

THE CORPORATION OF THE  
**CITY OF WHITE ROCK**  
CORPORATE REPORT



**DATE:** January 13, 2025  
**TO:** Mayor and Council  
**FROM:** Candice Gartry, Director, Financial Services  
**SUBJECT:** 2025 Annual Utility Rates Bylaws

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**RECOMMENDATION**

THAT Council receive the January 13, 2025, corporate report from the Director of Financial Services, titled “2025 Annual Utility Rates Bylaws” for consideration and subsequent approval and adoption.

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This corporate report introduces the following bylaws for approval and adoption:

- White Rock Drainage Utility User Fee Bylaw, 2004, No. 1739, Amendment No.12, 2025, No. 2526.
- Collection, Removal, Disposal and Recycling of Solid Waste Bylaw 2015, No. 2084, Amendment No.12, 2025 No. 2528.
- Sewer Connection and Rental Charges Bylaw, 1970, No. 396, Amendment No. 34, 2025, No. 2529.

The recommended utility user fee rate increases for 2025 for an average single-family household equates to an average annual increase of \$39 for Drainage, \$17 for Solid Waste and \$101 for Sanitary Sewer. For an average multi-family (strata) household the average annual increases proposed for 2025 are \$11 for Drainage and \$101 for Sanitary Sewer.

Note: The 2025 Water utility rates bylaw (Bylaw 2525 – Water Services Bylaw, 2015, No. 2117, Amendment No. 14, 2024, No. 2525) received final reading at Council’s December 9, 2024, regular council meeting.

**INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND**

Section 194 of the *Community Charter* authorizes Council, by bylaw, to establish municipal fees for services, for the use of municipal property or to exercise the authority to regulate, prohibit or impose requirements.

The three bylaws attached in Appendices A to C set out the user fees for Solid Waste, Sanitary Sewer and Drainage utilities for 2025. These fees are established each year by bylaw. The rates are based on the city’s Five-Year Financial Plan for the utilities and services which includes forecasted revenues and expenses, asset improvement capital requirements, and reserves to save

for future required infrastructure improvements. The bylaw rates are set to ensure that fees charged recover the cost of providing the services.

Budget Impact to Average Single-Family Household in 2025					
	2024	2025	Change \$\$	Change %	
<b>Utilities</b>					
Drainage Utility Charge	\$ 612	\$ 651	\$ 39	6.37%	
Solid Waste Utility Charge	412	429	17	4.13%	
Sanitary Sewer Utility Charge	293	394	101	34.47%	

The recommended utility user fee rate increases for 2025 for an average single-family household equate to an average annual increase of \$39 for Drainage, \$17 for Solid Waste and \$101 for Sanitary Sewer. For an average multi-family (strata) household the average annual increases proposed for 2025 are \$11 for Drainage, \$101 for Sanitary Sewer.

Budget Impact to Average Multi-Family (Strata) Household in 2025					
	2024	2025	Change \$\$	Change %	
<b>Utilities</b>					
Drainage Utility Charge	\$ 184	\$ 195	\$ 11	5.98%	
Sanitary Sewer Utility Charge	293	394	101	34.47%	

It is important to note that the actual amounts assessed to property owners will differ depending on usage and property square footage.

The proposed rates for 2025 have been included in the City’s draft 2025 – 2029 Financial Plan, which is on tonight’s meeting agenda under a separate item for Council receipt and feedback. Should the actual utility rates approved vary from those listed above, the 2025 – 2029 Financial Plan will be updated with the approved rates. These user fees are charged annually and included on the Property Tax Notice.

Drainage Utility user fees are calculated based on the size of each property, so the actual fees assessed vary depending on the property. The proposed fee increase for 2025 are part of a planned 6% overall revenue increase, as outlined in the 2024–2029 financial plan adopted by Council. This increase is necessary to meet the projected costs of operating the utility. Total revenue includes user fees, connection fees, investment income, and other sources.

The proposed average user fee rate increase for the Solid Waste Utility in 2025 is 4.13%, which supports a planned overall revenue increase of 4.28% as was approved in the 2024–2029 financial plan adopted by Council. This increase is necessary to meet the projected costs of operating the utility. Total revenue includes user fees, decal sales, cost recoveries, and other sources.

The proposed average user fee rate increase for 2025 for the Sanitary Sewer is 34.47%. This is significantly higher than what had been anticipated in the 2024-2029 Financial Plan for 2025 and is largely the result of the significant increase in levies assessed by the Metro Vancouver GVS&DD (Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District), which are outside of the City’s control.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Utility User Fee rate increases are required in order to recover the cost of providing the services.

### **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

No specific legal implications to note. Council approval required to authorize the budget, utility charges and property taxation rates.

### **COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

A public survey on the City's 2025 budget was made available for responses and comment(s) from June 21, 2024, through to August 25, 2024, via the City's *Talk White Rock* platform. The results of the survey were reported back to Council at their September 9, 2024, regular meeting.

### **INTERDEPARTMENTAL INVOLVEMENT/IMPLICATIONS**

The Engineering and Operations department consulted and advised on revenue and expense items in determining the rate increases.

### **ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PRIORITIES**

The budget adjustments and additional budget items listed in this report align with the following Council Priorities:

Infrastructure:

- Objective 1 – Ensure future infrastructure resiliency by making decisions through a long-term lens.
- Objective 2 – Adapt infrastructure to address climate change factors.
- Objective 3 – Construct key infrastructure projects.

### **OPTIONS / RISKS / ALTERNATIVES**

The following options are available for Council's consideration:

1. Council approve and adopt the following bylaws to ensure that the User Fee revenue received is sufficient to cover the cost of providing the services:
  - White Rock Drainage Utility User Fee Bylaw, 2004, No. 1739, Amendment No. 12, 2025, No. 2526
  - Collection, Removal, Disposal and Recycling of Solid Waste Bylaw 2015, No. 2084, Amendment No.12, 2025 No. 2528
  - Sewer Connection and Rental Charges Bylaw, 1970, No. 396, Amendment No. 34, 2025, No. 2529
2. Council not approve one or all of the bylaws which will result in the user fees remaining the same as 2024 rates creating revenue shortfalls in the General, Drainage, Sanitary Sewer and/or Solid Waste funds.

**CONCLUSION**

It is recommended that Council approve and adopt the following bylaws:

- White Rock Drainage Utility User Fee Bylaw, 2004, No. 1739, Amendment No. 12, 2025, No. 2526.
- Collection, Removal, Disposal and Recycling of Solid Waste Bylaw 2015, No. 2084, Amendment No.12, 2025 No. 2528.
- Sewer Connection and Rental Charges Bylaw, 1970, No. 396, Amendment No. 34, 2025, No. 2529.

Respectfully submitted,



Candice Gartry, CPA, CGA  
Director of Financial Services

**Comments from the Acting Chief Administrative Officer**

I concur with the recommendation of this corporate report.



Jim Gordon  
Director, Engineering & Municipal Operations and  
Acting Chief Administrative Officer

Appendix A: Collection, Removal, Disposal and Recycling of Solid Waste Bylaw 2015, No. 2084, Amendment No.12, 2025 No. 2528

Appendix B: Sewer Connection and Rental Charges Bylaw, 1970, No. 396, Amendment No. 34, 2025, No. 2529

Appendix C: White Rock Drainage Utility User Fee Bylaw, 2004, No. 1739, Amendment No. 12, 2025, No. 2526