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D’Arcy Street Parking Review Staff Report to Council

Report Number: 2021-22

Department(s): Engineering Services

Author(s): M. Kryzanowski, Manager, Transportation Services

Meeting Date: April 12, 2021

Recommendations

1. That the report entitled D’Arcy Street Parking Review dated April 12, 2021 be received; and,
2. That the proposed amendments to the Parking Bylaw as outlined in Appendix B be approved; and,
3. That the 2-year moratorium on new parking reviews be lifted for this section of D’Arcy Street to allow monitoring and adjustments if needed; and,
4. 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 highlight the review and recommendations for amending the Parking Bylaw to allow parking on the north side of D’Arcy Street.

Background

In 2019, the Town and the local Business Improvement Area (BIA) created a ‘Joint Task Force’ to address downtown parking concerns. This Task Force met several times, held feedback sessions and participated in walkabouts of the area to identify potential solutions. A number of ideas were generated, which required further evaluation by staff to determine their feasibility. Staff created a working group that met on several occasions to review each idea. A staff report entitled “Downtown Parking Review –

Analysis of Joint BIA/Town Task Force Workshop” was presented to Council on August 24, 2020, to highlight the ideas.

One of the ideas generated by the efforts above is the potential creation of up to fourteen (14) new on-street parking spaces on the north side of D’Arcy Street, between Church Street and Water Street. The parking review summarized in today’s report further addresses the feasibility of that idea. The study was completed in accordance with the Council-approved Corporate Parking Policy.

Discussion

D’Arcy Street is a one-way narrow local road that runs eastward from Church Street to Water Street. The street provides access to several homes, a church, and the Newmarket Cenotaph. Currently, there is no parking allowed on the south side. Parking is allowed on the north side, but only on Sundays. Sunday parking was likely enacted many years ago to accommodate the parking requirements of St. Paul’s Anglican Church, located at the north-east corner of D’Arcy Street and Church Street.

The initial request from staff was to review the potential for additional parking on the north side of D’Arcy Street. There is sufficient width on D’Arcy Street to accommodate parking and still have one travel lane. The introduction of parking would have the added benefit of providing a traffic calming effect for the street.

After a consultation with the residents, it is recommended that the new parking on the north side conform to the restriction that already exists on other streets in the downtown core, which is that a maximum of two (2) hours of parking be permitted. This ensures turnover of these spaces and prevents long-term parking from occurring.

The parking zone would extend from Church Street to the property limit of house numbers 457 and 465 D’Arcy Street. The parking zone would therefore end just before the curved section of D’Arcy Street as it approaches Water Street (see map in Appendix A). This would provide approximately eleven (11) or twelve (12) additional on-street parking spaces.

Finally, the Town’s Corporate Parking Policy places a two (2) year moratorium on re-reviewing parking on the street. It is recommended that this moratorium be lifted for this section of D’Arcy Street only, in the event that adjustments to the parking limits might be needed given the one-way travel and the pavement width of the street.

It should be noted that Sunday parking will remain, but it will also be reduced to a maximum of two (2) hours, from the existing three (3) hours that is currently in the general Parking Bylaw.

Conclusion

In conclusion, it is recommended that a two (2) hour parking limit be implemented on D’Arcy Street on the north side to provide the Downtown area with new additional

parking spaces. It is also recommended that the two (2) year moratorium be lifted on this section of D'Arcy Street so that the parking operations can be monitored and adjusted if required.

Business Plan and Strategic Plan Linkages

Well-planned and connected...strategically planning for the future to improve information access and enhance travel to, from, and within Newmarket.

Consultation

A letter dated November 9, 2020, was sent to all households that would be impacted by the proposed parking changes. The Town received three (3) responses. While there was no general objection, some residents had concerns with increased traffic and greater difficulty accessing their driveways because D'Arcy Street is a narrow one-way roadway. Monitoring by the Town will confirm whether or not adjustments will be required.

Furthermore, all households within the study area will receive a copy of this report and a notice indicating the date and time of the Committee of the Whole at which the matter will be heard. Residents who wish to address the Committee will have the opportunity to do so at that time.

Human Resource Considerations

None.

Budget Impact

Funds for the required signage would come from the Regulatory Signs – Engineering line from the Operating Budget. The cost would be approximately \$600.00 for the required signage. There is sufficient money in this account to cover the cost.

Attachments

Appendix A – Study Area Map

Appendix B – Proposed Parking Bylaw Amendments

Approval

Rachel Prudhomme, Director, Engineering Services

Peter Noehammer, Commissioner, Development & Infrastructure Services

Contact

For more information or questions regarding this report, please contact Mark Kryzanowski, Manager, Transportation Services, at 905-895-5193 extension 2508 or MKryzanowski@newmarket.ca