonableness of the rates applications.

Bylaw 19367 repeals the current Bylaw 12294 EPCOR Edmonton Regulated Utilities Procedures Bylaw which sets out the process for Council to approve rates applicable to any utility service provided by EPCOR, within the boundaries of the City of Edmonton, that the City has authority to approve. The proposed process and timelines schedule provided in the February 5, 2021, Financial and Corporate Services report FCS00306 would instead formalize the regulatory process for the performance based rates applications to set customer rates effective April 1, 2022. The new regulatory process for all of the EWSI performance based rates applications will be more streamlined and does not require a bylaw.

Corporate Outcomes and Performance Management

Corporate Outcome(s): The City of Edmonton has sustainable and accessible infrastructure			
Outcome(s)	Measure(s)	Result(s)	Target(s)
Oversight and transparency of EPCOR water, wastewater and drainage services.	Annual and periodic reporting to Utility Committee of financial performance, operating and capital programs, and service quality levels.	Annual Progress Report - Water, Wastewater, Drainage (Fall 2020) Annual Operational Plan (Feb 2021) Performance Based Rates Applications (Feb 2021)	Annual Progress Report - Water, Wastewater, Drainage (June) Annual Operational Plan (Q1)

Public Engagement

There was no public engagement on this amending bylaw. A Utility Committee meeting will be held in June 2021 to review the EWSI performance based rates applications, including submissions from Administration and the public regarding the applications. Advertisement of the meeting will be completed by EWSI as outlined in Attachment 1 of February 5, 2021, Financial and Corporate Services report FCS00306.

Attachment

1. Bylaw 19367

Others Reviewing this Report

- C. Owen, Deputy City Manager, Communications and Engagement
- G. Cebryk, Deputy City Manager, City Operations
- A. Laughlin, Deputy City Manager, Integrated Infrastructure Services
- R. Smyth, Deputy City Manager, Citizen Services
- S. McCabe, Deputy City Manager, Urban Form and Corporate Strategic Development
- B. Andriachuk, City Solicitor