



INFORMATION REPORT

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| TO: | Chair and Members Planning Committee |
| COMMITTEE DATE: | April 19, 2016 |
| SUBJECT/REPORT NO: | Overview of Parking Reserve Account 108021(PED16097) (City Wide) |
| WARD(S) AFFECTED: | City Wide |
| PREPARED BY: | Marty Hazell (905) 546-2424 Ext. 4588 Kerry Davren (905) 546-2424 Ext. 6009 Dawn Johnson (905) 546-2424 Ext. 2565 |
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| SIGNATURE: | |

Council Direction:

City Council, at the March 9, 2016 meeting, approved the 2016 Tax Supported Operating Budget, which included a \$10 increase per month to off-street municipal parking fees, except in the Concession Street, Kenilworth and Ottawa Street BIAs and in Dundas. There was no net levy impact as the revenues generated through the increased rates (estimated at \$233,000 gross and \$160,000 net) are being directed to the Parking Reserve Account 108021.

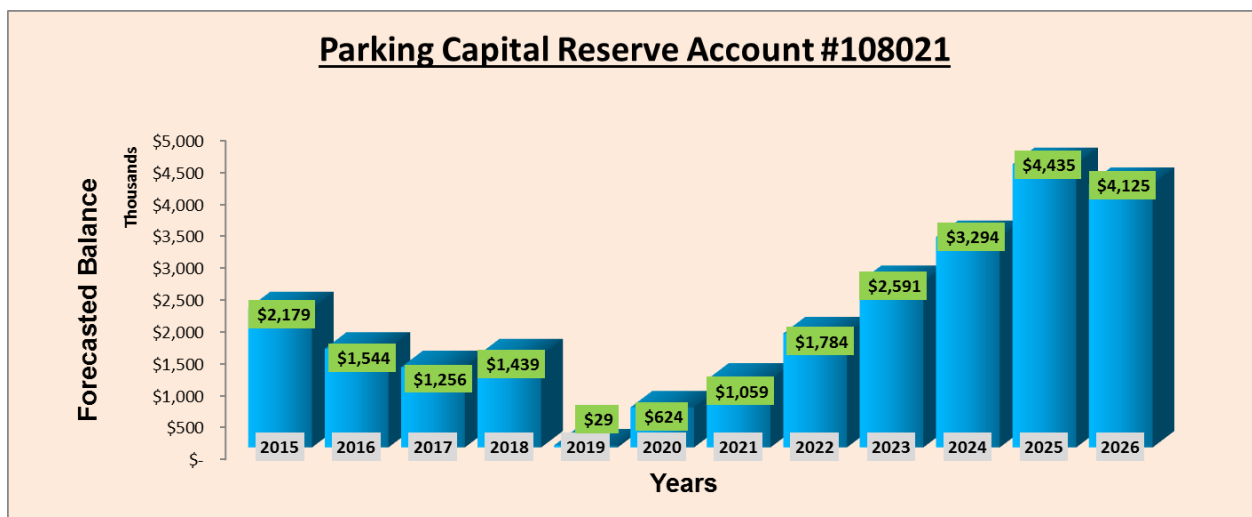
Information:

The Parking Reserve Account 108021 is funded through an annual operating budget contribution and is used to provide sustainable funds for the Hamilton Municipal Parking System Capital Program. This Capital Program is comprised of the following three annual programs:

- purchasing on and off-street parking equipment;
- surface parking lot repaving; and,
- parking structure rehabilitation and maintenance.

In recent years, Council has also approved using the Parking Reserve to fund some temporary pilot programs and other temporary initiatives within the Parking and By-law Services Division. As a result, concerns were recently expressed about the sustainability of the Reserve.

Projected balances in the Parking Reserve for ten years (to 2026) are shown in the table below, which include Council approved Capital projects for 2016 and projected Capital requirements (as known at the time of this report) for future years, including a major waterproofing project at the Convention Center Parking Garage in 2019. Therefore, while the Council approved \$10 increase in Municipal carparks will infuse approximately \$1.6 M into the reserve over ten years, current funding is sufficient only to support maintaining the current assets at least until 2020.



During discussion at the February 23, 2016 General Issues Committee (GIC) budget meeting, Councillor Jason Farr inquired about investments in parking payment technology (i.e. parking fee payment options such as credit cards and apps) and suggested that the additional contribution to Capital being contemplated by GIC might be used to invest in new technology.

New payment options have been limited to-date to credit card machines in the Municipal carparks at the south-west corner of King and Bay, at City Hall and on Victoria Avenue opposite the General Hospital. In Report PED10219(b) staff advised that “*Credit card technology will be expanded to other Municipal carparks throughout the City as business cases present themselves*”. While staff are confident that business cases will be made for some off-street lots, there is a concern that the low on-street parking meter rates in Hamilton may be an impediment to providing credit card technology at on-street meters.

While no funding will be available in the Parking Reserve for any significant strategic investment in new parking technology in the near future, staff intends to consult with the Hamilton Association of Business Improvement Areas as an initial phase in developing a parking payment technology strategy. Staff then intend on developing some short and long-term recommendations based on funding in the Parking Reserve or should Council decide to direct additional funds to the Reserve as part of a future budget process.