

February 26, 2010



City Council Committee Report

To: Mayor & Council

Fr: Heather Kasprick, Deputy Clerk

Re: Downtown Parking Zones – Traffic By-Law 127-2001

Recommendation:

THAT Council of the City of Kenora amend Traffic By-Law Number 127-2001, Schedule G, Parking Meter Zones to reflect all one and two hour meters be amended to three (3) hour meters only; and further

THAT the By-Law Enforcement staff adjust the meters accordingly to reflect the new time limits; and further

THAT these parking meter zone changes take effect immediately.

Background:

Over the past several years, I have continued to receive customer complaints regarding the length of time allowed to park downtown at any given period. Currently, By-Law number 127-2001 only allows for one hour parking in the main downtown core of Kenora. This extremely limits anyone who wishes to shop, eat, or receive a service downtown in this restricted time frame.

Council has committed a significant amount of money to the downtown revitalization project and I know that it is a desire of Council to bring back the livelihood of the downtown core. The downtown area is now more appealing than it ever has been and people are coming back to the downtown to establish businesses, and consumers are coming back to shop. Aside from shopping downtown, other forms of business that people need to conduct include: massage/reflexology treatments, hearing tests/hearing aids, meeting with banks/investment brokers, hair services, ordering custom accessories for your home, attending court, parenting groups, meeting with lawyers, educational classes, and the list goes on. In order to accommodate the wide variety of goods and services that the public like to access, it is important that we give the patrons time to access those business without an unrealistic time limit.

It is not impractical to change the current time limits in all of the areas that currently have one and two hour time limits and it would not affect the parking availability to any degree. With the downtown parking limits increased, further enforcement will be necessary to ensure the enforcement of the time limits at the same locations are

imposed. This will discourage the parkers who tend to occupy the same space all day, without moving their vehicle from continuing this practice.

In discussing this matter with By-Law Enforcement, they also noted the difficulties that they encounter with visitors to our City trying to explain to them where they can park with longer time limits. It is very inconsistent throughout the City, and with unifying all the meters throughout the City to all reflect a 3 hour time limit (with the exception of the meters located across from the Lakeside Inn and Lakeside Dental which are currently the only 4 hour limits), it would cause less uncertainty in the minds of our patrons. It also promotes the downtown core for citizens and visitors to spend their time downtown.

Budget: N/A

Communication Plan/Notice By-law Requirements:

Public relations on the matter would be beneficial as many citizens and business owners have communicated this frustration to me in letters and verbal meetings. This would be presented as a 'good news' story in our spring publication of "Our City".