

# Late Item Request for Decision



To: Regular Meeting

From: **Corporate Services / Outside Works**

Date: April 9, 2018

Subject: Downtown Business Community Request to Change Power Outage Time

Recommendation: **THAT Council discusses the request received from downtown business community to change the power outage time.**

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## Background

Staff and contractors scheduled a power outage on April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018 from 8am to 6pm to complete an upgrade to power lines in a portion of downtown. The contractor first attempted the upgrade in the late fall with a short outage, and they could not complete it then because of safety concerns. The bundle of wires that is being replaced is not a standard electrical cable and extra care must be taken when working on it. The work was rescheduled for April with extra crews and with a longer outage.

Notice was given to the affected customers on March 28, 2018. This prompted some feedback from businesses in the outage area and a request to change the outage start time from 8am to later in the afternoon. Because of the contract and labour agreements, an extra cost would be incurred to move the outage later in the day. It also raises additional safety considerations for crews that would be working on high voltage lines in the dark.

Costs	Benefits
<b>Original outage time</b>	
Some businesses must close for the day and lose revenue	Stay on time and on budget Less safety concerns Notice has already been given Residential properties will not be affected during the evening.
<b>Later outage time</b>	
\$8,000 - \$15,000 Additional safety concerns Change of notice times – some businesses have already made alternate arrangements. The outage will affect residential properties including two condo buildings in the evening.	Some businesses would not need to close for the morning and early afternoon.

The project is currently on budget but there are no extra funds to accommodate this request. If Council directs staff to start the outage later, then they will also need to amend the budget.

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### **Recommendation**

**THAT Council discusses the request received from downtown business community to change the power outage time.**

### **Options**

1. RESOLVED THAT Council directs staff to change the outage start time to 4:00 PM AND THAT Council approves a \$15,000 increase in budget.
2. RESOLVED THAT Council directs staff to change the outage start time to 1:00 PM AND THAT Council approves an \$8,000 increase in budget.
3. RESOLVED THAT Council directs staff to keep the 8am outage start time.