

**Minutes of the Special Review Committee
Water Rates Meeting Held
Monday, August 31, 2015**

Present: Councillor Maroosis, Committee Chair
Councillor Bain, Committee Member (5:01 p.m. to 5:59 p.m.)
Councillor Serran, Committee Member
Mayor McDonald, Committee Member
Councillor King, Guest (5:05 p.m. to 7:05 p.m.)

Staff Present:

J. Knox, C. Conrad, M. Karpenko.

Special Review Committee Chair, George Maroosis, called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Items Discussed:

1. Review and approval of August 20, 2015 Minutes of the Special Review Committee – Water Rates.
Direction: Minutes to be presented to Council.
2. Update on Communication Plan:
 - i. Media Campaign to be launched next week;
 - ii. Emails to be sent to all those who have registered on the Water Portal thanking them and encouraging them to promote the portal to others;
 - iii. Website information to be expanded to include conservation tips and the ability to have a quick look at consumption;
 - iv. Open Houses to be held once a week throughout the month of September – September 3, 10, 16, 23 and 29 (dates to be advertised);
 - v. Water staff to be accessible to the public;
 - vi. ABCs have been contacted to help promote the Water Portal;
 - vii. Advertising to be placed on City Transit Vehicles;
 - viii. Displays to be placed in City Hall Lobby;
 - ix. Public Works' employees to distribute information to homeowners;
 - x. Public Works' students to drop off information door-to-door;
 - xi. Staff to investigate conservation incentives for 2016; and
 - xii. Update on City's initiatives that will reduce "lost water" (i.e. looping, flushing, blow-offs).

Councillor Maroosis – the Communication Plan is designed to be a positive message to the public. Meters are about fairness (equity) and conservation. The public campaign will include conservation and safety and will encourage the public to use the portal.

Regarding subsidies to homeowners, a local business (Carry-All Builders Supplies Ltd) has offered to run their own campaign to offer low-flush toilets and aerators at cost to the public.

3. Discussion of providing Council update.
Direction: A Report to Council is to be prepared outlining the Committee's meetings, submissions received and progress to date. The Recommendation will include a request to broaden the Committee's mandate to include (i) Conservation and Assistance Programs; and (ii) a review of all policies related to water rates. The Committee will request additional time to review these items.
4. Review of Presentation from August 10th on meter size and ICI Group.
5. Next Meeting Date – Monday, September 14, 2015 at 5:00 p.m.

Recess: 6:05 to 6:15 p.m.

6. In-Camera Discussion:

Moved by Councillor Serran, Seconded by Mayor McDonald

That the Special Review Committee for Water Rates adjourn in-camera at 6:15 p.m. for education and training purposes, pursuant to Section 239.3(1) of the Municipal Act, as amended, and no member discusses or deals with a matter in a way that materially advances the business or decision-making of the Committee.

“Carried”

Moved by Councillor Serran, Seconded by Mayor McDonald

That the Special Review Committee for Water Rates reconvene at 6:59 p.m.

“Carried”

7. Next Meeting:

Need to look at possible exemptions to the Water Rates By-law. Under the previous by-law the only exemption was for Homes for the Aged.

Meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Councillor George Maroosis
Chair Special Review Committee
Water Rates

City Clerk Catherine Conrad