

Request for Decision



To: Regular Meeting
From: Chief Financial Officer
Date: 2017-09-05
Subject: 2018 Permissive Tax Exemption Bylaw No. 2040
Recommendation: RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL give first three readings to Bylaw No. 2040 "2018 Permissive Tax Exemptions".

Background

2018 Annual Tax Exemption Bylaw No. 2040 was introduced to Council on August 21, 2017. This bylaw must be adopted prior to October 31, 2017 to permissively exempt certain properties from municipal taxation in 2018. As per legislation, the City will be advertising the tax exemption notice for public consideration on August 30 and September 6, 2017 in the Grand Forks Gazette.

The following areas of land surrounding the buildings for public worship are eligible for exemption under Section 224(2)(f) of the Community Charter:

- The United Church - 920 Central Avenue
- The Pentecostal Church - 2826 75th Avenue
- The Catholic Church - 7249 9th Street
- The Anglican Church - 7252 7th Street
- The Mennonite Brethren Church - 7048 Donaldson Drive
- Christ Lutheran Church - 7328 19th Street
- Grand Forks Christian Centre - 7525 4th Street
- Jehovah's Witnesses Church - 7680 Donaldson Drive

The estimated value of 2018 municipal taxes for the above permissive exemptions is \$1,209.

The following properties are owned by the City, and are subject to lease agreements requiring the City to pay property taxes if an exemption is not available. Granting these properties a permissive exemption will save the City that portion of taxes which is due to other authorities.

- The Baptist Church – 7850 2nd Street – eligible under Section 224(2)(d)
- Whispers of Hope - 7212 Riverside Drive – eligible under Section 224(2)(d)

In addition, BC Assessment has recommended that the bylaw include the property leased by the Regional District of Kootenay Boundary at 8120 Donaldson Drive (former SPCA Building) which is eligible under Section 224(2)(b) and has been granted a tax exemption in prior years.

The bylaw will also exempt certain non-profit organizations under Section 224(2)(a) of the *Community Charter* as follows:

Name	Estimated 2018 Exemption Value
Grand Forks Curling Rink - 7230 21 st Street	\$ 11,486
Grand Forks Masonic Building Society - 366 Market Avenue	\$ 516
Sunshine Valley Child Care Society - 978 72 nd Avenue	\$ 2,036
Slavonic Seniors Citizens - 686 72 nd Avenue	\$ 656
Hospital Auxiliary Thrift Shop - 7239 2 nd Street	\$ 2,642
Royal Canadian Legion - 7353 6 th Street	\$ 3,629
Grand Forks Senior Citizens Drop-in Centre (City Park) - 565 71 st Avenue	\$ 4,086
Phoenix Manor Society - 876 72 nd Avenue	\$ 3,294
Boundary Lodge – 7130 9 th Street	\$ 3,207



The estimated total value of permissive exemptions for the non-profits above is \$31,552. The total amount of exemptions proposed here represents 0.9% of estimated property tax revenues for 2018, and equates to \$11 annually per property.

Benefits or Impacts

General

Granting tax exemption to these applicants assists the organizations in continuing the operation of their facilities and in providing services to the residents of the community.

Strategic Impact

-  The above tax exemptions will reduce taxes collectible by the City by an estimated \$32,761. The tax savings on City owned leased properties will be approximately \$2,800.
-  A permissive tax exemption is a means for Council to recognize and support volunteer groups and non-profit agencies in the community that provide services or programs which enhance the quality of life for its residents.

Policy/Legislation

Section 224 of the Community Charter

Attachments

Draft 2018 Annual Tax Exemption Bylaw No. 2040
Applications received for permissive tax exemption

Recommendation

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL give first three readings to Bylaw No. 2040 "2018 Permissive Tax Exemptions".

Options

1. RESOLVED THAT Council accepts the recommendation.
2. RESOLVED THAT Council does not accept the recommendation.
3. RESOLVED THAT Council refers the matter back to staff for further information.