

INFORMATION REPORT

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| TO: | Chair and Members Planning Committee |
| COMMITTEE DATE: | February 4, 2020 |
| SUBJECT/REPORT NO: | Parking Fee Review (PED19238(a)) (City Wide) (Outstanding Business List Item) |
| WARD(S) AFFECTED: | City Wide |
| PREPARED BY: | Allister McLveen (905) 546-2424 Ext. 5958 |
| SUBMITTED BY: | Brian Hollingworth Director, Transportation Planning and Parking Planning and Economic Development Department |
| SIGNATURE: | |

COUNCIL DIRECTION

At the November 19, 2019, Planning Committee, staff were directed to report back to Planning Committee on the following:

- (a) That the options of a \$0.25 and \$0.50 increase for on-street metered parking be referred to local Business Improvement Areas for feedback;
- (b) That staff report back to the Planning Committee with additional information related to increasing parking penalties to a level equal to comparator municipalities;
- (c) That staff report back to the Planning Committee with the net budget revenues associated with the increasing parking permit fees by \$5.00 and \$10.00 per month;
- (d) That staff report back to the Planning Committee following consultation with Hamilton schools and school boards regarding issues related to parking and stopping in front of schools; and,
- (e) That staff report back to the Planning Committee with information related to increasing Special Event Rates in line with privately operated lots.

OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

INFORMATION

On-Street Parking Meter Increase

As presented in Report PED19238, in 2018, parking meters in Hamilton generated approximately \$2.4 M in gross revenue. It is estimated that a \$0.25 cent increase in hourly meter rates would result in a net increase in revenue of \$280 K per year, after accounting for a potential reduction in demand due to the price increase. A \$0.50 cent increase could generate additional revenues of \$560 K.

Staff met with the Business Improvement Areas' (BIA) representatives at their regularly scheduled meeting of December 10, 2019 to discuss the direction from Planning Committee to refer the options of a \$0.25 and \$0.50 increase for on-street metered parking to the local BIA for feedback. The consensus from the BIA representatives was that they were not in support of an increase at this time in on-street parking meter rates but would consider an increase in conjunction with the implementation of the mobile app for Pay-by-Phone parking (scheduled for June-July 2020). At the writing of this Report, staff has received three written responses upon their request for formal feedback. The BIA written responses to date are outlined in Appendix "A" attached to this Report.

Increasing Parking Penalties to a Level Equal to Comparator Municipalities

Parking penalties are used to encourage compliance and increases in penalties can lead to greater compliance.

Staff previously indicated that in applying an average increase in parking fines of \$1.00, the incremental revenue impacts were estimated at \$161 K annually. As outlined in Table 1, Parking Violations, an increase in the most common parking penalties to a level equal to comparator municipalities, ranging from \$1.00 to \$5.00, generates a revised increase in the estimated annual revenue to \$383,633.

Table 1 - Parking Violations

| EXISTING FINE | PROPOSED FINE | MUNICIPAL AVERAGE | COMMON VIOLATION TYPES | ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL REVENUE |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| \$24.00 | \$25.00 | \$27.00 | Expired Meter | \$28,629 |
| \$29.00 | \$30.00 | \$30.00 | Exceeding Time Limit | \$19,250 |
| \$33.00 | \$35.00 | \$37.00/\$43.00 | Signed No Parking Area, Alternate Side Parking | \$79,244 |
| \$50.00 | \$55.00 | \$42.00 | Unauthorized Parking Private/Municipal Property | \$134,080 |
| \$75.00 | \$80.00 | \$65.00 | Signed No Stopping Area | \$122,430 |
| TOTAL POTENTIAL NEW REVENUE | | | | \$383,633 |

At the Planning Committee meeting of November 19, 2019 questions were raised regarding the misuse of Accessibility Parking Permits (APP). The permits are issued by the Province and enforced by the Municipality. Clarity on eligibility requirements and rules for APP usage is outlined in Appendix "B" attached to this Report.

Hamilton's current fine for illegally parking in an accessible space is \$350. However, fraudulent use of an accessible parking permit, whether it is forged, altered, expired or somebody else's, is a separate provincial offence, and if found to be the case, Enforcement Officers can take away the permit and charge the driver with a fine up to \$5,000 and the person who the permit was issued to will no longer have access to his/her permit.

Increasing Parking Permit fees by \$5.00 and \$10.00 per Month

As indicated in Report PED19238, an increase in all monthly permit fees by \$10 per month, is estimated to generate a net annual increase in revenue of \$306 K based on monthly permits issued. An increase of \$5.00 per month is estimated to generate a net annual increase of \$153 K.

The estimated financial impact to City Departments whose employees qualify for permit parking and for City-owned vehicles for a \$5.00 and \$10.00 increase is \$24,180 and \$48,360 respectively. Table 2 – Monthly Permits, is a high-level summary of existing monthly permit holders.

Table 2 – Monthly Permits

| Type of Permit | TOTAL |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| City Department Paid | 403 |
| City Employees (self-paid) | 575 |
| Police Subsidized | 19 |
| General Public | 1052 |
| Companies | 324 |
| TOTAL | 2373 |

Parking and Stopping in Front of Schools

The current City of Hamilton Parking Bylaw No. 01-218, being a bylaw to regulate on-street parking does not make any differences in the penalty amounts for stopping and parking violations that typically occur near schools, creating localized traffic congestion and safety concerns for parents and students.

Staff have requested to be put on the agendas for the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board (HWDSB) Liaison Committee and the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board (HWCDSB) Liaison Committee in early 2020 to discuss parking

and stopping issues adjacent to schools, and possible solutions, including an increase in penalty amounts for stopping and parking violations.

Special Event Rates

Special event parking rates in City of Hamilton municipal lots are adjusted by staff based on the reservation of space, and not per regular operational hours and fees. With few exceptions, a special event fee of \$10.00 is utilized.

For the most part, private parking facility owners utilize their established day, weekend or evening rates and do not adjust based upon most typical special events occurring in the downtown areas. A review, of a number, of comparable municipalities provided a range of special event fees from \$5.50 to \$10.00 per event. The City of Niagara Falls implements a \$25.00 parking fee for their New Year's Eve special event activities.

As this Report addresses the issue of increasing parking fees, on the Planning Committee Outstanding Business List, it is appropriate to be identified as complete and can be removed from the list.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

Appendix "A" - Written Feedback from the BIAs

Appendix "B" - Eligibility Requirements and Rules for Accessibility Parking Permits Usage

AM:BH:cr