

DATE OF MEETING JUNE 22, 2020

AUTHORED BY Karen Robertson, Deputy City Clerk

**SUBJECT MUNICIPAL SECURITY ISSUING RESOLUTION
FIRE STATION NO. 1**

OVERVIEW

Purpose of Report

To seek Council's approval for borrowing two million (the second draw) from the Municipal Financial Authority (MFA) for Fire Station No. 1 (a project previously approved by Council) in 2018.

Recommendation

That Council approve borrowing two million (\$2,000,000) from the Municipal Finance Authority of British Columbia, as part of the 2020 fall Borrowing Session and as authorized through "Fire Station #1 Borrowing Bylaw 2018 No. 7257";

And That the Regional District of Nanaimo be requested to consent to the City of Nanaimo borrowing the two million (\$2,000,000) over a 20-year term and include the borrowing in a Security Issuing Bylaw.

BACKGROUND

At the February 19, 2018 Council meeting, staff was directed to conduct an Alternative Approval Process to obtain approval of the electors to borrow up to \$17M for Fire Station No. 1 through "Fire Station #1 Borrowing Bylaw 2018 No. 7257". Approval of the electors was obtained, the bylaw was adopted, and the Certificate of Approval for the Bylaw was received from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing on 2018-JUN-13.

To avoid paying interest on money that is not needed immediately, the Municipal Finance Authority (MFA) has a process in place (through the passing of a Security Issuing Resolution) whereby municipalities can take draws (as needed) on the amount approved under the bylaw. In 2018, Council did its first draw and passed a resolution to borrow \$3,235,354. These funds were used towards the detailed design and now the City is moving forward with awarding the tender for construction.

DISCUSSION

As noted in the background section of the report, Council passed a resolution in 2018 to borrow \$3,235,354 to commence detailed design of the project. Projected funding requirements for 2020 require the City to undertake its second borrowing in the amount of two million (\$2,000,000) to proceed to the construction phase. This will bring the total borrowing for the project to date to \$5,370,000. This includes \$5,235,254 in new borrowing and the allocation of \$134,646 of debt funding remaining from the 2007 borrowing for Fire Station #4.

OPTIONS

1. That Council approve borrowing two million (\$2,000,000) from the Municipal Finance Authority of British Columbia, as part of the 2020 fall Borrowing Session and as authorized through “Fire Station #1 Borrowing Bylaw 2018 No. 7257”;

And That the Regional District of Nanaimo be requested to consent to the City of Nanaimo borrowing the two million (\$2,000,000) over a 20-year term and include the borrowing in a Security Issuing Bylaw.

To meet MFA’s fall borrowing opportunity, the City must pass the resolution and forward it to the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) for consideration by the Board at its July 28, 2020 meeting. From there, the RDN would make an application, on the City’s behalf, for a certificate of approval from the Ministry before the August 10, 2020 fall borrowing deadline.

- **Budget Implication: Borrowing to support building Fire Station No. 1 was previously approved by Council in 2018 through “Fire Station #1 Borrowing Bylaw 2018, 2017”.**
2. That Council deny approval of borrowing from the Municipal Finance Authority of British Columbia
- **Budget Implication: The project would be put on hold and further direction from Council would be required.**

SUMMARY POINTS

- The next step in the process to replace Fire Station #1 and obtain borrowing is for Council to pass a Municipal Security Issuing Resolution.
- All long-term financing under Section 179 of the *Community Charter*, must be done through a regional district, and the Municipal Finance Authority of BC.
- As this resolution is a requirement for continuing with the project, if Council chose to not pass the recommendation, the project could not proceed.

ATTACHMENTS:

Fire Station #1 Borrowing Bylaw 2018 No. 7257 |

Submitted by:

Karen Robertson
Deputy City Clerk

Concurrence by:

Sheila Gurrie
Director of Legislative Services

Laura Mercer
Director of Finance