

October 15, 2013

To: His Worship the Mayor
and Members of City Council

Re: Wastewater Treatment Plant Referendum - September 25, 2013

RECOMMENDATION

That this report be received and filed.

CONCLUSION

A referendum on the financing, operation and maintenance of the City of Regina Wastewater Treatment Plant was held on September 25, 2013 in accordance with *The Cities Act* and *The Local Government Election Act*. The Certificate of Results is attached as Appendix A.

BACKGROUND

City Council at its special meeting held July 22, 2013 adopted the following resolutions:

1. That a referendum be held on the construction of the Wastewater Treatment Plant.
2. That the resolution on the ballot be:

THAT the Council of the City of Regina publicly finance, operate and maintain the new wastewater treatment plant for Regina through a traditional Design, Bid, Build (DBB) approach.

At its special meeting held August 14, 2013, City Council further resolved:

1. That a referendum be held on Wednesday, September 25, 2013 from 9 am to 8 pm.
2. That 30 polling locations (3 per ward) as outlined in Appendix A be approved;

and further, that mail in ballots be used instead of special and mobile polls;

and further, that Advance polls be held on Saturday, September 21, 2013 from 10 am until 5 pm at the Golden Mile Shopping Centre, 3806 Albert Street, Northgate Mall, 489 Albert Street, Normanview Shopping Centre, McCarthy Boulevard & 9th Avenue North and Victoria Square Mall, 2223 E Victoria Avenue.
3. That depending on the option chosen, expenses between \$300,000 and \$550,000 be funded through the General Fund Reserve.
4. That free transit and paratransit be provided to voters for advance voting and referendum day whereby related expenses shall be reimbursed to the Transit Department from the Referendum budget.
5. That the rates of remuneration for election officials summarized in Appendix 'B' be approved.

6. That the voters be registered at the polls on Referendum Day.
7. That representations requesting the appointment of electors to be authorized to attend at the polling place and at the final summing up of the votes be received by the Returning Officer on Tuesday, September 10, 2013 at 11am on the Main Floor of City Hall.
8. That the City Solicitor be directed to prepare or amend any necessary bylaws to facilitate the decisions of City Council related to the referendum.

The purpose of this report is to provide City Council with the outcome of the referendum.

DISCUSSION

The required referendum was held in compliance with all statutory requirements and as directed by City Council.

Based on the number of electors determined in the 2011 Ward Boundary Review, there was a 31.2% voter turnout. The results were: Yes 43% No 57% as indicated in the Official Summary of Results attached as Appendix B.

A turnout by Poll is attached as Appendix C.

A breakdown of costs is as follows:

Communication:	\$79,557.86
Referendum Staffing:	\$101,244.01
Printing:	\$17,770.12
Supplies, Postage and Miscellaneous:	\$15,323.07
Transit and Paratransit (266 rides)	\$665.00
Accu-vote rental	15,453.15
Storage and Destruction:	<u>\$1,480.00</u>
Total	\$231,493.21

Not included in the above is the allocation of City of Regina staff time for approximately \$125,000, which would include the following:

4 City Clerk Department staff, full time for 10 weeks
5 City Clerk Department staff, half time for 4 weeks
26 City of Regina staff, full time for 16 hours
Facility and IT staff as required

RECOMMENDATION IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

Costs as noted above were not budgeted and will have to be allocated from the General Fund Reserve.

Environmental Implications

None with this report.

Policy and/or Strategic Implications

Holding elections and/or referendum is a fundamental part of the democratic process and provides the opportunity for community engagement at a grass-roots level.

Other Implications

None with this report.

Accessibility Implications

All polls were accessible for persons with disabilities. Additionally, mail-in ballot kits were provided in person to those unable to attend the office.

COMMUNICATIONS

Official results were released on Friday, September 27, 2013. This report fulfills the requirement under the Act to report to City Council.

DELEGATED AUTHORITY

City Council is required to receive the results in accordance with *The Cities Act*.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. Swidnicki".

Joni Swidnicki, Returning Officer, and City Clerk

Report prepared by:

J. Swidnicki, Returning Officer and City Clerk