

Nikki Cooper

From: Ian Reith [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, August 26, 2020 11:55 AM
To: corporate
Subject: Fwd: White Gold Burying Utilities - \$42K Costs and Procedure

To: Mayor and Council
From: Ian Reith - 7244 Fitzsimmons Rd S

In regards to the proposed burying of the overhead utilities throughout the White Gold neighbourhood, I am requesting that Council review the procedure of voting and the imposition of costs upon local homeowners.

My concerns include:

1. In the current economic times and with the 2020 increase in property taxes, it seems unreasonable to impose a \$4.28 million cost upon local homeowners for a purely aesthetic reason. Adding the cost to our annual property taxes over the next 30 years may on the surface seem prudent, but it is still a large sum of money out of our pockets. On top of that, the imposition of an immediate estimated cost of \$5500.0 to each local resident for digging, new meter boxes, permits, and reconnection. A total overall cost of \$42K+ will be an unnecessary burden for retirees and those on a budget;
2. there is no disclosure as to whether or not the voting will be kept confidential. This has the potential for a fracturing of our neighbourhood community between those who vote "yes" and those who vote "no". Similar to a general election, the voting should be kept confidential and not placed in the hands of the proponents or their consultant;
3. the proposal acknowledges that the placement of the transformers will not be known until later in the design phase. This will make it difficult for homeowners to make a clear informed decision, as I would suggest one's vote may be different if one knew that a transformer box and protective poles would be located on their property next to their driveway;
4. I am concerned that allowing this process to proceed under this voting structure could set a dangerous precedent for future aesthetic proposals. One could foresee a slight majority of residents imposing a removal of all trees over 20 feet tall, as the trees impede their views. Or a vote for only paved or interlocked driveways, to give the neighbourhood a uniform look. The potential is alarming.

Thank you in advance for considering my concerns.
Ian Reith