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**Item No. 15.1.9**  
**Halifax Regional Council**  
**May 9, 2023**

**TO:** Mayor Savage and Members of Halifax Regional Council

**SUBMITTED BY:** Original Signed

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John Traves, Acting Chief Administrative Officer

**DATE:** May 2, 2023

**SUBJECT:** Adjustment to AO15 (Parking Rates) for 2023/24 Budget

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### **ORIGIN**

During the March 29, 2023 Budget Adjustment List (BAL) deliberations at the Budget Committee, the budget committee approved a 25% increase to weekday parking rates.

### **LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY**

*Motor Vehicle Act*, RSNS 1989, c 293, section 153:

153(1) Notwithstanding Section 152, the council of a city, town or municipality may by by-law prohibit or restrict the parking or leaving standing of vehicles except in accordance with a sign or device on a parking meter.

Halifax Regional Municipality By-law P-500 Respecting Parking Meters and Pay Stations For The Regulation Of Parking Of Vehicles Left Standing In The Halifax Regional Municipality, section 10:

10. The rate for parking meters and pay stations within the Municipality shall be set by the Council of the Municipality from time to time.

*Halifax Regional Municipality Charter*, SNS 2008, c 39:

60(1) The Council may make policies ...(c) setting and amending the fees to be paid for (iii)permits, applications and approvals required to be obtained from the Municipality or an employee of the Municipality pursuant to a by-law of the Municipality or an enactment...

### **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that Halifax Regional Council adopt the amendments to Administrative Order 15, the License, Permits and Process Fees Administrative Order, as set out in Attachment A to this report.

### **BACKGROUND**

In October 2020 Halifax Regional Municipality launched the Integrated Parking Technology Solution, a modern software-as-a-service system that manages all aspects of Parking Services: Permitting,

Enforcement, and Paid Parking.

Data related to paid parking session was analyzed in 2021, and staff moved from a flat rate per zone to time-of-day based rates, where rates are set based on demand at a given time of day. Staff continue to review parking occupancy as it relates to pricing in pay parking areas.

As part of the budget process for 2023-24, Regional Council directed staff to propose changes that would help offset anticipated increases to the average tax bill. Parking Services responded with several options, including an increase to weekday parking rates.

**DISCUSSION**

According to recent research out of the Victoria Transport Policy Institute, the typical urban on-street parking space has annualized land, construction and operating costs that total \$630 to \$2,600.<sup>[1]</sup> Offering parking for free, or at a highly subsidized rate, incentivizes car culture and provides benefit to the individual user as opposed to the broader community.

The Integrated Mobility Plan (IMP), section 3.5.5 Policies and Actions, suggests “Use the price of parking to encourage active transportation, transit and car-sharing.:

Action 132: Set downtown parking rates high enough to influence mode choice and ensure a sufficient number of vacant short-term parking spaces, while not unfairly penalizing downtown businesses and institutions over similar uses in suburban areas, where parking is abundant and free.

Action 133: Set price ratios for short and long-term parking to encourage casual use of a vehicle over constant use”

The cost to provide municipal services continues to increase. Implementing a 25% increase on fees for paid parking is one mechanism that can be used to attempt to address rising costs of maintenance. Parking staff continue to strike a balance between cost recovery and service delivery for citizens. Staff had intended to return to Council this year with recommended changes to rates based on demand. The proposed increases generally align with what staff had planned to propose. It is assumed that the market can sustain a 25% increase without negatively impacting demand for on-street parking. The proposed hourly rates in Table 2 align with or are below other markets. The additional \$875,000 in annual revenue is based on forecasts and current parking trends across all zones.

Table 1: current weekday (Mon-Fri) on-street parking rates

ZONE	8AM	9AM	10AM	11AM	12PM	1PM	2PM	3PM	4PM	5PM	DAILY MAX
A	\$1.50	\$1.50	\$1.50	\$1.50	\$1.50	\$1.50	\$1.50	\$1.50	\$1.50	\$1.00	\$14.50
B	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$3.00	\$3.00	\$3.00	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$1.00	\$22.00
C	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$3.00	\$3.00	\$3.00	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$1.00	\$22.00
D	\$3.00	\$3.00	\$3.00	\$3.00	\$3.00	\$3.00	\$1.50	\$1.50	\$1.50	\$1.00	\$23.50
E	\$1.50	\$1.50	\$1.50	\$1.50	\$1.50	\$1.50	\$1.50	\$1.50	\$1.50	\$1.00	\$14.50
F	\$1.50	\$1.50	\$1.50	\$1.50	\$1.50	\$1.50	\$1.50	\$1.50	\$1.50	\$1.00	\$14.50
G	\$1.50	\$1.50	\$1.50	\$1.50	\$1.50	\$1.50	\$1.50	\$1.50	\$1.50	\$1.00	\$14.50
H	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.50	\$2.50	\$2.50	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$17.50

[1] Todd Litman (2022), Comprehensive Parking Supply, Cost and Pricing Analysis, Victoria Transport Policy Institute (www.vtpi.org); at www.vtpi.org/pscp.pdf.

Table 2: proposed weekday (Mon-Fri) on-street parking rates

<b>ZONE</b>	<b>8AM</b>	<b>9AM</b>	<b>10AM</b>	<b>11AM</b>	<b>12PM</b>	<b>1PM</b>	<b>2PM</b>	<b>3PM</b>	<b>4PM</b>	<b>5PM</b>	<b>DAILY MAX</b>
<b>A</b>	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$1.25	\$19.25
<b>B</b>	\$2.50	\$2.50	\$3.75	\$3.75	\$3.75	\$2.50	\$2.50	\$2.50	\$2.50	\$1.25	\$27.50
<b>C</b>	\$2.50	\$2.50	\$2.50	\$3.75	\$3.75	\$3.75	\$2.50	\$2.50	\$2.50	\$1.25	\$27.50
<b>D</b>	\$3.75	\$3.75	\$3.75	\$3.75	\$3.75	\$3.75	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$1.25	\$29.75
<b>E</b>	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$1.25	\$19.25
<b>F</b>	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$1.25	\$19.25
<b>G</b>	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$1.25	\$19.25
<b>H</b>	\$2.50	\$2.50	\$2.50	\$3.25	\$3.25	\$3.25	\$1.25	\$1.25	\$1.25	\$1.25	\$22.25

Note: For ease of use, staff continue to round hourly rates to the nearest 25 cents.

The amending administrative order also contains housekeeping amendments stemming from recent changes to Bylaw P-1200 Respecting On-Street Parking Permits.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Paid parking on weekdays in 2022-23 accounted for \$3.52 million in pre-tax revenue. Proposed increases are not anticipated to have a substantial impact on demand, so staff project an annualized increase of approximately \$875,000. Due to the time required to implement legislative and technological changes, 2023-24 revenues are estimated to increase \$656,000 due to the rate changes.

**RISK CONSIDERATION**

No risk considerations were identified.

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Parking Services staff met with representatives of the Downtown Halifax, Spring Garden Area, and Downtown Dartmouth Business Associations to understand the impact of expanding the paid parking hours.

As part of the budget process, Regional Council received correspondence from residents regarding the proposal to add paid parking on evenings and Saturdays.

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

No environmental implications were identified.

**ALTERNATIVES**

Halifax Regional Council may:

1. Refuse to adopt the Amendments to Administrative Order 15 introducing a 25% increase to weekday paid parking rates. Halifax Regional Council has approved and included the 25% increase to weekday parking in the 2023-24 Operating Budget. Refusing to adopt the Amendments to Administrative Order 15 would result in an operating deficit of \$656,000 in 23-24, which would be equivalent to a 0.08% increase to the 23-24 tax rate. Refusal would subsequently result in a 2024-25 operating budget pressure of \$875,000, or a 0.10% increase to the tax rate.
2. Adopt the Amendments to Administrative Order 15 subject to modifications. This may require a supplementary staff report.

**ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment A – Amendments to Administrative Order 15

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A copy of this report can be obtained online at [halifax.ca](http://halifax.ca) or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210.

Report Prepared by: Jeff Nephew, P.Eng., Senior Advisor, Parking Services - 902.222.4180

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**Attachment A  
(Amendments to Administrative Order)**

**HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY  
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NUMBER 15  
Respecting License, Permit and Processing Fees**

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council of the Halifax Regional Municipality that Administrative Order 15, the License, Permits and Processing Fees Administrative Order, is amended as follows:

1. Section 9A is amended by:
  - (a) adding the number “16” after the number and comma “6,” under the column heading “Permit” corresponding with the section 5(e);
  - (b) striking out the dollar sign, number, period, forward slash and word “\$30.00/month” in the column heading “Fee” corresponding with the section 5(ea); and
  - (c) adding a comma and the number “, 16” after the “6” under the column heading “Permit” corresponding with the section 5(ea).
  
2. Section 12 is repealed and replaced as follows:

By-law #		Short Title								Section	
P-500		Parking Meter By-law								10	
<b>Hourly Fee by Zone (Monday through Friday)</b>											
		A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H		
<b>Hour Beginning at</b>	8AM	\$2.00	\$2.50	\$2.50	\$3.75	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.50		
	9AM	\$2.00	\$2.50	\$2.50	\$3.75	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.50		
	10AM	\$2.00	\$3.75	\$2.50	\$3.75	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.50		
	11AM	\$2.00	\$3.75	\$3.75	\$3.75	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$3.25		
	12PM	\$2.00	\$3.75	\$3.75	\$3.75	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$3.25		
	1PM	\$2.00	\$2.50	\$3.75	\$3.75	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$3.25		
	2PM	\$2.00	\$2.50	\$2.50	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$1.25		
	3PM	\$2.00	\$2.50	\$2.50	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$1.25		
	4PM	\$2.00	\$2.50	\$2.50	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$1.25		
	5PM	\$1.25	\$1.25	\$1.25	\$1.25	\$1.25	\$1.25	\$1.25	\$1.25		
<b>DAILY MAX</b>		\$19.25	\$27.50	\$27.50	\$29.75	\$19.25	\$19.25	\$19.25	\$22.25		

3. This amending Administrative Order shall come into effect May 29, 2023.

Done and passed in Council this      day of                      2023.

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Mayor

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Municipal Clerk