

March 13, 2023

Years of Service Award

Corrine Nearing was presented with her 25-year service pin award. Corinne celebrated her 25 years of service with the District of Mackenzie on March 2, 2023.

MSS Bursary

Council approved a District Bursary in the amount of \$500 to be awarded to a student graduating from Mackenzie Secondary School in 2023.

Letter of Support – Omineca Growers Society

The Omineca Growers Society are applying for a grant from the South Peace Mackenzie Trust and requested a letter of support and resolution from the District in support of their Mackenzie Greenhouse Project. Council approved the request and will provide a letter and resolution of support.

Solar Efficiency in the North – GICB Grant

Council had previously requested more information regarding solar panels and how they would hold up with the amount of snow in Mackenzie. A report was brought forward with information provided by Vancouver Renewable Energy. In summary, it was found that snowfall has only a small effect on solar energy production in BC due to the design of the panels and material used. It is estimated that there would only be an 8% loss of production annually.

Requests for Letters of Support Policy 1.27

At the February 13, 2023 Council meeting, Administration indicated they would bring forward recommendations to Council for a policy and process for Mayor and Council to write letters of support or recommendations for local non-profits, individuals, businesses, or elected officials. Council discussed and decided that they wanted to continue receiving all requests for letters of support at Council meetings.

Library Board of Directors Appointment

Council appointed Cornelia Thomi to the Mackenzie Library Board of Directors with a term starting immediately and ending December 31, 2024. There are currently three positions that have ended December 31, 2022 and are open to the public. Applications can be accepted at the District Municipal Office in person or emailed to info@districtofmackenzie.ca.

Housing – Rapid Housing Initiative

Council received a report on the Rapid Housing Initiative funding program offered through the Government of Canada. The Rapid Housing Initiative provides funding to facilitate the rapid construction of new permanent affordable housing units for people and populations who are in severe housing need. Council received the report for information.

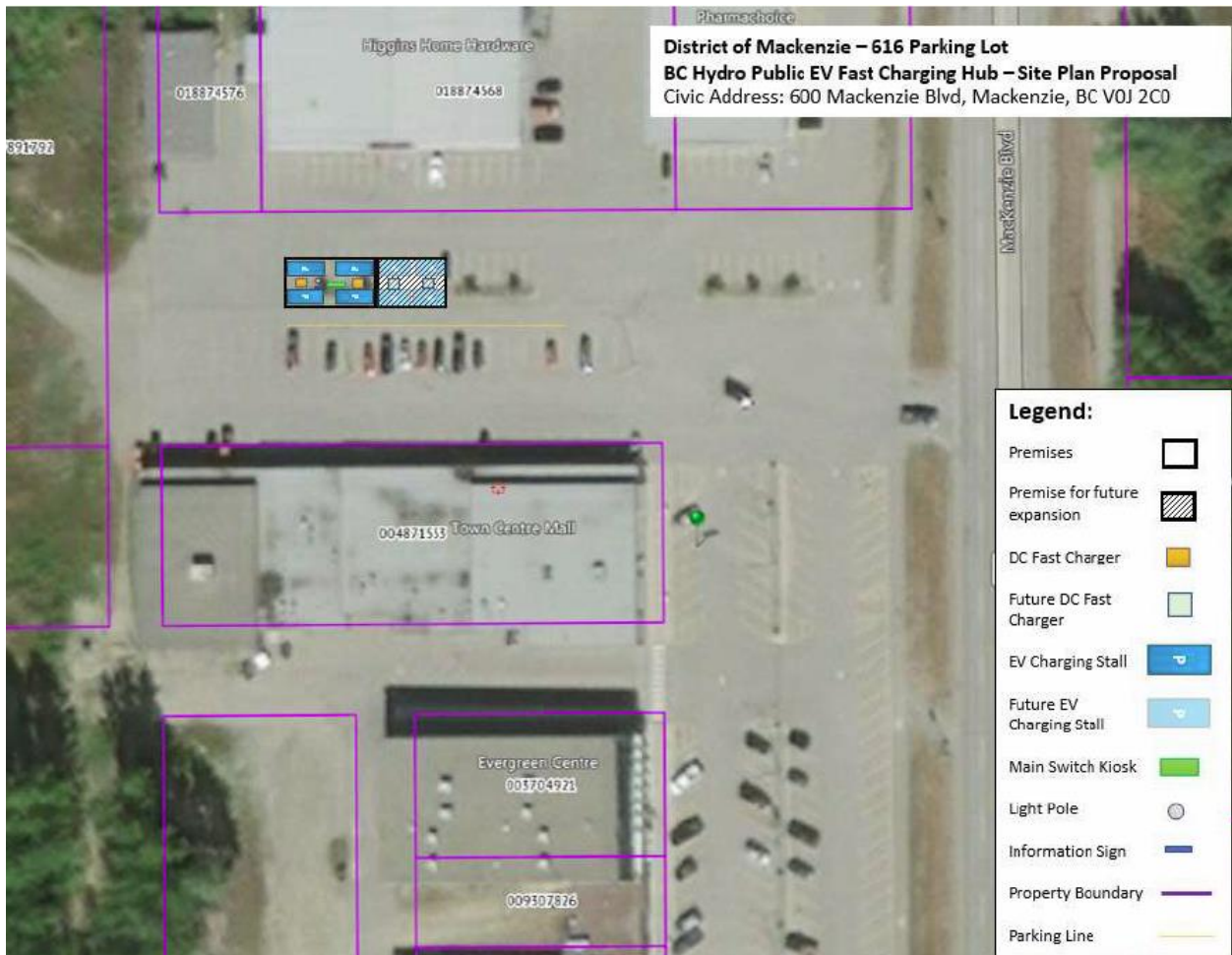
Electric Vehicle Charging Location

The District was approached by BC Hydro looking to install a Level 3 Direct Charging Fast Charging Station (DCFC) in Mackenzie. A number of locations were considered, with Council selecting the parking lot at the 616 Mall. The location will require the use of 17 parking spaces, all owned by the District. Total installation costs of \$250,000 will be covered by BC Hydro, the BC Government and Natural Resources Canada. The District will be responsible for regular snow removal, keeping the area clean and free of garbage, and regular maintenance of the parking lot.

Sample Sign and Image



Site Location



Water, Sewer and Garbage Bylaw Review

In 2008 a report was brought forward to Council with a motion made authorizing no charges for water, sewer and garbage services to the places of worship, Mackenzie Golf and Country Club, Kin Hut, Elks Hall, and the Legion. Council voted in favour of continuing to provide a full exemption for places of worship and not-for-profit agencies for water, sewer, and garbage services. Updated water, sewer and garbage bylaws will be brought forward with the changes for three readings and final adoption.

2023 Water, Sewer, and Garbage Proposed Rates

Council approved a water, sewer and garbage rate increase for 2023 of 7%. Water, sewer, and garbage services are self-funded, meaning the full cost of the program is funded by user fees, including the costs related to managing the life cycle of capital assets. User fees are adjusted annually to offset any changes in the cost to deliver the service. In 2022 the rates were not increased, but the bylaw was updated to remove the early payment discount of 10% and include a 10% late penalty.

The increase for 2023 by 7% will amount to the following increases below:

Residential Customers

Water billing increase	\$26.70/yr
Sewer billing increase	\$17.44/yr
Garbage billing increase (weekly service)	\$12.24/yr
Overall annual increase	\$56.38

Commercial Customers

Water billing increase (min. charge)	\$23.94/yr
Sewer billing increase (min. charge)	\$20.70/yr
Garbage billing increase (2 yrd bin 1 pickup)	\$71.40/yr
Overall annual increase	\$116.04

Water, Sewer, and Garbage bylaws with the increase of 7% will be brought forward to a future Council meeting for the first three readings, and subsequent adoption, based on Council's decision.