MN19-18

NOTICE OF MOTION

September 30, 2019

City Clerk
City Hall
Regina, Saskatchewan

Dear Sir:

Please be advised that I will submit the following NOTICE of MOTION at the September 30, 2019 meeting of Regina City Council.

Re: Single Use Plastic Shopping Bags

WHEREAS single-use plastic carry-out shopping bags litter roads, parks and open spaces, foul drains, waterways and lakes, clog up recycling systems and add non-biodegradable waste to landfill sites;

WHEREAS the use of such bags have been banned by local, provincial and national jurisdictions such as Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and Labrador, Moncton, Montreal, Huntington, Brossard, Leaf Rapids, the Pas, Thompson, Boston, Rhode Island, Maine, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Seattle, Hawaii, France, Australia (6 of 7 states and territories), the European Union (by 2021), China and Columbia, among others;

WHEREAS several major Canadian grocery retailers have adopted such bans including Sobeys/Safeway and its affiliates by February 2020;

WHEREAS readily available alternatives in the form of reusable bags and containers and paper bags are available;

WHEREAS China has recently refused to accept waste containing non-biodegradable plastic bags; and

WHEREAS “Regina’s Official Community Plan contains as one of the City’s priorities, “Promote conservation, stewardship and environmental sustainability,” and Regina City Council has recently adopted a bylaw committing the City to becoming 100% renewable by 2050.;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Administration bring forward a bylaw and associated report for consideration in Q1 of 2020 that includes the following:

1. Regulations:

    - that bans the use of single-use plastic shopping bags for the purpose of carrying out purchases from commercial establishments, including take-out and delivery of food, within the City;
    - contains exemptions for transporting such items as bulk, perishable, and frozen goods, etc.;
    - includes enforcement mechanisms such as fines for dealing with infractions;

2. Public engagement and consultation whereby:

    - the public and interested stakeholders are consulted on the content of the bylaw;
    - consideration is given to best practices adopted in other jurisdictions where similar bans have been introduced;
    - pending adoption of the bylaw, a public education campaign is undertaken prior to the bylaw coming into force; and

3. That the bylaw come into effect no later than January 1, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Hawkins	Andrew Stevens	Jason Mancinelli
Councillor - Ward 2	Councillor - Ward 3	Councillor - Ward 9