

Form: Request to Speak to Committee of Council

Submitted on Thursday, September 19, 2019 - 8:39 pm

==Committee Requested==

Committee: Audit, Finance & Administration

==Requestor Information==

Name of Individual: Richard Ferguson

Name of Organization:

Contact Number:

Email Address:

Mailing Address:

Reason(s) for delegation request:

I am Richard Ferguson a resident in [REDACTED] at [REDACTED].

The reason I am emailing you today is because of a recent incident regarding water use at our property.

I waited until I received the actual bill of \$1,102 before I contacted you.

Our family went away on vacation on Friday August 16th and returned on August 24.

Upon returning from vacation we noticed that our side yard and entrance to our backyard was completely saturated as well as the area beside our property on the municipal greenspace. We did not know how long the tap was running

for but looked at the previous water bill to determine that there was a significant increase in normal water usage due to the tap/hose being turned on and running in the grass.

We do not and have not watered our grass since we moved in last October and we use rain barrels for watering plants and gardens.

What we determined is that a side tap/hose had been turned on in our absence and left on. Thankfully it did not flood our basement or cause any internal issues inside of our house.

I called horizon utilities upon our return to let them know what we had found and that this was not something caused by our family.

Horizon said they could do nothing for us as they are only providing the service on behalf of the city.

Horizon was very courteous and suggested that once we get our final bill, that we contact our municipal councillor and see if our councillor would be able to negotiate with the city on our behalf to have the bill reduced to normal usage amounts.

Earlier this year I emailed your office (did not receive a response back) regarding having a gate or opening installed in the fence along our property as we have noticed several young and older children and teens walking across our Property, down the side yard and climbing over the side fence. If an opening was installed they would not need to climb over our fence or trespass down the side of our property. (I had also asked about development of the adjacent properties behind us as well as the project that was under way on hwy 56)

What we believe happened is that potentially one of the kids that we had stopped or reprimanded from going down the side of the property and climbing the fence, turned on the water as a prank or spite while we were away.

We have since turned off the outside tap (with an internal shutoff) to prevent use of that tap in the future.

I am asking for your help to see if we can get some support from the city.

I was recently restructured from my position with Canon Canada after 10.5 years (end of June) and the constraints on income caused by that, plus one daughter midway through college and the youngest just starting university away from home, this massive waterbill is really going to hurt.

I am available to discuss if you have time.

I included a copy of my waterbill

NB- I would still like to inquire about the option of having an opening in the fence (by the city) where my property line meets my neighbours property

Thank you.

Richard Ferguson



Will you be requesting funds from the City? Yes

Will you be submitting a formal presentation? No