

## ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

<b>TO:</b> Shane Bourke, City Manager	<b>DATE:</b> April 30, 2024
<b>FROM:</b> Brian Glavin, Chief Operating Officer	<b>MEETING:</b> Operational Services Committee
<b>REPORT WRITER:</b> Wade Nellis, Transportation Director	
<b>SUBJECT:</b> Bylaw C-1472 - Special Recreational Services Tax Levy in Pinnacle Ridge	

### RECOMMENDATIONS

That Committee recommend Council give three readings to Special Recreational Services Tax Bylaw C-1472.

### PREVIOUS COUNCIL / COMMITTEE DIRECTIONS

#### **May 1, 2023 City Council Meeting**

Council gave three readings to the Pinnacle Ridge Special Tax Bylaw C-1459.

#### **April 25, 2023 Financial and Administrative Services Committee Meeting**

Danielle Whiteway, Chief Financial Officer, presented Committee with a report addressing Bylaw C-1459 Special Recreational Services Tax Levy in Pinnacle Ridge.

### BACKGROUND

Prior to 2010, The City of Grande Prairie funded the operation and maintenance of the Pinnacle pond fountains and front entrance water features for several years after they were turned over from the developer to the City. This funding was not sustainable, and notice was given to the residents that these features would be removed. The residents of Pinnacle Ridge desired to keep the water fountain and entrance water features and thus formed the Pinnacle Ridge Neighbourhood Association in 2010. They gathered approximately 700 signatures in a community petition to generate support for a special tax levy to pay for the fountains and front entrance feature. The amount determined to cover these expenses was \$20/household.

The pump was eventually replaced with a smaller model after continued issues and costs associated with vandalism. The tax amount was reduced to \$12.50 in 2022 to align with the reduced annual operating costs.

## ANALYSIS

### Relationship to City Council's Areas of Focus / Strategic Priorities

The pinnacle fountains are aligned with Council's priority of Quality of Life, promoting both fierce community pride and active lifestyles.

### Environmental Impact

The fountains and water features create minimal noise pollution. The flow of water supplies oxygen to the pond, reducing the growth of algae.

### Economic Impact

No identified economic impact.

### Social Impact

This entrance water feature promotes community connectivity, as it is a social gathering spot for neighborhood events. Also, the water features generate a source of pride for the neighborhood through demonstrated community engagement and a sense of community ownership.

### Relevant Statutes / Master Plans / City Documents

Municipal Government Act requires passing of this Bylaw annually for this special levy.

### Risk

Without this special tax levy, the water features identified may not be sustained at the current standard. A lack of sustainable funding could necessitate removal of the infrastructure.

### Alternatives (Optional)

- 1.) Give three readings to Bylaw C-1472, the Pinnacle Ridge Special Tax.
- 2.) Direct Administration to identify an alternative 2024 funding source for the Pinnacle features and provide a report to a future Committee meeting.

## STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Information of this tax levy and the related process was provided through the following methods:

1. Notifications on the City of Grande Prairie's social media channels.
2. A media release through our Corporate Communications department.

Through the above noted steps, residents are invited to attend the Corporate Services Committee meeting on April 30, 2024 and/or the City Council Meeting on May 2, 2024.

## BUDGET / FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The operation of the fountain and water features at Pinnacle Ridge has been funded through the "special tax" bylaw the past twelve years.

The past 5 years of costs for the feature:

Year	Cost
2018	\$ 9136.89
2019	\$ 8364.47
2020	\$ 7388.38
2021	\$ 7671.80
2022	\$ 17135.71 (Including pump replacement @ \$8160.00)
2023	\$10,491.59

The annual operating budget for this feature was reduced in 2022 to bring the collected fees more in line with the typical operating costs. There was a slight escalation in costs in 2023 for some minor repairs to the pump, but there is a healthy reserve of \$32,760.04. Based on the actual expenses for 2018-2023, administration recommends retaining the operating budget of \$8,350.00, which can be fully funded by re-approving the \$12.50 special tax for the 668 homes in the identified district.

## SUMMARY / CONCLUSION

A special tax levy is a appropriate funding source for the operation and maintenance of water features in Pinnacle Ridge as it supports the desire of the community residents to have specific neighbourhood enhancement features. It is recommended that Committee recommend Council give three readings to approve this Bylaw and cover the expected operating costs for 2024.

## ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 - Bylaw C-1472