



Report Number: PFC2021-0222

Meeting: Priorities & Finance Committee

Meeting Date: 2021 February 16

NOTICE OF MOTION

RE: Minimizing Negative Impacts of Waste and Recycling Sites

Sponsoring Councillor(s): COUNCILLOR KEATING

WHEREAS renowned publications such as Forbes Magazine, Maclean's, and many others have often ranked the city of Calgary as one of the cleanest cities in Canada, which is partly due to our waste and recycling programs within The City;

AND WHEREAS The City of Calgary has enacted numerous initiatives on strategic waste and recycling services, including the highly successful Blue Cart recycling program, and the Green Cart compost program; it is clear that The City prioritizes providing Calgarians a clean and environmentally responsible community;

AND WHEREAS for residential and non-residential waste services, there exists many companies in Calgary, and while these companies are often identified as recyclers, salvage yards, processing facilities, containerization and/or storage of goods and/or products or similar, there is a strong possibility that their stockpiles of waste and recycling and other off spec materials may not be compliant with the true purpose of the Land Use Bylaw approvals, especially when very little transferring, processing or recycling is being done;

AND WHEREAS many of these sites have amassed thousands of metric tons (M/t) of waste, recycling and other off spec materials stored on their sites, effectively operating unlicensed and unregulated landfills instead of operating as a temporary processing facility, and only maintaining operating inventory as opposed to large stockpiles of material;

AND WHEREAS these sites do not currently have clear operating standards enforced upon them by The Province or The City of Calgary, and have found a largely unregulated space in which to conduct their operations;

AND WHEREAS as found in the previous UCS2019-1520 report, at some of these sites, there is the possibility of operational practices that may increase exposure to the risk of fires; non-compliance with the Alberta Fire Code with regards to stockpiled content, height, and/or separation; and additional concerns for public safety, no less than three of these sites have been approved since this issue was last before Council, and the recommendations of UCS2019-1520 submitted;

AND WHEREAS the Ward 12 Councillor Office has fielded many complaints from citizens and businesses alike, regarding the debris and particulate that has blown onto their property from these large stockpiles of waste and recycling, and the unsightly aesthetics which impacts their frontage;

AND WHEREAS with the sheer volume of materials currently contained on these properties, Administration should consider applying bonds on existing sites not regulated by Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act (EPEA) to protect tax payers, from removal and remediation related expenses as currently these companies are not required to have them due to the stated nature of their activities, and represents a potential long term financial and environmental liability with potential adverse impacts on, but not limited to, surface water, run off, ground water, and soil, to The City;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Council direct Administration to appoint an Officer, be they internal or external, to lead an interdepartmental work group in addressing the resolutions below;

AND FUTHER BE IT RESOLVED that Administration present their internal Officer or present the job description and their recommendations for funding should they be external, to Utilities and Corporate Services Committee no later than Q2 2021;

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the interdepartmental work group examine the financial and environmental liability The City would incur in the case of these companies abandoning their sites, (to say what potential liabilities and fees would be incurred by The City through 1,000 M/t increments), and the management of these sites;

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the interdepartmental work group develop an enforceable strategy for bringing all sites, that store and process waste, recycling and other materials into better compliance (pile height, screening, fire code, environmental, LUB, etc.), minimizing the potential risks they pose;

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Officer combine the research in a report back through the Utilities and Corporate Services Committee no later than Q4 2021, outlining an initial set of recommendations for how to create enforceable development and operating standards and an enforcement strategy for targeting problematic sites that store and processes waste, recycling and other materials;

AND FUTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Officer prepare a comprehensive list of recommendations, to submit with their report, on the tools available to Administration, should the enforcement strategy not be an adequate solution to managing the risk associated with these sites.