

TOWN OF DIDSBURY
Utility Charges Bylaw
Bylaw No. 2022-19

A BYLAW IN THE TOWN OF DIDSBURY FOR REGULATING AND PROVIDING FOR THE TERMS, CONDITIONS, RATES AND FEES FOR THE SUPPLY AND USE OF WATER, WASTEWATER and SOLID WASTE SERVICES.

WHEREAS, pursuant to section 3 of the *Municipal Government Act*, being the Revised Statutes of Alberta 2000, Chapter M-26, as amended, the purposes of a municipality are to provide services, facilities or other things that, in the opinion of Council, are necessary or desirable for all or a part of the municipality; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to section 7(g) of the *Municipal Government Act* a Council of a municipality may pass bylaws for municipal purposes respecting public utilities; and

WHEREAS, it is deemed just and proper to levy a water service rate on all Persons occupying property connected with the water system of the Town to assist with the costs of constructing and maintaining the system including the cost of treatment and distribution of water; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Didsbury is a member of Mountain View Regional Water Services Commission, a municipally owned corporation which operates the Anthony Henday Regional water system and delivers water to the Town; and

WHEREAS, it is deemed just and proper to levy a wastewater service rate on all Persons occupying property connected with the wastewater system of the Town to assist with the costs of constructing and maintaining the system including the cost of treatment and distribution of wastewater; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to protect both the systems and the environment; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Didsbury is a member of Mountain View Regional Waste Management Commission, a municipally owned corporation, which operates a regional landfill and receives solid waste from the Town;

NOW, THEREFORE, the municipal Council of the Town of Didsbury, in the Province of Alberta, duly assembled, enacts as follows:

1. Short Title

This Bylaw shall be known as the “Utilities Charges Bylaw”

2. Definitions

Customer means any person, business and any other municipal corporation, the Government of Alberta or the Government of Canada, who utilizes municipal utility services or any lessee or Occupant, or any person who requests utility services or has applied for an Account or is otherwise responsible for paying such Account for utility services.

Dwelling Unit means a complete building or self-contained portion of a building for the use of one or more individuals living as a single housekeeping unit, containing sleeping, cooking and separate toilet facilities intended as a permanent residence.

Eligible Residence means a residential building, which contains four or less dwelling units.

Fixed means a flat monthly charge, which does not fluctuate month to month.

Variable mean charges that are based on water consumption for the billing period.

3. Paramount Rules

3.1 If the provisions in any other bylaw conflict with the rules in this Bylaw, this Bylaw will prevail.

4. General Provisions

- 4.1 Utility departments in the Town of Didsbury are self-supported, therefore are not subsidized by property taxes.
- 4.2 For rate accuracy and justification, each utility service (water, wastewater and solid waste), is its own product line and is budgeted for and accounted for separately.
- 4.3 All customers receiving utility services shall pay the utility charges set out in Schedule "A".
- 4.4 Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Fees are fixed and will cover debt coverage and future capital investment.
- 4.5 Water Consumption Charges are variable and will cover the cost of water from the Mountain View Regional Water Services Commission.
- 4.6 Water and Wastewater Distribution Charges are variable and will cover the cost of operations and maintenance associated with the system.
- 4.7 Solid Waste Service Fees cover all costs associated with the solid waste utility.

5. Water and Wastewater Utility Charges:

- 5.1 A water and wastewater Infrastructure Fee will be determined annually based on the customer's connected water meter size as set out in Schedule "A" of this Bylaw.
- 5.2 In the case of non-use of service(s), each customer shall continue to pay an infrastructure fee as set out in Schedule "A" of this Bylaw.
- 5.3 Consumption and distribution rates will be determined annually in accordance with the annual collective water consumption.
- 5.4 Where the calculation of a utility charge is based on the consumption of water, the quantity used shall be determined from the current and previous water meter readings as recorded by the Town, or if an actual water meter reading is not available, by an estimated consumption based on the previous average consumption of the service.
- 5.5 Where a serviced property is not located in the Town of Didsbury, a security deposit equal to an estimated three months of service must be collected prior to services being provided due to the inability to transfer unpaid accounts to the tax roll.
- 5.6 Where a serviced property is not located in the Town of Didsbury, a surcharge of 35% on all charges will be applied.
- 5.7 If any part of a utility bill remains unpaid after the due date specified on the utility bill, there shall be added thereto a penalty in the amount as set out in Schedule "A" of this bylaw compounded monthly on the charges of the bill.
- 5.8 If payment is not received a) on residential property forty-five (45) days or b) on commercial property thirty (30) days after the due date specified on the utility bill, the water service may be turned off and not turned on until such time as the utility account including arrears and a reconnection fee as specified in Schedule "A" of this bylaw is paid in full.
- 5.9 No reduction in charges shall be made for any interruption in water or wastewater services during a billing period.
- 5.10 Where service to a customer is to be discontinued, a final billing shall be calculated on a pro-rated basis from the date of the last billing to the date of discontinuance.
- 5.11 The Town shall levy utility charges for all customers on a monthly basis.
- 5.12 Any customer to whom utility services have been shut off, shall, upon having paid any utility fees owing, and upon requesting the Town to restore utility services, pay to the Town a non-refundable disconnection fee and reconnection fee as set out in Schedule "A" of this Bylaw.

5.13 Any debit or credit adjustments to a customer's account for utility services will be applied up to a maximum of one year.

5.14 The charge for Water and Wastewater Services will apply even where there is no water and/or wastewater being consumed except in the case in which the water meter has not been installed.

6. Utility Services to Tenants

6.1 Utility bills shall only be issued to the owners of the property. The owner may request a duplicate copy to be sent to the tenants. Information or account changes regarding the utility account shall be communicated solely with the owner of the property.

7. Solid Waste Service Fees:

7.1 The property owner or occupant of a premises receiving Solid Waste Services from the Town is charged a fee as set out in Schedule "A" of this bylaw.

7.2 A Solid Waste Service Fee for Residential Garbage (black bin), Residential Recycling (blue bin) and Residential Compost (green bin) collection shall be determined annually.

7.3 The service fee shall be charged to each eligible residence receiving the solid waste utility service.

7.4 Additional fees for each added black bin, blue bin and green bin will be determined annually. Each additional collection container shall be charged a fee as set out in Schedule "A" of this bylaw.

7.4.1 Thirty (30) days' notice is required when additional collection containers are added or removed.

7.5 The charge for Solid Waste Services will apply even where there is no Solid Waste set out for collection, except in the case in which occupancy has not been granted.

7.6 An administrative fee for any change of service will be charged as set out in Schedule "A" of this bylaw.

8. Transitional

8.1 All versions Utility Charges Bylaw 2022-02 are hereby repealed.

8.2 That this Bylaw shall take effect on January 1, 2023.

Read a first time this 22nd day of November 2022

Read a second time this this 13th day of December 2022

Read a third and final time this 10th day of January 2023



Mayor – Rhonda Hunter



Chief Administrative Officer – Ethan Gorner

SCHEDULE "A"

(GST exempt, unless otherwise stated)

Residential Solid Waste Service Charges

	Current 2022 Rate	Proposed 2023	
Solid Waste Service Fee	\$ 19.00	20.90	per month
Additional Black Bin Service (garbage)	\$ 7.00	7.00	per month
Additional Blue Bin Service (recycling)	\$ 4.00	4.60	per month
Additional Green Bin Service (compost)	\$ 3.00	3.15	per month
Replacement Bin (plus GST)	\$ 80.00	80.00	each
Change of Service Fee (plus GST)	\$ 35.00	35.00	per change

Water Service Charges

Bulk Water Charge – Local on Account	\$ 7.00	6.00	per m ³
Bulk Water Charge – Non-Local on Account and Coin Purchase	n/a	8.10	per m ³
Infrastructure Fee – connections with meters 1" and less	n/a	16.86	per month
Infrastructure Fee – connections with meters from 1 ¼" to 2"	n/a	67.45	per month
Infrastructure Fee – connections with meters 3" to 4"	n/a	151.75	per month
Water Consumption Rate	\$ 2.62	3.10	per m ³
Water Distribution Rate	\$ 1.20	1.40	per m ³
Water meter testing deposit	\$ 200.00	200.00	Each
Water disconnect/re-connect fee	\$ 100.00	100.00	Each
Water Meter Sales – all sizes (plus GST)			Cost plus 10%

Wastewater Service Charges

Infrastructure Fee – connections with meters 1" and under	n/a	8.31	per month
Infrastructure Fee – connections with meters from 1 ¼" to 2"	n/a	33.24	per month
Infrastructure Fee – connections with meters 3" and over	n/a	74.78	per month
Wastewater Distribution Rate	\$ 1.20	1.47	per m ³
Wastewater Distribution Rate – users without water service	\$ 20.41	23.62	per month

Miscellaneous Charges (charged to each account)

Utility Penalties on overdue balances	1.5%		per month
**Printed Utility Bill (no charge for emailed bill)	\$ n/a	2.00	per month
Non-Resident Account Deposit	\$ 200.00		each
Non-Resident surcharge			35%

***Waiver of the \$2.00 printed utility bill fee may be granted under special consideration upon request.*