



ECONOMIC STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE BYLAW REPORT

Title Bylaw 6428 - Increase of Parking Fines/Traffic
Bylaw Amendment

Meeting Date November 15, 2023

Submitted By Ahmed Ali, Transportation Engineering Manager

Presented By Ahmed Ali, Transportation Engineering Manager and Joel Sanchez,
Director of Infrastructure Services.

Summary

This Bylaw 6428 will amend the Traffic Bylaw 5834 to include the following changes to parking fines:

- Increase parking fines from \$25 to \$40 with \$20 reduction for early payment for paid parking (in the Downtown Core) and from \$25 to \$50 for all other offences with an early reduction of \$15,
- The early reduction period from 7 days to 10 days.

The above changes were recommended during the engagement and consultation with the representatives of the Downtown Lethbridge Business Revitalization Zone (BRZ) and the Heart of Our City Committee (HOCC) as per direction of the Economic SPC of February 15, 2023.

Recommendation(s)

That the Economic SPC recommends that Council:

- Give three readings to Bylaw 6428 as provided in Attachment 1 (amendments to Traffic Bylaw 5834) which will legislatively achieve the following recommendations from the engagement:
 - Reduce fine proposal from \$50 to \$40 (reduction of \$20 if paid within 10 days) in the downtown core;
 - Effective Times for paid parking in the downtown core Monday-Friday 9:00 am-4:00 pm excluding all public holidays; and
 - Parking Fines outside downtown core \$50 (reduction of \$15 if paid in 10 days); and
 - to come into effect February 1, 2024.
- Amend the 2023-2026 Operating Budget Initiative C-6 Parking Fines for \$200,000 revenue increase per year with funding allocated as follows:

	2023	2024	2025	2026
Off-street Parking Reserve	(\$0)	(\$140,000)	(\$140,000)	(\$140,000)
MRSR	(\$0)	(\$60,000)	(\$60,000)	(\$60,000)

Financial

- Increased compliance results not only in the increased revenue, but also parking turnover that helps the businesses to have parking available for their customers.
- The increase in parking fine is estimated to result in an increased revenue of \$200,000 annually with funding allocated as follows:

	2023	2024	2025	2026
Off-street Parking Reserve	(\$0)	(\$140,000)	(\$140,000)	(\$140,000)
MRSR	(\$0)	(\$60,000)	(\$60,000)	(\$60,000)

Background and Prior Decisions

- The increase in parking fine rate was approved by the Economic Standing Policy Committee at the meeting held on Monday November 14, 2022, as part of a budget initiative C-6 Parking Fines (Attachment 3).
- The current Traffic Bylaw contains three schedules with \$25, \$30, and \$50 fines reduced by \$15 (if paid within 7 days). Most of the infraction sections in the bylaw relate to parking. The current fines for all the traffic and parking related infractions are the lowest in similar municipalities (Attachment 4).
- City Council, at its February 7, 2023, meeting, referred Bylaw 6393, increase of parking fines to \$50 to the February 15, 2023, Economic SPC meeting.
- The Economic SPC, at its Feb 15, 2023, meeting, did not approve the proposed increase and recommended City Council to direct Administration to work with the Downtown Lethbridge Business Revitalization Zone and the Heart of our City Committee to engage with their members, presenting options on parking and to report back.

Engagement

- Public Engagement was completed during Budget process and Economic SPC in November 2022.
- Administration worked with representatives of the Downtown Lethbridge Business Revitalization Zone and the Heart of our City Committee to agree on increase in fine amount and other recommendations. The above working group met three times:
 - Meeting 1: June 12, 2023
 - Meeting 2: June 29, 2023
 - Meeting 3: Sept 21, 2023
- The following are the recommendations from the final meeting:
 - Fine Adjustment
 - Reduce fine proposal from \$50 to \$40 (reduction of \$20 if paid in 10 days) in the downtown core
 - Fines outside the downtown core \$50 (reduction of \$15 if paid in 10 days)
 - Early 2024 Implementation
 - Incentives
 - Provide free parking until 9am and after 4 pm
 - Grace period increase to 7 minutes

- Provide free downtown core parking initiative days (limited number of days to be decided in consultation with the BRZ and the HOCC)
- Enhanced maintenance program
- Remove Zone 2 (BRZ to get zone 2 business support 2/3 support)
BRZ conducted surveys with their members regarding the options discussed during the meetings and overall feedback regarding parking.

Recommendation and Option(s) Analysis

- Administration recommends that the three readings be given to Bylaw 6428 and amendment of the 2023-2026 Operating Budget Initiative C-6 Parking Fines.
- A comparison of bylaws of parking fines from similar municipalities was undertaken. The City of Lethbridge currently charges lowest among comparable municipalities for parking fines and all other traffic related fines.
- Lower parking fines are not a meaningful deterrent. Increasing parking fines will result in increased compliance and an increase in parking revenue without a parking rate increase. This could result in enhanced level of service by increasing parking turnover.

Attachment(s)

1. Bylaw 6428
2. Bylaw 5834 Traffic Bylaw (2020 Consolidation) - Redline
3. Economic SPC November 14, 2022 Excerpt
4. Parking Fines Comparison in Similar Municipalities
5. Budget Initiative C-6 Parking Fines
6. Amendment to Budget Initiative C-6
7. Power Point Presentation
8. Letter of support from the Downtown Lethbridge Business Revitalization Zone
9. Letter of Support from the Heart of Our City Committee.

Link(s)

None

Approvals

Department Director: Joel Sanchez

City Manager: Lloyd Brierley