

Amendments to the Water Supply By-law

Date:	April 24, 2014
To:	Public Works and Infrastructure Committee
From:	General Manager, Toronto Water
Wards:	All
Reference Number:	P:\2014\Cluster B\TW\pw14003

SUMMARY

This report proposes amendments to Chapter 851 (the “Water Supply By-law”) of the Municipal Code to exempt single family dwellings from the requirement to install a water meter chamber where the distance between the streetline and the location where the water meter would be located inside the building or structure is greater than 30 meters. In certain cases, the General Manager, Toronto Water, may determine that this exemption would not apply. These scenarios are described in the proposed bylaw amendment.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The General Manager, Toronto Water, recommends that:

1. City Council amend Municipal Code Chapter 851 - Water Supply substantially in accordance with the draft By-law attached as Appendix "A" to this report.
2. City Council authorize the City Solicitor to introduce any necessary Bills required to implement these recommendations, subject to any necessary refinements, including stylistic, format and organization, as may be identified by the City Solicitor and General Manager, Toronto Water.

Financial Impact

While most single family dwellings are located within 30 metres from the streetline, this report proposes amendments to the Municipal Code to allow for a meter to be located in a building further than 30 metres from the streetline, unless special circumstances exist. It is estimated that the risk of illegal water usage or connections in such cases is minimal, and that there will be no financial impact to the City arising from adoption of recommendations in this report.

The Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information.

DECISION HISTORY

On March 19, 2013, the Public Works Committee referred the request from the motion entitled "Request for Exemption to Toronto By-Law 1392-2007 851-5 I(1) – 31 Maple Avenue" to the General Manager of Toronto Water for a report back to the Committee on the proposal to amend subsection 5 I of Chapter 851, Water Supply, of the Municipal Code ("Chapter 851") and on exempting 31 Maple from the by-law requirement to install a water meter chamber where the distance is greater than 30 metres from the building where the meter is to be located to the streetline. The motion and decision document can be found at:

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2013.PW21.16>

COMMENTS

Water Meter Chamber

Reasons for requiring the installation of a water chamber where the distance between the building in which the meter would be installed and the streetline is greater than 30 metres include, without limitation, the following:

- To prevent illegal connections circumventing a water meter and/or monitor illegal water usage. This will better enable the City to measure and charge for water actually consumed at the property.
- To provide a secure physical housing. The physical structure will provide a secure space for a water meter and other appurtenances including a back flow prevention device and isolation for the fire service line (where applicable) at the property line.
- To provide adequate access for maintenance. The installation of a standardized water meter chamber ensures that there is sufficient space for City staff to perform tasks such as meter reading and maintenance that may include water shut off and bypass operation during meter maintenance.

The current wording of subsection 5I of Chapter 851 does not take into consideration the nature of the building where the installation of a meter chamber is required. In cases where the building is a single family dwelling, the risk of illegal water usage or connections is generally minimal, the water meter can be housed in the dwelling and there is less need for specialized appurtenances to the water line. While most single family dwellings are located within 30 metres from the streetline, this amendment will allow for a meter to be located in a building further than 30 meters from the streetline, unless special circumstances exist.

In such circumstances where the risk is minimal, Toronto Water recommends that subsection 851-5I of Chapter 851 be amended, as proposed in Appendix A attached, to

exempt single family dwellings from the requirement of installing a water meter chamber where the distance between the building in which the meter would be installed and the streetline is greater than 30 metres, unless the General Manager, Toronto Water, determines that a water meter chamber is necessary or recommended for the purposes of backflow prevention, fire prevention/fire water service, specialized meter requirements, protection of the water pressure, or quantity or quality of the City's water system.

The property located at 31 Maple Avenue would be exempt as a single family dwelling from the requirement to install a water meter chamber under the proposed amendment to subsection 851-5I (1.1) in this report, unless the General Manager determines that there are special circumstances necessitating a water meter chamber.

CONTACTS

Judy Tse, Manager
Policy & Program Development
Water Infrastructure Management
Toronto Water
416-338-0680
Jtse2@toronto.ca

Carlo Casale, Manager
Water Meter Program
Operational Support
Toronto Water
416-392-8279
CCasale@toronto.ca

SIGNATURE

Lou Di Gironimo
General Manager, Toronto Water

ATTACHMENTS

Appendix A: Draft Amendments to Municipal Code Chapter 851- Water Supply

Authority: Public Works and Infrastructure Committee Item PW XX as adopted by City of Toronto Council on June 10 and 11, 2014

CITY OF TORONTO

Bill No.

BY-LAW No. -2014

To amend City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 851, Water Supply.

WHEREAS Council has the authority to pass this by-law pursuant to subsections 8(1), (2) and (3) and section 259 of the *City of Toronto Act, 2006*, S.O. 2006, Chapter 11, Schedule A (the “City of Toronto Act, 2006”);

The Council of the City of Toronto enacts:

1. Chapter 851 of the City of Toronto Municipal Code is amended as follows:

A. By deleting § 851-5I(1) in its entirety and substituting it with the following:

- “(1) A water meter shall be installed in a water meter chamber constructed by the owner in accordance with the standards and specifications, at the owner’s expense, if:
- (a) The distance between the streetline and the location where the water meter would be located inside the building or structure is greater than 30 metres from the streetline, or
 - (b) The General Manager is of the opinion that a water meter cannot be located inside a building or structure in accordance with the standards and specifications.”

B. By adding the following as § 851-5I (1.1):

- “(1.1) § 851-5I(1)(a) shall not apply in respect to a single family dwelling unless, in the General Manager’ determination, a water meter chamber is necessary for:
- (a) Backflow prevention purposes; or
 - (b) Fire prevention or fire water service purposes; or
 - (c) Specialized meter requirements or otherwise required in accordance with the Standards and Specifications; or
 - (d) Otherwise protecting the pressure, quantity or quality of the City’s water system or for accommodating or containing infrastructure, devices or appurtenances to protect the pressure, quantity or quality of the City’s water system.”

C. By adding “or § 851-5I(1.1)” after the words “Where required under § 851-5I(1)” in § 851-5I(2) to read as follows:

2. This by-law comes into force upon enactment.

Frances Nunziata,
Speaker

(Seal of the City)