



Council Report **For the Meeting of May 7th, 2020**

To: Council **Date:** April 10, 2020
From: Jo-Ann O'Connor, Deputy Director of Finance
Subject: 2020 Boulevard Tax Bylaw

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Give first, second, and third readings to "Boulevard Tax Bylaw, 2020."
2. Reconsider and adopt Boulevard Tax Bylaw, 2020.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Each year the City imposes a boulevard tax to help defray the cost of maintenance and upkeep of City boulevards. Pursuant to section 12 of the Victoria City Act, 1920 and section 259 of the Community Charter, this tax is imposed on properties that front and abut upon any boulevard maintained by the City. The tax is proposed to remain at \$2.50 per m². The total budgeted revenue and corresponding expenditure for 2020 is \$535,200. There are approximately 7200 properties that would be subject to the boulevard tax for 2020.

The boulevard service includes mowing and edging boulevard grass. This service is not mandatory, and property owners have the ability to opt in or out of the program. To opt in or out, a signed petition must be presented to Council on a per-block basis. Such a petition must be signed by registered owners representing 50 percent of the assessed property values and 50 percent of the properties. Last year Council approved one petition which removed four properties from the program.

To accommodate the printing and mailing of property tax notices to allow ample time for taxpayers to receive notices and pay before the tax due date, staff are proposing both the introduction and adoption of the tax rate bylaws at the daytime Council meeting on May 7th. The provisions of the recent Order from the Provincial Government enabling local governments to adopt bylaws in one meeting as a result of COVID-19 enables this approach. While not to be used without thought, the time sensitivity issues, brought on by the COVID-19 Pandemic and the recent changes to the Financial Plan warrant, in staff's view, the introduction and adoption of the Bylaw in the same meeting.


Respectfully submitted,



Jennifer Lockhart
Manager-Revenue

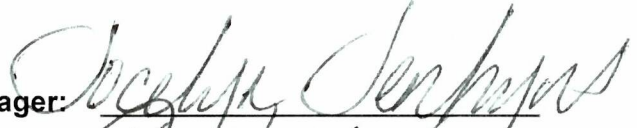


Jo-Ann O'Connor
Deputy Director of Finance



Susanne Thompson
Deputy City Manager/CFO

Report accepted and recommended by the City Manager:



Date: April 24, 2020