



MUNICIPALITY OF THAMES CENTRE

REPORT NO. LS-C-004-24

TO: Mayor and Members of Council
FROM: Director of Legislative Services/Clerk
MEETING DATE: February 12, 2024
SUBJECT: **Parking & Traffic By-law Updates**

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Report No. LS-C-004-24 be received for information.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to present a revised draft of the Parking and Traffic By-law and Set Fines for Council's consideration and comments.

BACKGROUND:

The Parking and Traffic By-law was first passed on April 10, 2017 with four (4) amendments made to this By-law and after the last amendment, Staff decided to undertake a review of the By-law to consolidate all the amendments and make other amendments to modernize the By-law. Attached to this report is the current consolidation of the parking by-law (contains all amendments into the original by-law) and the draft proposed by-law, with highlights. In the draft proposed by-law, all changes in yellow are alterations to existing wording or sections and all changes in blue are new additions being recommended.

The proposed new Parking and Traffic By-law contains some minor changes, along with some more significant amendments. The following is a summary of the recommended amendments, which are highlighted in the attached draft by-law:

Significant Amendments

- Allowing overnight parking on municipal roads from May 1st to October 31st. The reasoning behind this change is twofold. The first being that traditionally the overnight parking ban in the summer months has not been enforced and the second reason is that this will now be in line with the City of London's parking and traffic by-law.

- Addition of the option for voluntary pre-payment at the municipal office, at a reduced rate for violations. This means residents who receive a violation notice, won't have to travel to the Provincial Offence Office in London to make a payment or send it in via mail and can do so at a reduced rate.
- Identifying Bicycle lanes as their own section of the by-law and schedule.
- Authorizing the removal and storage of removed vehicles that contravene the by-law as per the *Repair and Storage Liens Act*. This act and section also states that should the municipality have a vehicle towed, all charges for this are the responsibility of the vehicle owner, as stated in the Act. This will be a last resort for By-law Compliance, however it is another tool to use, should it become necessary and not be a burden to the general tax base.
- No parking along Purple Hill Road, 100 metres North of the main entrance of 20903 Purple Hill Road (Purple Hill Country Music Hall) and 140 metres South of main entrance of this same property. This prohibition of parking around the entrance to this event centre is for safety of vehicles entering and exiting the event centre property.

Minor Amendments

- Modernized and expanding the definitions sections. Through comparisons with other municipal parking and traffic by-laws, along with ensuring that our definitions are up to date with legislation such as the *Highway Traffic Act*.
- Rearranging the layout of the By-law, to allow for better flow and alignment with the schedules.
- Updating of the Schedules to conform to the current posted signage and wording.
- Provided some clarification on no parking in un-posted locations (ie. Roadsides)
- Modernized accessible parking wording and standards to conform to current regulations.
- Updating of employee titles
- Exemption of Municipal Vehicles. This is included for awareness that municipal vehicles may not be able to adhere to these rules while actively engaged in the performance of certain duties. To be clear this does not permit municipal vehicles to be parked in designated accessible parking areas.
- Prohibition of unauthorized signs

Set Fines

Along with the review of the by-law, staff undertook a review of the current, approved set fines and found that they were low when compared to other local municipalities. Attached, there is a draft of the proposed set fines along with the current set fines. Staff are also proposing the ability to have voluntary pre-payment of these fines at a reduced rate. These payments can be taken at the front desk of the municipal office, through mail or the drop box (cheque or money order only). These payments would need to be made within 7 days

of the date of the offence, after the 7th day, the ticket will be filed in the Provincial Offences Court House in London and the payments will need to be made through their system.

Additionally, there has been a major overhaul of the by-law, we would be required to re-submit the set fines request due to the changes in offence numbers.

COMMENTS:

The next steps in the process for this by-law will be to send of the draft by-law to the Ministry of the Attorney General for review the wording of the by-law and of the Set Fines. This is an extra step that generally assists in speeding up the approval process for the Set Fines.

Once that review has been completed by the Ministry, staff will bring forward the Parking and Traffic By-law for adoption. The advice of the Ministry of Attorney General is to forward date the in force and effect date for a repeal and replacement of a by-law with Set Fines, to ensure that enforcement can continue without interruption, while awaiting the approval of the new Set Fines.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

None.

STRATEGIC PLAN LINK

Pillar: *Community Communications & Engagement*

Goal: *Increase communications between the municipality (Council and Staff) and the public*

CONSULTATION:

J. Craven, Director of Public Works
J. McKillop, Transportation Superintendent
A. Shaw, By-law Compliance Officer

ATTACHMENTS:

- By-law 35-2017 – Parking and Traffic By-law (Consolidation)
- Draft Proposed Parking and Traffic By-law
- Approved Set Fine Order for By-law 35-2017
- Proposed Set Fines for Proposed Parking and Traffic By-law

Prepared by: J. Nethercott, Director of Legislative Services/Clerk

Reviewed by: D. Barrick, Chief Administrative Officer