



# REQUEST FOR DECISION

Meeting: September 23, 2024

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## ATCO FRANCHISE AGREEMENT RENEWAL

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### **DESCRIPTION/BACKGROUND:**

The Town of Claresholm has a gas distribution franchise agreement with ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd. The agreement expires April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

Recently, the Government of Alberta's Utilities Affordability Statutes Amendment Act, 2024 (Royal Assent on May 16, 2024) made changes governing franchise agreements, one of which requires that agreements are reviewed and re-approved by the Alberta Utilities Commission before March 17, 2025. The Commission has established a special re-approval process for communities with agreements that are compliant with the new legislation.

The Town of Claresholm can utilize this re-approval process, but we will need Council approval. The Town will also need to advertise the franchise agreement locally and solicit feedback from residents and ratepayers to satisfy Alberta Utility Commission requirements for franchise agreements. If Council chooses to exercise this option, the existing agreement will be approved.

As the agreement between the Town and ATCO expires on April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025, ATCO will be negotiating a new agreement with the Town the first four months of 2025.

### **PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS:**

MOVED by Councillor \_\_\_\_\_ that the Town of Claresholm exercise the ATCO franchise agreement re-approval process.

### **COSTS/ SOURCE OF FUNDING (if applicable):**

N/A

### **RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Council approve the re-approval process.

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

- 1.) ATCO Correspondence

PREPARED BY: ABE TINNEY, CAO

DATE: September 20, 2024

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