



STAFF REPORT

SUBMITTED BY: Chris Frotten

DATE: January 9, 2024

SUBJECT: Single Special Clean-Up

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE: N/A

ORIGIN

In March 2023, it was decided to move to a single clean-up in 2024/25 and beyond. Negotiations with our service provider have begun but the decision on when to hold the clean-up remains. This report recommends a time of year for the special clean up and seeks Council's approval.

BACKGROUND

Historically, our special clean-ups have been conducted twice a year, in spring (April) and fall (September). This regularity has been a long-standing practice aimed at addressing seasonal shifts in waste accumulation, enhancing the overall cleanliness of our communities, and facilitating the convenient disposal of larger items for residents. The spring clean-up has historically been timed to coincide with the end of winter, targeting the aftermath of colder months when equipment, household items and other forms of waste accumulate. The fall clean-up, on the other hand, traditionally focuses on clearing away the remnants of summer activities. With increased outdoor events, tourism, and recreational activities during the summer months, this clean-up aims to address post-summer waste accumulation and ensure a tidy environment as we transition into the colder months.

In addition to the biannual special clean-ups, we have long offered a one bulky item pick-up service during the regularly scheduled weekly collection service. The bulky item pick-up service has traditionally allowed residents to dispose of one larger item (i.e. appliances, mattresses, etc.) that may not be suitable for regular waste collection. However, despite its availability, this service has not been utilized to its full potential, and there is an opportunity to enhance awareness and promote its use as an alternative to some aspects of the special clean-ups.

DISCUSSION

When deciding on a time of the year for the single special clean-up, several key factors should be carefully considered to ensure its effectiveness.

Firstly, selecting a time that aligns with favorable weather will create an environment conducive to outdoor activities and encourage higher participation.

An in-depth analysis of seasonal waste accumulation patterns is essential. By understanding when debris and waste generation are at their peak, the clean-up can be strategically scheduled to address the most pressing community needs.

If the objective is to manage post-seasonal waste, the timing should afford residents the opportunity to prepare their properties accordingly. Whether it involves cleaning up after winter or addressing the aftermath of summer activities, the scheduling should reflect the practical needs of the community.

Coordination with waste management services is crucial. Ensuring that the chosen timing aligns with their operational capacity optimizes resource allocation and facilitates efficient disposal logistics.

Reflecting on past events provides valuable insights. An evaluation of outcomes and challenges informs decision-making and allows for continuous improvement in the planning and execution of the single special clean-up.

In the future, consideration should be given to exploring the feasibility of collecting metals exclusively. The input from the collector, who indicates that metals constitute the majority of items picked up during special clean-ups, presents a compelling case for this focused approach. By targeting metal collection, the municipality stands to realize significant cost reductions associated with waste disposal. As part of the decision-making process, it would be beneficial to conduct a thorough analysis of the potential savings and logistics involved in implementing a specialized metal collection approach.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Implementing a single special clean-up instead of two is anticipated to yield cost savings for the municipality, prompting the need for negotiations with the service provider to establish a revised contract amount. The negotiation process will be characterized by a thorough consideration of various factors, particularly the potential increase in waste volume during a single special clean-up compared to two separate clean-ups.

The rationale behind the cost savings lies in the streamlined operational efficiency and resource optimization that a singular, well-coordinated clean-up allows. As the municipality transitions to a more cost-effective approach, negotiations with the service provider will take into account the adjusted scope of work, changes in logistical coordination, and potential shifts in staffing requirements.

This strategic shift to a single special clean-up not only reflects a commitment to financial prudence but also emphasizes the municipality's dedication to optimizing resources in an environmentally sustainable manner.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

N/A

PUBLIC CONSULTATION/COMMUNICATIONS

It will be important to implement a comprehensive communication plan to effectively inform the public about the reduction in special clean-ups. This plan should involve a multifaceted approach aimed at ensuring clarity, engagement, and community understanding and should encompass key elements such as clear messaging, multi-channel communication, digital platforms, visual aids and infographics and timely updates.

Developing a clear and concise message that articulates the rationale behind the decision to reduce the frequency of special clean-ups will emphasize the benefits, such as cost savings, improved efficiency, and the municipality's commitment to sustainable waste management practices.

Utilizing a variety of communication channels such as press releases, updates on the municipality's website, social media announcements, newsletters, and community bulletin boards will help us reach a broader audience. Leveraging digital platforms such as the municipality's official website and social media accounts are great tools to provide detailed information, updates, and frequently asked questions (FAQs). This ensures accessibility and real-time communication.

Creating visual aids and infographics that succinctly illustrate the changes in the clean-up schedule, highlighting the benefits and encouraging residents to actively participate in the remaining special clean-up event.

Finally, providing timely updates throughout the transition period to keep residents informed about the progress and address any emerging concerns will help build understanding within the community.

RECOMMENDATION

After careful consideration and in consultation with our current service provider, it is our recommendation that the timing of the special clean-up be early to mid-September, with the goal of optimizing efficiency and addressing specific community needs.

SUGGESTED MOTION

That it be recommended to Council that the one single special clean-up in 2024/25 and the single clean-ups conducted in subsequent years be held in early to mid-September.

ALTERNATIVES

- Council may choose to conduct the special clean-up at another time of the year.

ATTACHMENTS

N/A