

Original signed by: Byron Johnson, CAO

Council Report

Report Date: Mar 16, 2018**Meeting Date:** Mar 27, 2018**To:** City Manager**From:** Director of Corporate and Financial Services**Subject:** BIA Levy 2018

Purpose

The purpose of this report is for Council to approve the 2018 Levies for the three Business Improvement Areas (BIA's).

Summary

- The three BIA's were requested to send a letter outlining their activities for the year and their budgets for Council approval as required by their bylaws. Those documents are attached for Council to review.
- Each year the City collects a property tax levy on commercial properties within the identified BIA areas to fund the BIA's activities.

Recommendation

THAT Council approve the following grants to the Business Improvement Areas for 2018 to be collected by Local Service property tax levies provided all other conditions of the bylaws are met by the Business Associations prior to payment of the grants.

Quesnel Downtown Association	\$65,000
South Quesnel Business Association	\$80,000
West Quesnel Business Association	\$40,000

Statutory Requirements

Section 215 of the Community Charter outlines the requirements for Business Improvement Areas.

215 (1) In this section:

"business improvement area" means the local service area for a service under this section;

"business improvement area service" means the provision of grants under subsection (2); "business promotion scheme" means

(a) carrying out studies or making reports respecting one or more areas in the municipality where business or commerce is carried on,



- (b) improving, beautifying or maintaining streets, sidewalks or municipally owned land, buildings or other structures in one or more business improvement areas,
 - (c) the removal of graffiti from buildings and other structures in one or more business improvement areas,
 - (d) conserving heritage property in one or more business improvement areas, and
 - (e) encouraging business in one or more business improvement areas.
- (2) A council may grant money to a corporation or other organization that has, as one of its aims, functions or purposes, the planning and implementation of a business promotion scheme.
- (3) All or part of a grant paid under subsection (2) must be recovered by means of a local service tax.
- (4) The authority under subsection (2) is an exception to section 25 (1) [prohibition against assistance to business].
- (5) In addition to the requirements under section 211 (2) [requirements for establishing a local area service], the bylaw establishing a business improvement area service
- (a) must identify the business promotion scheme for which and the organization to which the money will be granted under subsection (2),
 - (b) must establish the maximum amount of money to be granted and the maximum term over which it may be granted, and
 - (c) may set conditions and limitations on the receipt and expenditure of the money.
- (6) Money granted under this section must be expended only
- (a) by the organization to which it is granted,
 - (b) in accordance with the conditions and limitations set out in the bylaw, and
 - (c) for the business promotion scheme described in the bylaw.

Financial Implications

The grants to these organizations are funded through a local service area tax on the commercial properties in the areas.

Background

The BIA's are established under the following Bylaws



Downtown BIA – Quesnel Downtown Business Improvement Area Bylaw No. 1729 of 2013
Effective 2014 to 2020

Annual Grant increasing \$1,000 per year, starting at \$61,000

South Quesnel BIA – South Quesnel Business Improvement Area Bylaw No. 1730 of 2013
Effective 2014 to 2020

Annual Grant not to exceed \$80,000

West Quesnel BIA – West Quesnel Business Improvement Area Bylaw No 1731 of 2013
Effective 2014 to 2018

Annual Grant not to exceed \$40,000

Attachments

1. South Quesnel BIA Letter and Budget
2. West Quesnel BIA Letter and Budget
3. Quesnel Downtown Association Letter and Budget