

DATE: May 14, 2024

TO: MAYOR AND COUNCIL

NAME AND TITLE: Ethan Anderson, Manager of Legislative Services/Corporate Officer

SUBJECT: Process for Business Improvement Levy Bylaw Renewal

ATTACHMENT(S): Appendix "A" – Committee of the Whole Report from May 8, 2024
Appendix "B" – Downtown Prince George Powerpoint from May 8, 2024

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That Council APPROVES the use of the process under section 213 of the Community Charter for the renewal of the Downtown Business Improvement Area Bylaw No. 8929, 2018, and authorizes administration to communicate the intent to use the section 213 process to the Prince George Downtown Business Improvement Association (Downtown Prince George).

PURPOSE:

For council's consideration of the processes outlined under section 212 and section 213 of the Community Charter as it relates to the renewal of the Business Improvement Area Bylaw.

BACKGROUND:

Council adopted City of Prince George Downtown Business Improvement Area Bylaw No. 8929, 2018 on March 12, 2018. This bylaw expires March 31, 2025.

Downtown Prince George is requesting Council undertake a section 213 process in the renewal of the bylaw.

On May 8, 2024 Downtown Prince George presented to the Committee of the Whole regarding activities of Downtown Prince George and preferred process.

The Committee of the Whole made the following motion:

Moved by Councillor Ramsay
Seconded by Councillor Sampson

That the Committee of the Whole recommends that Council support the undertaking of the section 213 process for renewal of the Downtown Business Improvement Area.

Carried Unanimously

If Council was to approve the use of the section 213 process, Downtown Prince George has indicated they will undertake engagement with relevant businesses and property owners during the summer months. Staff will plan to bring a bylaw for Council consideration in October of 2024.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

This report supports Council's Priorities of City Government and Infrastructure and Effective Governance.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

If approved, the counter-petition style process will result in minimal staff expenses to undertake. If successful and Council adopts the bylaw, taxation of the specified lots will take place as part of the annual property tax process, and provided to Downtown Prince George.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION:

Council has two options available to them:

1. To approve the section 213 process that allows Downtown Prince George to undertake engagement of businesses with the understanding Council will consider a bylaw in October 2024.
2. To indicate to Downtown Prince George that Council is not considering a section 213 process. In this case, Downtown Prince George would have to undertake a section 212 process if they wish to establish a business improvement area with resulting taxing of specified properties.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Ethan Anderson, Manager of Legislative Services / Corporate Officer

APPROVED:

Walter Babicz, City Manager

Meeting Date: 2024-05-27