



## **Committee of the Whole Report**

### **For the Meeting of March 22, 2018**

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**To:** Committee of the Whole

**Date:** February 23, 2018

**From:** Chris Coates, City Clerk

**Subject:** Parking Stand Allocations for Horse Drawn Vehicles

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

That Council direct staff to:

1. Extend the parking stand allocations of the Horse Drawn Carriage Parking Stands for four years until December 31, 2021.

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

For many years the City has provided parking stands for sightseeing vehicles. Parking stands are designated areas where sightseeing operators can stand while soliciting business and loading and unloading passengers. The Vehicles for Hire Bylaw establishes the term, cost and other stipulations for exclusive use of these stands by a particular operator. Three stands are specifically dedicated for horse-drawn carriages. The Vehicles for Hire Bylaw limits the number of Licenses for Horse Drawn Carriages to 18. These 18 Licenses are held by the three operators that have had the allocations for these parking stands.

Horse drawn carriages have three designated areas in the City each located on Menzies Street near Bellville. Schedule C of the Vehicles for Hire Bylaw, which is attached as Appendix A to this Report, provides the specific details on the locations and costs for the exclusive use. For the last four years Victoria Carriage Tours, Tally-Ho and Victoria Single Horse have been the operators with exclusive use of these stands under the Bylaw. These allocations expired December 31, 2017. The stands can still only be used solely for this purpose going forward as they remain designated for horse-drawn carriage use under the Streets and Traffic Bylaw. In a separate report, Council will be giving consideration to similar issues for the motorized or human powered parking sightseeing vehicle stands under the Vehicles for Hire Bylaw.

Council may wish to give consideration firstly as to whether there is any interest for altering the horse stands that are the subject of this report. Staff have not had any direction to analyse other potential uses for these stands to this point.

Should Council wish to continue to allocate these stands for horse drawn carriages and receive the fee for exclusive use, staff recommend a four year extension, consistent with past allocations, to the existing operators.

## **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to seek Council direction and approval for the three horse drawn vehicle parking stands designated under the Vehicles for Hire Bylaw

## **BACKGROUND**

For many years the City has established parking stands for horse drawn sightseeing vehicles. The three parking stands for these are located on Menzies Street near Bellville. Three different operators, Victoria Carriage Tours, Tally-How and Single Horse have each maintained a stand under the Bylaw. These operators hold all 18 licenses permitted under the Vehicles for Hire Bylaw. The current agreements for the stands expired December 31, 2017. The Streets and Traffic Bylaw designates these as horse drawn vehicle stands and so the use of them may continue and only for horse drawn vehicles under the Bylaw. Schedule C of the Vehicles for Hire Bylaw, that outlines the stands and the fees charged for the exclusive use of them and is attached to this report as Appendix A. Fees for these stands are calculated based on estimated parking revenues. Also attached as Appendix B are the relevant sections of the Vehicles for Hire Bylaw governing horse drawn vehicles.

Section 24 of the Bylaw contains a number of regulations for horse drawn vehicles covering things such as:

- Number of horse drawn vehicle licences
- Selection process for horse drawn vehicle licences
- Removing excrement of horses
- Care and stabling of horses
- Restricted areas and times for operation of horse drawn vehicles
- Parking horse drawn vehicles
- Displaying name on horse drawn vehicles

The Vehicles for Hire Bylaw also designates parking stands for other sightseeing vehicles (motorized and human powered). In a separate report, Council will be considering recommendations on those.

## **ISSUES & ANALYSIS**

The Vehicles for Hire Bylaw permits the operation of horse drawn vehicles in certain areas of the City outlined on Schedule B of the Bylaw. The Vehicles for Hire Bylaw in its entirety, is attached as Appendix C to this report. There is no current direction to take a different approach at this time although Council could consider in a broader way, issues relating to these operations specifically, and whether or not exclusive parking stands should continue for this type of vehicle.

The Operators have indicated their interest in continuing for the long term. Their correspondence in connection with the allocations is attached as Appendix D.

When reviewing motorized parking stands in 2017, Council expanded the applicability of those stands to permit not just motorized sightseeing vehicles but also human powered as well, all with an overall view to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the City. In light of that, the current situation presents an opportunity for consideration of the three designated horse drawn stands in terms of whether Council wishes to consider an expansion of them into other types of operations or retain them exclusively for horse drawn vehicles.

## OPTIONS & IMPACTS

The following options are noted for Council's consideration:

### **Option 1 – Four Renewal of the existing parking stands to each operator (Recommended)**

A four year renewal will provide a degree of certainty for the operators and reflect past practice of the City in dealing with these allocations..

### **Option 2 - Expand scope of Parking Stands to include other Sightseeing vehicles**

This option would involve a further process and Council direction to identify the scope of eligibility

#### *Accessibility Impact Statement*

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

#### *2015 – 2018 Strategic Plan*

Continued use of parking stands supports Objective 5 of the Strategic Plan Create Prosperity through Economic Development through offering tourism oriented businesses the opportunity for prominent public space for a fee to conduct business.

#### *Impacts to Financial Plan*

The fees associated with the parking stands amount to \$42,120.00 annually at the current rate of 1,170.00 per month and this revenue is included in the Financial Plan.

## CONCLUSIONS

The exclusive use agreements expired at the end of 2017 but the use of the spaces can continue because they are designated solely for use by horse drawn vehicles. The current operators have expressed their interest to renew the exclusive use agreements. Given the timing and the potential for consideration of the use of these stands from a broader perspective in terms of other possible uses. Staff are recommending that Council renew with the existing operators for 2018 and provide direction on the future use of the stands based on the options outlined in this report.

Respectfully submitted,



Chris Coates  
City Clerk

**Report accepted and recommended by the City Manager:**



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**Date:** March 16, 2018

**List of Appendices**

Appendix A – Schedule C of Vehicles for Hire Bylaw

Appendix B – Section 24 of Vehicles for Hire Bylaw (Regulations)

Appendix C – Vehicles for Hire Bylaw (Note Schedule B area of operation for horsedrawn vehicles)

Appendix D – Correspondence from Horse-drawn Carriage Operators – January 31, 2018