

To: [REDACTED]
From: Matthew Goudy, CAO
Date: January 3, 2020

RE: 2020 Solid Waste Charge

Thank you for the question [REDACTED]. The discontinuation of the curb side recycling service reduced department expenses by approximately \$243,000. In fact the City realized savings in other areas within the Solid Waste Department as well. The City was able to secure a more favourable rate for the disposal of the grass waste from the green bins, and labour costs are budgeted to be less in 2020 than 2019.

However, the reason the rate is the same is unfortunately other expenses within the Solid Waste Department have increased, offsetting the savings. Primarily:

- Waste Management has increased their pickup and processing fees for the bins at the Wolf Creek Recycle Depot (the Depot), due to the decreased marketability of the products. We've also added 2 additional bins to the Depot and the pickup frequency was increased from 2 days per week to 3 days per week based on demand, and
- The Lacombe Regional Waste Services Commission increased their solid waste disposal rates in 2020.

The net effect of these changes in 2020 is a similar budget in the Solid Waste Department, resulting in the same rate to customers in 2020. Although I'm sure it's little solace, the utility rate would have been significantly higher in 2020, if curb side recycling collection had continued. I hope this information sheds some light on the utility rate, even if it is not altogether satisfactory. Please let me know if you'd like to discuss the matter further.

Sincerely,



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