



## **Committee of the Whole Report**

### **For the Meeting of December 10, 2020**

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**To:** Committee of the Whole **Date:** December 1, 2020  
**From:** Chris Coates, City Clerk  
**Subject:** Horse Drawn Carriage and Pedicab Licence Renewals – COVID-19

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

That Council direct staff to bring forward the Bylaw to the December 10, 2020 daytime meeting for Council to consider the following motion:

1. Give first, second and third readings the Vehicles for Hire Amendment (No. 21) Bylaw No. 20-126.

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

On June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020, Council approved an amendment to the Vehicles for Hire Bylaw due to the pandemic to suspend the license cap on the number of pedicab and horse drawn carriages. A copy of the staff report is attached as Appendix A. In addition, Council approved waivers in fees for yellow curb usage and parking stands for pedicabs, horse drawn carriages and sightseeing vehicles.

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's approval to extend to the 2021 License year, the suspension of the license cap for pedicabs and horse drawn carriages. Staff will report back in January 2020 in connection with the fees for parking stands and yellow curbs.

Staff consulted with the horse-drawn carriage and pedicab operators. In general, operators indicate that they had reduced operations in 2020 which is expected to continue in 2021. The operators' revenue has significantly decreased due to various federal and provincial measures imposed to reduce the risk of transmission of Covid-19, including measures that limit tourism in the region.

The Vehicles for Hire Bylaw establishes a cap on the licenses for these two classifications of sightseeing vehicles and if licenses are not obtained each year, staff are obliged to hold a lottery to award un-renewed licenses. As part of the pandemic related changes applicable to business in 2020, a suspension of the cap was enacted in an amendment to the Vehicle for Hire Bylaw attached as Appendix B to enable renewal to occur where desired, but any licenses not renewed would not be subject to the lottery process to reallocate them.

As the pandemic continues to impact these operators, Council may wish to consider approving a further suspension to the License Cap provisions of the Vehicles for Hire Bylaw for 2021.

## PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to consider providing financial relief in 2021 to tourism-oriented operators who hold pedicab and horse drawn carriage licences under the Vehicles for Hire Bylaw. A further report in January 2021 will address yellow curb and parking stand fees.

## BACKGROUND

At the June 4, 2020 meeting, Council passed the following motion:

That Council:

1. Give first, second, and third readings to Vehicles for Hire Bylaw, Amendment Bylaw (No. 21), No. 20-071
2. Reconsider and adopt Vehicles for Hire Bylaw, Amendment Bylaw (No. 21), No. 20-071

As a result, pedicab and horse drawn carriage operators who pay for commercial parking stand could keep their licenses, be reimbursed 2020 licences fees for unused licenses, and be exempted from paying commercial parking stand and yellow curb fees for 2020. This expires on December 31, 2020.

## ISSUES AND ANALYSIS

### *Expiration of Council Direction*

Council direction on June 4, 2020 expires on December 31, 2020. If Council wishes, they may extend this financial relief through the enactment of an amendment bylaw to extend the suspension of the bylaw provisions that establish a licence cap and require a lottery be held to re-allocate un-renewed licences.

### *Summary of Feedback*

Staff reached out to operators to learn about their operations in 2020 and expected operation levels in 2021. A few licence holders operated in the summer at a reduced operational level, stopped operations in the fall, and plan to operate at a reduced operational level in December 2020. Operators do not expect operation to begin again until March 2021 at the earliest. Overall, operators expect that “normal operations” are likely to resume only when international tourism resumes in the region.

### *Renewing Licences*

Horse-drawn carriages and pedicabs are unique because the Vehicles for Hire Bylaw establishes a cap on the number of licenses. If an operator does not renew their licence, this licence would become available through a lottery. A suspension of licence fees enables operators to keep their licences without potentially losing them in a lottery.

Each licence is for a horse-drawn carriage, pedicab, and a sight-seeing vehicle is \$140

## **OPTIONS AND IMPACTS**

**Option 1 – Approve a further amendment to the Streets and Traffic Bylaw for 2021 to suspend the license cap provisions for Horse Drawn Carriages and Pedit-cabs attached as Appendix C (*Recommended*)**

**Option 2 – Do not extend the license cap suspension for 2021**

### *Accessibility Impact Statement*

The recommended approach does have accessibility concerns as it is limited to fees and charges.

### *2018 – 2022 Strategic Plan*

The recommended option has no Strategic Plan implications.

### *Impacts to Financial Plan*

There are 35 pedicab licenses and 18 horse drawn carriage licenses. Each annual license is \$140.00 The total possible reduction in revenue is \$7,420.00

### *Official Community Plan Consistency Statement*

This issue has no specific Official Community Plan implications.

## **CONCLUSION**

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact the city's tourism related economy. Council may wish to extend emergency financial relief to sight-seeing vehicles, horse-drawn carriages, and pedicabs whose operations are significantly impacted by a decrease in tourism. Such a decision would align with other City initiatives to continue to mitigate negative impacts on local business and support future local economic recovery.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Coates  
City Clerk

Susanne Thompson  
Deputy City Manager/CFO

**Report accepted and recommended by the City Manager December 1,2020**

### **List of Attachments**

Appendix A: June 4, 2020 report

Appendix B: Vehicles for Hire Amendment Bylaw No. 20-071

Appendix C: Proposed Vehicles for Hire Amendment Bylaw No. 20-XXX