



Committee of the Whole Report For the Meeting of May 2, 2024

To: Committee of the Whole **Date:** April 23, 2024
From: William Doyle, Acting Director, Engineering and Public Works
Subject: Bastion Square Projects and Upgrades (Deferred)

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

Direct staff to bring forward amendments to the Financial Plan Bylaw, 2024 to include \$150,000 for Bastion Square Upgrades with funding from the Bastion Square Revitalization Trust.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Following the expiration of a past market square contractual agreement between BSRA and the City, there remains approximately \$150,000 being held in an account for use in Bastion Square at the City's discretion. The approval of the Bastion Square Revitalization (BSR) funds would help address some revitalization projects and improvement of existing assets in Bastion Square. As requested by Council during an April 4, 2024, Committee of the Whole meeting, staff met with representatives of the BSRA on April 17, 2024, to share information and establish communication of ongoing priorities.

PURPOSE

This report outlines the proposed use of BSR funds to support the upgrading of lighting and to address tripping concerns identified during the inspection. Bastion Square is a high traffic corridor for residents and visitors. The City plans to advance the revitalization and stewardship of this valuable historic asset by improving existing assets such as the Bastion Square arch, lighting and some immediate safety concerns.

ISSUES & ANALYSIS

Staff were previously informed the BSRA disbanded but have since confirmed the association remains active. As requested by Council at the Committee of the Whole meeting on April 4, 2024, staff met with representatives of the BSRA to discuss the contemplated works. City staff met the representatives of the BSRA to discuss key priorities and concerns regarding the square. The BSRA shared information which included a list of potential projects for future consideration. The City is committed to continue working with the BSRA as we identify priorities for the square. There is currently approximately \$150,000 within the fund that could be allocated to support the work identified by staff.

OPTIONS & IMPACTS

Option 1 – That Council approves the addition of funds from the Bastion Square Revitalization Trust for revitalization work in Bastion Square and direct staff to bring forward amendments to the Financial Plan Bylaw (Recommended).

Should Council support this option, staff will be able to progress the identified upgrades to Bastion Square, without impacting other projects or plans contemplated in the Financial Plan.

Option 2 – That Council declines the use of the funds from the Bastion Square Revitalization Trust.

Council may choose to leave the funds in the Trust for the time being. This decision would require that staff identify other less-urgent projects in the Financial Plan which may be deferred to accommodate the Bastion Square work.

2023 – 2026 Strategic Plan

This enhancement of Bastion Square assets and infrastructure serves to support the following Council priorities: Transportation; Parks, Recreation & Gathering Spaces; Community Well-being and Safety; Economic Health and Community Vitality; and Arts, Culture, Music, Sport and Entertainment.

Impacts to Financial Plan

Should Council approve the recommendations, staff would bring forward amendments the Financial Plan Bylaw to include \$150,000 for Bastion Square Upgrades with funding from the Bastion Square Revitalization Trust.

Official Community Plan Consistency Statement

This work outlined in this report is consistent with the Official Community Plan.

CONCLUSIONS

The addition of funding to support this work would benefit Bastion Square.

Respectfully submitted,

Ben Bowker
Manager, Surface Infrastructure

William Doyle
Acting Director, Engineering and Public Works

Report accepted and recommended by the City Manager.