

City Council**Notice of Motion**

MM54.7	ACTION			Ward:All
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Option for Monthly Billing and Payment of Water Bills - by Councillor Chin Lee, seconded by Councillor Raymond Cho

** Notice of this Motion has been given.*

** This Motion is subject to referral to the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

Recommendations

Councillor Chin Lee, seconded by Councillor Raymond Cho, recommends that:

1. City Council request the Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer to investigate the possibility and cost (and savings) of allowing residents who opt for electronic billing and payment to receive monthly invoices for water usage.

Summary

The City of Toronto has been installing new water meters that automatically transmits daily water usage data from homes and businesses to the City. There is a request from residents and businesses to receive more regular monthly water bills rather than the hefty tri-yearly utility bills.

Under the old system, the meters were read only three times per year, and the utility bills were sent three times per year. The cost of postage to mail bills and then process the payments are incurred three times per year. The budget has been set according to this schedule.

As the new water meters now allow the City to collect timely usage data, monthly billings should be an option for accounts requesting this service provided that they sign-up for electronic billing and payment. This is not unprecedented as the City of Toronto already allows residents to pay their property taxes on a monthly basis.

Another advantage of monthly water bills is that residents and businesses will have more timely knowledge of excessively high water usage, due to leaks, etc. The City will also be collecting the garbage fees on a more timely basis.

(Submitted to City Council on July 8 and 9, 2014 as MM54.7)

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM54.7

