



**Committee of the Whole Report
For the Meeting of March 14, 2024**

To: Committee of the Whole **Date:** February 21, 2024
From: Curt Kingsley, City Clerk
Subject: Parking Stands for Horse Drawn Vehicles

RECOMMENDATION

That Council direct staff to:

1. Renew the horse drawn vehicle parking stand agreements until December 31, 2028 to:
 - a. Capital City Tally-Ho and Sightseeing Company
 - b. Victoria Single Horse Drawn Carriage Tours
 - c. Black Beauty Line
2. Set the monthly fee payable for each parking stand at \$1,340.24.
3. Bring forward bylaw amendments to:
 - a. Delegate to staff the authority to allocate parking stands in Schedule C of the *Vehicles for Hire Bylaw* for existing licences.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The City has provided parking stands to sightseeing vehicles for many years. Parking stands are designated spots for sightseeing operators to solicit business and to load and unload passengers. Three parking stands are dedicated to horse drawn vehicles on Menzies Street near Bellville.

The *Vehicles for Hire Bylaw* establishes the conditions for parking stands and limits the number of horse drawn carriage licences to 18. Three operators hold all 18 licences and they are up to date. Schedule E of the Bylaw outlines the agreement operators must sign to use the parking stands.

Capital City Tally-Ho and Sightseeing Company, Victoria Single Horse Drawn Carriage Tours and Black Beauty Line have had exclusive use of the parking stands but their agreements have expired. The parking stands can continue to be used until a new agreement is signed as they are designated for horse drawn carriage use only under the *Streets and Traffic Bylaw*.

Should Council continue to allocate parking stands for horse drawn carriages, staff recommend a four-year agreement and a monthly fee of \$1,340.24 consistent with previous Council direction to base the fee on estimated parking revenue.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval for the allocation of horse drawn vehicle parking stands under the *Vehicles for Hire Bylaw*.

BACKGROUND

The City has provided parking stands to horse drawn carriages for many years. The three parking stands are located on Menzies Street near Bellville. Capital City Tally-Ho and Sightseeing Company, Victoria Single Horse Drawn Carriage Tours and Black Beauty Line have had exclusive use of the stands and their agreements have expired. These operators hold all 18 horse drawn carriage licences under the *Vehicles for Hire Bylaw* (Appendix 1) and their licences are up to date.

The *Streets and Traffic Bylaw* designates these parking spots as horse drawn vehicle stands only so their use may continue even though the agreements have expired. Schedule E of the *Vehicles for Hire Bylaw* outlines the agreement. The previous fee was based on 2018 estimated parking revenue and was \$1,114.29 per month. Staff recommend a new monthly fee based on 2024 rates of \$1,340.24 per month. Staff also recommend a four-year agreement.

The *Vehicles for Hire Bylaw* contains regulations for horse drawn vehicles covering:

- Number of horse drawn vehicle licences.
- Selection process for horse drawn vehicle licences.
- Care and stabling of horses (e.g., veterinarian certifications and SPCA evaluations).
- Restricted areas and times for operation of horse drawn vehicles.
- Displaying name on horse drawn vehicles.

ISSUES & ANALYSIS

The three horse drawn carriage operators have expressed interest in long term use and are willing to sign new agreements. Under the *Vehicles for Hire Bylaw*, each time a new agreement is signed, it requires a Council resolution. Staff propose amending the Bylaw to delegate to staff the authority to allocate parking stands for existing licences. If there is a change in a licence, Council will provide direction on the use of any available stands.

There is no Council direction to explore the use of these stands to different options such as returning them to vehicle parking or expanding them to other uses. However, Council could direct staff to consider issues relating to these operations and whether exclusive use should be expanded.

OPTIONS & IMPACTS

Option 1 – Renew the parking stand agreements for horse drawn vehicles (Recommended).

That Council direct staff to:

1. Renew the horse drawn vehicle parking stand agreements until December 31, 2028 to:
 - a. Capital City Tally-Ho and Sightseeing Company
 - b. Victoria Single Horse Drawn Carriage Tours
 - c. Black Beauty Line
2. Set the monthly fee payable for each parking stand at \$1,340.24.
3. Bring forward bylaw amendments to:
 - a. Delegate to staff the authority to allocate parking stands in Schedule C of the *Vehicles for Hire Bylaw* for existing licences.

This would direct staff to work with the three operators to sign an agreement with the City as per Schedule E of the *Vehicles for Hire Bylaw* and report back with the necessary bylaw amendments.

Option 2 – Provide alternate direction to staff on the length of the parking stand agreement and the associated fee.

Under the *Vehicles for Hire Bylaw*, Council may by resolution, establish the fee payable for the parking stand allocation and the length of the agreement.

Option 3 – Expand the scope of these three parking stands to include other options.

This would direct staff to report back to Council on the different options for the three parking stands such as returning them to vehicle parking or expanding them to other uses. If Council directs staff to conduct this analysis, it may consider a short-term parking stand agreement with horse drawn carriages in the meantime.

Accessibility Impact Statement

There are no specific accessibility impacts resulting from the issues reviewed in this report.

2023 – 2026 Strategic Plan

Council has expressed support for small businesses and the visitor economy, and activating streets to support business initiatives, under *Economic Health and Community Vitality* in the Strategic Plan.

Impacts to Financial Plan

The proposed fee associated with these parking stands is estimated at \$48,248.64 annually at a rate of \$1,340.24 per month. The current fee of \$1,114.29 per month has been budgeted in the 2024 Financial Plan.

CONCLUSION

The agreements for horse drawn vehicle parking stands have expired. The existing operators have expressed interest in renewing their agreements. Staff recommend Council approve renewal of the agreements.

Respectfully submitted,

Barrie Nicholls
Legislation and Policy Analyst

Curt Kingsley
City Clerk

Susanne Thompson
Chief Financial Officer and
Deputy City Manager

Report accepted and recommended by the City Manager

List of Attachments

Appendix 1_Vehicles for Hire Bylaw