

Lucy Wyn-Griffiths

From: Ian Reith [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, November 25, 2020 11:53 AM
To: corporate; Virginia Cullen
Cc: Cathy Jewett; John Grills; Jen Ford; Ralph Forsyth; Arthur De Jong; Duane Jackson
Subject: Re: White Gold Burying Utilities - \$42K Costs and Procedure

To Mayor and Council:

Thank you for agreeing at your last council meeting to review the White Gold undergrounding proposal.

I have included my August and October submissions below for your review, and thank you again for considering my input.

In light of all the new info and discussions that have arisen, I would like to add:

1. I remain deeply perturbed that no concerns have been expressed by council or staff as to the environmental damage that will result from this project. Throwing away kilometers of perfectly fine overhead wires, poles, and transformer boxes for simply beautification reasons seems hypocritical, especially after last meeting's environmental report to council. How can citizens be expected to Recycle their tuna cans, when the RMOW is not supporting efforts to Reduce ?;

2. I note that much justification for your previous decision was the notion that you are forced to follow the legislation. Per my October 28th submission, I reiterate that this is questionable and perhaps misleading. The background to the legislation reveals that it was created to enable rural areas without basic services - it was not intended for frivolous beautification schemes.
If council remains convinced it must follow the legislation, then council could simply not guarantee the required loan;

3. I again express my concern that allowing the project to proceed has and will continue to fracture our neighbourhood. To paraphrase the words of the world-renowned G.D. Maxwell, it seems wrong that new owners who parachute into the community can force huge costs upon long-term locals.

Thank you again for accepting my submission and for your decision to reconsider.

Ian Reith
7244 Fitzsimmons Rd S.
[REDACTED]

On Wed, Oct 28, 2020 at 11:30 AM Ian Reith [REDACTED] wrote:

To Mayor and Council:

Further to my August 26th submission to you (copy below), I take this opportunity to draw your attention to further issues that have come to light:

1. the spontaneous extension of the petition deadline until enough "yes" votes could be gathered by the proponents and staff reeks of personal partisanship and a conflict of interest. President Trump would be enamoured with this move, but it does go against basic democratic principles. I would ask that it be reviewed;

2. the proponents and staff used a BC law as justification for their petition, and it was evident from your brief discussion of my earlier letter that you accepted their stance.

However, in my opinion, the proponents bastardized the intent of the legislation. The basis for that particular law was to enable rural areas without basic amenities to install sewer, water, and electricity, thereby replacing septic, wells, and generators.

The intent of the legislation was not to force frivolous upgrading of existing utilities for merely aesthetic reasons;

3. my issue with the negative environmental impact of the project was neither answered nor even addressed by the hired consultant. Tearing down and throwing away a perfectly functioning system for purely aesthetic reasons is in direct conflict with the first R of the three Rs principle, ie. 1. Reduce waste; 2. if one can't reduce, then Reuse; 3. only if all else fails, then Recycle.

Thank you again for your time, and I trust that this submission and my neighbours' submissions will be considered and not simply "referred to staff" again.

Ian Reith
7244 Fitzsimmons Rd.S.
[REDACTED]

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Ian Reith** [REDACTED] >
Date: Wed, Aug 26, 2020 at 11:55 AM
Subject: Fwd: White Gold Burying Utilities - \$42K Costs and Procedure
To: <corporate@whistler.ca>

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