

Date: 2022-12-07

Subject: **2023 User Fees – Community Services, Corporate Support Services, Fire & Emergency Services, Legislative Services, Public Works & Engineering, Planning Building and Growth Management, and Office of the CAO**

Contact: Nash Damer, Treasurer, Nash.Damer@brampton.ca; 905-874-2257

Report Number: Corporate Support Services-2022-1011

Recommendations:

1. That the report titled: **2023 User Fees – Community Services, Corporate Support Services, Fire & Emergency Services, Legislative Services, Public Works & Engineering, Planning Building and Growth Management, and Office of the CAO** to the Council Meeting of December 14, 2022 be received;
2. **That** the user fee charges proposed for 2023, as set out in appendices of this report, be approved; and
3. **THAT** the respective schedules to User Fee By-Law 380-2003, as amended, be further amended to include the approved fees for 2023.

Overview:

- The City's user fees are reviewed annually to ensure appropriate cost recovery, sustainability of programs/services, preservation of service quality, affordability, consistency, and customer satisfaction.
- The recommended user fee adjustments have been proposed to help alleviate the impact on the property tax rate, while also ensuring that programs are priced appropriately in relation to market comparators.
- Recreation applies a dynamic pricing strategy based on inflation, cost recovery, and benchmarking instead of the traditional standard blanket fee increase approach. Program, membership, and rental pricing were evaluated in greater detail, translating into the majority of fee increases in the range of 2.5% to 5.0%.

- Performing Arts has increased or decreased fees in line with the priorities of the 2022-2027 Performing Arts Strategic Plan. Select fees have increased an average of 2.7%, as required for cost recovery. To support artists and arts organizations as they continue to recover post-pandemic, the eligibility requirement for the “Community” facility rental rate at LBP, Cyril Clark and Garden Square will be expanding to support all Brampton-based artists and arts organizations. This offers a decreased fee to many local artists and arts organizations that were previously unable to access this lowest rate.
- Parks rental fees have an increase of 2% and the fees for Cemetery Services and Dedication Trees and Benches have an increase of 2.5%.
- Corporate Support Services fees remain unchanged.
- Brampton Fire & Emergency Services is proposing to increase the majority of its user fees by 2% to keep pace with the increasing internal and external costs of providing services to the public.
- Increases to select fees in Legislative Services is largely due to aligning closer to fees charged by other municipalities.
- Public Works and Engineering is proposing to increase the user fees for rentals and services under Facility Operations and Maintenance by 2.5% & Security by 2%, with addition of new fees for facility rentals.

Background:

On an annual basis, staff review program and service user fees and recommend changes for Council approval. Pursuant to the Municipal Act, 2001, public notice must be given when Council is considering amendments to rates and fees.

Service fees associated with food/beverage products and merchandise are not considered to be user fees and therefore are not included as part of this report.

Transit and the Planning Building and Growth Management department will bring a separate a User Fees Report for Council approval at a future date.

Current Situation:

The City is committed to providing numerous programs and services to residents, which are both affordable and deliver value for money. User fees help recover costs while reducing the burden on the property tax rate, and the delicate balance of cost recovery, affordability, and property tax reduction are the central goals when pricing programs and services.

All operating areas review user fees periodically and recommend amendments to the User Fee By-law as required. In reviewing user fees, staff consider a number of factors, including:

- the cost to provide a service;
- current demand and market conditions;
- comparison and benchmarking of user fees with other services available in and around Brampton;
- consistency of fees for similar services within the department; and
- responsiveness of fee structures and options with user needs and preferences.

User fees are charged on a variety of the City's services and are included in the City's User Fee By-Law. Based on this information, staff recommend changes to user fees, keeping in mind the general objective of affordable, accessible service and administrative efficiency. Efforts have been made to compress, categorize, and streamline the inventory of user fees associated with programs and services in order to make user fees more transparent, consistent and easier to understand to the resident.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Recreation

Recreation applies a dynamic pricing strategy instead of the traditional standard blanket fee increase approach. Program, membership, and rental pricing were evaluated in greater detail, translating into the majority of fee increases in the range of 2.5% to 5.0%. These increases address cost recovery and reflect thorough benchmarking completed by staff.

Parks and Forestry

Parks Rental fees are increasing due to the increase in cost to replace the rental items, the proposed increase in the Parks extra rental fees is approximately 2%. Consistent with local private cemetery service providers, the proposed increase in the other cemetery supplies and services is approximately 2.5%.

Performing Arts

In line with the 2022-2027 Strategic Plan, Performing Arts has reviewed the impact of user fees on Brampton artists and arts organizations and focused on increasing usage of all venues.

The eligibility requirement for the Community facility rental rate at LBP, Cyril Clark and Garden Square will expand to include **all** Brampton-based artists and arts organizations as they continue to recover post-pandemic and to encourage venue usage and decrease financial barriers for local artists. This offers a decreased fee to many local artists and arts organizations that were previously unable to access this lowest rate.

Additionally, some fees for equipment are lowered to support increased production value and meet budgetary restrictions.

The Community facility rental rate will no longer be available at The Rose as community artists and arts organizations are supported through co-presentation or curator partnerships.

All other facility rental rates for Commercial, Dance and Not-for-Profit organizations will increase by 2.5%.

Staffing and service fees tied to positions are proposed to increase to maintain cost recovery.

Fees no longer in use have been removed. Name changes and clarifications have been made across other fees that are not increasing. Fees for new services or equipment have been included.

All fees have been evaluation against thorough benchmarking to ensure Brampton's Performing Arts venues are in-line with comparators.

CORPORATE SUPPORT SERVICES

Corporate Support Services fees remain unchanged.

FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

Brampton Fire & Emergency Services is proposing to increase the majority of its user fees by 2% to keep pace with the increasing internal and external costs of providing services to the public. Motor Vehicle Collision User Fee rates will continue to be adjusted at a later date based on the most recent remuneration rate approved by the Ministry of Transportation. No new user fees are being proposed this year as they relate to fire and emergency services.

LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

City Clerk's Office, Legal Services, and Realty Services are proposing an increase to a number of user fees to align closer to fees charged by other municipalities.

Animal Services is proposing an increase to fees for select cremation services to as a result of increasing costs charged to the City by the external service provider. Small animal and bird adoption fees are being aligned with current cat and dog adoption fees. The proposed increase for adoption in (surrender) fees is associated with higher costs of sheltering animals. Proposed increases for wildlife pickup/removal is aligned to higher costs associated with these services. An additional fee for the removal of wildlife food source is being recommended. A pet memorial product fee for memorial products procured from an external service provider is also proposed.

Enforcement and By-Law is proposing to increase user fees for group and lodging homes to align to higher costs associated with enforcement. An increase to commercial/multi-unit parking permit fees is recommended to enhance parity between these fees and those for specialty monthly parking passes.

A number of fees are recommended for removal as the services are no longer available.

PUBLIC WORKS AND ENGINEERING

Facilities Operations and Maintenance

Facility Operations and Maintenance user fees are proposed to increase for rentals and services by 2.5% and security by 2% as per contract due to inflation, in addition the following new facility rental fees:

- Alderlea – Photo shoot on Grounds
- West Tower – Conservatory Photos (1/2 HR)
- West Tower – Conservatory Photos (1 HR)

PLANNING BUILDING AND GROWTH MANAGEMENT

Planning Building and Growth Management fees remain unchanged.

OFFICE OF THE CAO

Office of the CAO fees remain unchanged.

Corporate Implications:

Financial Implications:

The 2023 recommended operating budgets for all departments (excluding Transit and Planning Building and Growth Management) will include the proposed user fees recommended in this report, resulting in an anticipated revenue growth (excluding the impact of volume growth) of approximately \$791,060. Due to in-year effective dates, changes to user fees have less than annualized impact on the current budget period and will result in a prorated increase of approximately \$483,430 in 2023.

This impact will be captured as part of a “revenue adjustment”.

Term of Council Priorities:

This report achieves the Well-Run City priority providing an alternative non-tax funding source to enhance the quality of life of Brampton residents.

Conclusion:

The City continues to review user fees on an annual basis, keeping in mind the objectives of affordable and accessible services while balancing user fees with implications for property taxes. Staff will continue to conduct costing, benchmarking, and customer surveys to support user fee recommendations. The proposed rate adjustments have been made for those programs/services that can absorb the increase or decrease without negatively affecting resident participation or revenue.

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Appendices:

- Appendix 1 – Community Services Rates and Fees
- Appendix 2 – Corporate Support Services Rates and Fees
- Appendix 3 – Fire and Emergency Services Rates and Fees
- Appendix 4 – Legislative Services Rates and Fees
- Appendix 5 – Public Works and Engineering Rates and Fees
- Appendix 6 – Planning Building and Growth Management Rates and Fees
- Appendix 7 – Office of the CAO Rates and Fees