

## Staff Report

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**Report To:** Council  
**Report From:** Jamie Eckenswiller, Director of Legislative Services/Clerk  
**Meeting Date:** November 18, 2025  
**Subject:** Revised Noise Bylaw

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### Recommendations:

THAT in consideration of staff report 'Revised Noise Bylaw, Council directs staff to:

1. Bring forward the Noise Bylaw substantially in the form attached to this report;
2. Bring forward a bylaw to amend the Delegation of Powers and Duties Bylaw to delegate authority to the Clerk to manage the permit process under the Noise Bylaw; and
3. Submit an application to the Ministry of the Attorney General for approval of the short form wording and set fines for the Noise Bylaw substantially in the form attached to the report.

### Highlights:

- The new bylaw addresses ineffectiveness identified in the existing bylaw.
- The bylaw was modeled on industry best practices in other municipalities and includes set fines that encourage compliance.
- The new bylaw contains a streamlined process for and criteria for requesting temporary exemptions to the noise bylaw.
- Barring some exceptions, the existing noise bylaw effectively prohibits all noise at all times.
- The new bylaw continues to provide for the quiet and peaceful enjoyment of ones property but is less restrictive than the current bylaw.

### Previous Report/Authority:

None.

## **Analysis:**

The current Noise Bylaw is outdated and requires an update to be more effective. In fact, the bylaw is so broadly worded that it extends to prohibiting even the quiet enjoyment of one's radio in their own backyard, regardless of volume or time of day. This approach is unrealistic and overly restrictive, as it fails to distinguish between disruptive noise and reasonable activities that contribute to residents' quality of life. Such blanket prohibitions do not reflect the practical needs of the community and underscore the need for a more balanced and nuanced approach to regulating noise.

In addition, it is recommended that the set fines be increased from \$100 to be more of a deterrent and more in line with other updated set fines. Staff have reviewed various noise bylaws and have drafted a revised bylaw based on industry best practices. The draft bylaw, proposed short form wording, and set fines are attached to the report and require Council approval. The revised Noise Bylaw provides the ability for individuals to apply for a permit to be exempt from a provision of the Noise Bylaw and the Clerk has the authority to manage and approve the permit process. The Delegation of Powers and Duties Bylaw requires an amendment to provide the Clerk with this authority. Should a request need to be escalated, the Clerk would bring forward a report to Council to make the final decision.

## **Financial and Operational Implications:**

The funds collected from any fines issued will be returned to the Municipality. Any permit application fees will cover the cost of staff time to process the application.

## **Climate and Environmental Implications:**

There are no climate or environmental implications associated with this report.

## **Communication Plan:**

The updated bylaws will be placed on the West Grey website for public consumption. The updated noise bylaw will be forwarded to West Grey Police for their use.

## **Consultation:**

Jeremy White, West Grey Police Chief

## **Attachments:**

- Draft Noise Bylaw
- Draft Noise Bylaw Set Fine Schedule

**Recommended by:**

Jamie Eckenswiller, AOMC, AMP  
Director of Legislative Services/Clerk

**Submission approved by:**

Michele Harris, Chief Administrative Officer

For more information on this report, please contact Jamie Eckenswiller, Director of Legislative Services/Clerk at [clerk@westgrey.com](mailto:clerk@westgrey.com) or 519-369-2200 Ext. 229.