

## 02-26-2020 Town Council Meeting

### Responses to Council Questions

#### **ITEM #9: Discuss Library Overdue Fine Policy**

**Council Question:**

What is the current policy for lost materials? Are patrons asked to pay the replacement cost? What would the policy be if we went to a fine-free model?

**Staff Response:**

*Our current policy for "lost" materials is that when an item is overdue for 21 days, our system generates a bill for the purchase price of the item. If the item is returned, then the bill for the purchase price is removed. However, the patron is still responsible for the overdue fines associated with that item, as overdue fines are separate from replacement charges. If we adopt a fine-free model, the policy for lost materials would not change. However, the patron would no longer pay the overdue fines, as none would have been applied.*

**Council Question:**

Has staff explored any of these scenarios, with a completely fine-free system, partial fine-free system, automatic renewals, wiping out all outstanding fines, fine-forgiveness days, blockage of use or some combination of the above?

**Staff Response:**

*We are currently exploring a completely fine-free system, not a partial one. We implemented automatic renewals last year. Should we adopt a fine-free system, we would need to make a decision on wiping all outstanding fines. We have not done a fine-forgiveness day in the last 7 years. We currently block users from checking out materials once their fines reach \$25 or they have been billed for an item.*

**Council Question:**

We do not have anything in our code of ordinances regarding punishment for library fines owed or overdue books, correct?

**Staff Response:**

*Correct.*