



Town of Newmarket
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Extending the 30 Minute Downtown Parking Restrictions on Main Street Staff Report to Council

Report Number: 2020-66

Department(s): Engineering Services, Regulatory Services

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Meeting Date: September 14, 2020

Recommendations

1. That the report entitled Extending the 30 Minute Downtown Parking Restrictions on Main Street dated September 14, 2020 be received; and,
2. That Council approve the amendments to Parking By-law 2019-63 as contained in Appendix A; and,
3. That staff undertake public consultation with the Main Street Newmarket Business Improvement Area to determine the impact of the parking change; and,
4. That staff report back on the findings of the public consultation, and any recommendations to further amend Main Street parking restrictions by Q1 2021; and,
5. That Staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to recommend that the 30 minute parking restriction on Main Street, as enacted on May 9, 2020 through Emergency Order No. 1 and pursuant to the Emergency Measures By-law, be maintained as a permanent regulatory change from the current 2 hour parking restrictions established within the Town's Parking By-law. Additionally, Newmarket Council directed staff to present a Parking By-law amendment to Council in order to maintain the 30 minute parking restriction on Main Street without being impacted by the Town's declared state of emergency.

Background

On May 9th, 2020, the Mayor for the Town of Newmarket enacted Emergency Order No. 1 which states:

To impose temporary amendments to parking restrictions by imposing a thirty (30) minute maximum parking requirement along Main Street in an effort to facilitate curb side pick-up or delivery for retail services for the purpose of engaging in retail sales to the public.

This Order is enacted pursuant to the Emergency Measures By-law, which only remains in effect on the condition that the Town is in a declared state of emergency. If the Town terminates its declared state of emergency, the 30 minute parking restrictions would be automatically revoked and parking along Main Street would return to 2 hour parking restrictions, as established within Parking By-law 2019-63.

Since May 9th, 2020, the 2 hour parking restrictions on Main Street have been temporarily amended to 30 minute parking restrictions. Council indicated that it has received positive feedback and comments regarding this change. To ensure continuity of the 30 minute parking restriction after Emergency Order No.1 has concluded, at the meeting of Town Council on August 31, 2020, Council adopted recommendations #4 and #5 from the Downtown Parking Review (Council agenda item 9.2.6) which states:

4. That further to the previous Council motion on June 8, 2020 to extend Emergency Order No.1 until September 21, 2020, staff be directed to present a Parking By-law amendment to maintain the 30 minute parking restrictions on Main Street and provide regular enforcement of 30 minute parking maximum; and,
5. That staff be directed to consult with the BIA and report to Council by Q1 2021 on potential permanent 30 minute parking restrictions on Main Street including a review of other options.

This report addresses Council's August 31, 2020 direction to staff as noted above.

Discussion

Downtown parking has been the subject of much study and changes. The difficulty has been to strike a balance between the needs of the various stakeholders in this area. The changing economic climate, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and measures to deal with the impacts, has altered the balance to create the need for a short-term parking support to allow curb side operations. The short term parking supply allows for a rapid turn-around of available parking spaces in the Downtown area along Main Street. As economic recovery continues, these short-term parking spaces are seen as a benefit in assisting this recovery beyond the Emergency Order No. 1 termination date of September 21, 2020.

The 2 hour parking restrictions on Main Street was developed many years ago to suit the current needs of the Downtown. Subsequently, 15 minute parking spaces were created to allow loading operations on Main Street which addressed a shifting need. Finally, outdoor patios have removed a number of parking spaces to address further needs of the Downtown area. The 30 minute parking restrictions are now fitting a new need of the Downtown area.

However, it is relevant to note that the necessity for quick action to maintain the continuity of the 30 minute parking restrictions has created policy gaps both in the Corporate Parking Policy and the Corporation Public Consultation and Support Policy. The main intent of both policies is to methodically create public consultation processes, and determine public support for any parking amendment initiatives. It is critical to have consultation with the Main Street Newmarket Business Improvement Area (BIA) to ensure that the 30 minute parking restrictions meet the current needs of the businesses and patrons of the Downtown. Should Council adopt the 30 minute parking restrictions into Parking By-law 2019-63 as proposed (Appendix A), Town staff will report to Council in Q1 2021 with a review of parking restriction options, which will include public consultation and BIA feedback.

As part of the report to Council in Q1 2021, Town staff will also review proposed options for streamlining processes relating to any future parking restriction and signage changes.

Conclusion

The 30 minute parking restrictions along Main Street are directly tied to the Town's declared state of emergency. If Council's intention is to maintain the continuity of 30 minute parking restrictions along Main Street, then a permanent amendment to the Town's Parking By-law 2019-63 is required.

Business Plan and Strategic Plan Linkages

This report aligns with Council's Strategic Priorities of Economic Leadership and Job Creation as 30 minute parking restrictions creates a greater supply of parking in the area and focuses on the continued success of the Downtown.

Consultation

Transportation Services and Legislative Services collaborated in the drafting of this report.

Following Council's approval of the Parking By-law amendments, staff will consult with the public and the BIA to report to Council on 30 minute parking restrictions including a review of other options by Q1 2021.

Human Resource Considerations

None.

Budget Impact

The change from the existing 30 minute signage to the standard Highway Traffic Act signage would be less than \$1,000.00, and it will be funded from the Operating Budget.

Attachments

Appendix A – Proposed Parking By-law Amendment

Approval

Mark Agnoletto, Acting Commissioner, Development & Infrastructure Services

Esther Armchuk, Commissioner, Corporate Services

Contact

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