



Date of Meeting:

June 1, 2020

Bylaw: BYLAW 6229 - A BYLAW OF THE CITY OF LETHBRIDGE TO TEMPORARILY DEFER UTILITY PAYMENTS

Submitted By: Travis Hillier, Corporate Customer Service Manager

Recommended Action: First Reading to Bylaw 6229 – A Bylaw of the City of Lethbridge to temporarily defer utility payments.

Executive Summary: Residential and small commercial utility customers may be experiencing financial hardship because of the COVID-19 health pandemic. On March 18, 2020 the Government of Alberta announced a utility deferral payment deferral program from March 18, 2020 until June 18, 2020 for customers' electricity and natural gas bill payments to reduce financial hardship Albertans are experiencing as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. At that time the Government of Alberta recommended that municipalities enact a similar deferral program for municipal owned utilities such as water, waste water, waste and recycling.

Bylaw 6229 will allow eligible City of Lethbridge utility customers to defer current utility charges incurred between March 18, 2020 and June 18, 2020. The repayment period for the deferred amounts shall be from June 19, 2020 until June 18, 2021; with the repayments being made by equal monthly installments during this period.

Attachments: • Bylaw 6229

Department Director:	Doug Hawkins
City Treasurer:	
City Solicitor:	Brian Loewen

BYLAW 6229

A BYLAW OF THE CITY OF LETHBRIDGE TO
TEMPORARILY DEFER UTILITY PAYMENTS

WHEREAS the Municipal Government Act (RSA 2000 C.M-26) authorizes a municipality to pass bylaws respecting services provided by or on behalf of the municipality and public utilities;

AND WHEREAS the Municipal Government Act authorizes a municipality to pass bylaws regarding the imposition of various taxes and provision for collection thereof;

AND WHEREAS residential and small commercial utility customers may be experiencing financial hardship because of the COVID-19 health pandemic;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Alberta announced a utility deferral payment deferral program from March 18, 2020 until June 18, 2020 for customers' electricity and natural gas bill payments to reduce financial hardship Albertans are experiencing as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Alberta recommended that municipalities enact a similar deferral program for municipal owned utilities such as water, waste water, waste and recycling;

NOW THEREFORE THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LETHBRIDGE, IN THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA, DULY ASSEMBLED, HEREBY ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. This Bylaw shall be known as the "Temporary Utility Deferral Bylaw".
2. In this bylaw, the below terms shall mean:
 - a. "customer" means a party that has entered into an agreement with the City of Lethbridge to receive utilities.
 - b. "enrolled utility customer" means a customer that has met the eligibility requirements set out in section 3 and has enrolled in the utility deferral program.
 - c. "utilities" shall mean those utilities supplied by the City of Lethbridge, for water, waste water, waste and recycling.
 - d. "utility deferral program" shall mean the program established within this bylaw to allow customers to defer payment of utility invoices during the deferral period.
3. A customer is eligible to receive a deferral of their utility charges and enroll in the utility deferral program if:
 - a. They use less than 1000 cubic metres of water per year; and

- b. They have successfully enrolled in the utility deferral program as set out in the Utility Payment Deferral Program Act, SA 2020 cU-4.
4. The deferral period shall be the period from March 18, 2020 until June 18, 2020.
5. The deferral amount applies to current charges incurred during the deferral period and does not apply to billing amounts charged on an enrolled utility customer's invoice that were originally due prior to the deferral period.
6. Customers must contact the City of Lethbridge during the deferral period to enroll in the utility deferral program.
7. An enrolled utility customer is entitled to:
 - a. Defer the payment of invoices that are due for utilities during the deferral period; and
 - b. Repay the deferred amounts during the repayment period in accordance with section 9.
8. The repayment period for deferred amounts shall be from June 19, 2020 until June 18, 2021.
9. An enrolled utility customer must repay the total amount deferred in equal monthly installments during the repayment period.
10. Notwithstanding section 6, an enrolled utility customer may enter into an agreement with the City of Lethbridge to repay the deferred amount on a different repayment plan, as long as the full amount is scheduled to be repaid on or before June 18, 2021.
11. If an enrolled customer fails to make the required monthly repayment, any outstanding balances shall be charged interest, late fees or other applicable charges in accordance with the City of Lethbridge's standard collections process set out in the Water Service Bylaw, the Waste Bylaw, and the Sewerage Service Charge Bylaw, as may be applicable.
12. This Bylaw expires on June 19, 2021.
13. Where this bylaw and bylaws the Water Service Bylaw, the Waste Bylaw, and the Sewerage Service Charge Bylaw are inconsistent, the terms of this bylaw

shall prevail.

14. This Bylaw shall come into force and effect on the date of final passing.

READ A FIRST TIME this 1st day of June, A.D. 2020
C.A. Spear Tommy L. Helton
MAYOR CITY CLERK

READ A SECOND TIME this 15th day of June, A.D. 2020
C.A. Spear Tommy L. Helton
MAYOR CITY CLERK

READ A THIRD TIME this 15th day of June, A.D. 2020
C.A. Spear Tommy L. Helton
MAYOR CITY CLERK