



CITY OF PORT ALBERNI

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

TO: Ken Watson, City Manager
FROM: Scott Smith, City Planner
DATE: June 4, 2014

SUBJECT: Parking Infraction Fines

ISSUE

To consider the input received from the public regarding the proposed increase in fines for parking ticket infractions.

BACKGROUND

City Council gave 1st reading to Traffic Regulation No. T1 (Parking Fines), Bylaw No. 4839 (see attached) on April 14, 2014. The bylaw proposes to increase the fine amounts for parking tickets. Before considering further readings of the bylaw, Council directed that public consultation be received on the proposed fine increases.

A two question public survey was open from May 2, 2014 to May 30, 2014 and was made available to the public primarily online. Letters were also sent to the Chamber of Commerce, businesses and property owners around the areas where the Commissionaires enforce parking regulations.

DISCUSSION

There were 29 respondents that accessed and answered the survey questions. There are two charts attached to the report showing the results of the survey. On the first question, 48% supported the increase in fines for time limit parking contraventions and 52% opposed the increase. On the second question, 45% supported the increase in fines for other parking contraventions and 55% opposed. The comments that were received with the survey are attached to this report.

The City of Port Alberni also received 7 written responses and 2 phone messages. The written responses are attached for information. These responses were 55% in support of increasing the fines and 45% opposed.

Options

1. City Council can proceed with further readings of Bylaw 4839 to increase the fines for parking tickets.

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2. City Council can defeat Bylaw 4839 to keep the current fines for parking tickets.

Direction from Council is requested.

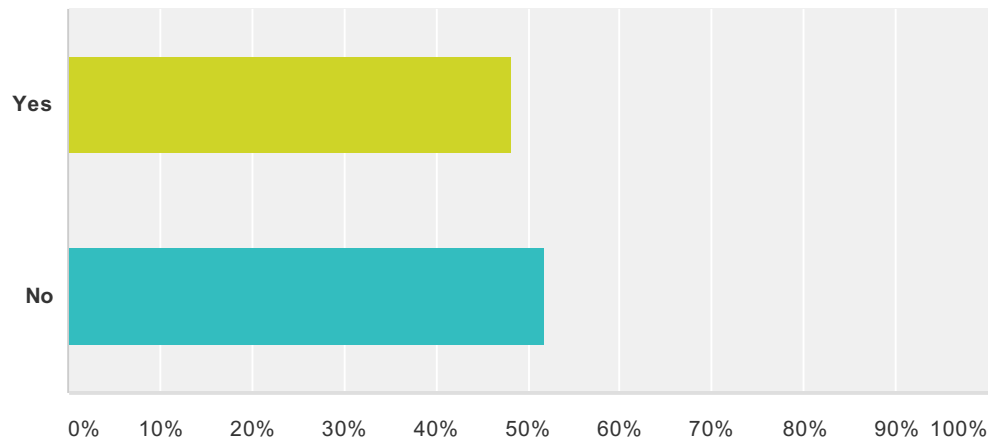
Respectfully submitted



Scott Smith, MCIP
City Planner

Q1 The City of Port Alberni's current parking fines for time limit parking contraventions are: \$5.00 if paid within 48 hours; \$10.00 if paid after 48 hours but within 10 days; and \$30.00 if paid after 10 days The City of Port Alberni's proposed parking fines for time limit parking contraventions are: \$10.00 if paid within 48 hours; \$20.00 if paid after 48 hours but within 10 days; and \$50.00 if paid after 10 days Do you support the increase in fines for time limit parking contraventions?

Answered: 29 Skipped: 0



| Answer Choices | Responses |
|----------------|-----------|
| Yes | 48.28% 14 |
| No | 51.72% 15 |
| Total | 29 |

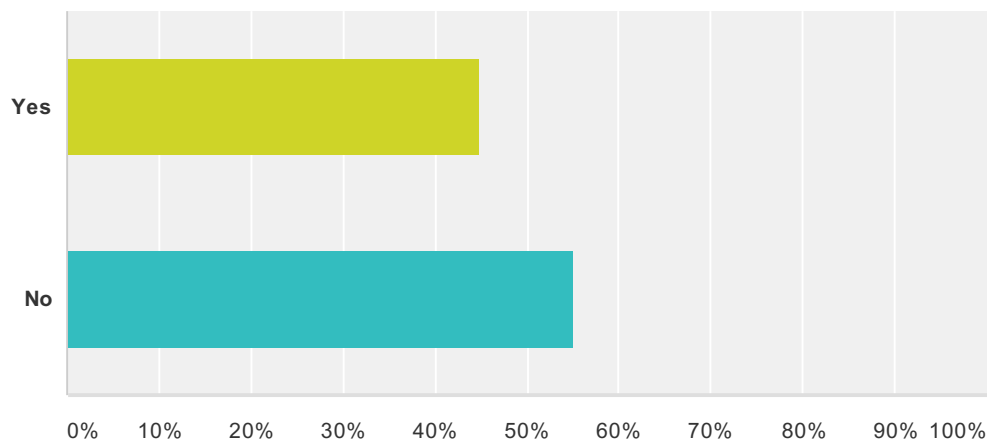
| # | Comments | Date |
|---|---|--------------------|
| 1 | Our fine are currently too low for people to take them seriously. | 5/26/2014 12:18 PM |
| 2 | Lower Argyle Street has a two hour time limit for parking in front of many closed businesses and vacant store fronts. There is not a shortage of parking. Parking enforcement is a money losing venture for the city. | 5/25/2014 8:15 AM |
| 3 | COULD NOT FIND THIS SURVEY ON YOUR CITY WEBSITE AS IT SAID IN THE LETTER I GOT FROM THE CITY SO I HAD TO COME HERE TO DO IT. PORT ALBERNI SHOULD ALSO STOP FUNDING MCLEANS MILL AND PUT THAT MONEY INTO MAKING THIS CITY LOOK NICER. DRIVE THRU QUALICUM AND SEE HOW THE STREETS LOOK THERE..... | 5/9/2014 7:00 AM |
| 4 | south port is largely a dead zone,increasing parking fines is laughable.i am sure that the least of the uptown merchants worries is that vehicles are parked too long.it seems that almost everything this council does contradicts the fact that they are " open for business ".I would have thought that encouraging activity in the so-called uptown area would be beneficial. | 5/8/2014 3:57 PM |

Parking Fines - Proposed Increases - Opinion Survey

| | | |
|----|--|-------------------|
| 5 | No, There should be no fine to begin with. Sure if you had 75-100% of the vacant buildings working a business. But you don't have that. Promote people to stay longer not shorter times. Be different extend parking times! Scare tactics are so dinosaur us, a lot like your right hand reaching further into ones poor pockets. It's no different than myself suggesting, go and get your greedy rusty spoon from the front yard next to your office and dig it out of the fat fire department if your so hard up for the cash! Is that the best you have for ideas dinosaur us Scott Smith??(Shitty Planner) Why not fine all those vacant lot owners for creating such an eye sore in the down town areas. The lots with no more buildings on? One day no one will use the downtown area, which would be good for us too in one respect, less traffic, less noise!!! | 5/7/2014 10:19 PM |
| 6 | I do support it, but I also wonder why - parking isn't a hot commodity in Port Alberni. Why not just have free parking everywhere and do away with the parking attendant position(s)? | 5/7/2014 3:19 PM |
| 7 | If I knew that the extra revenue was actually going to something useful for the city instead of wasting it on overpaid bureaucrats, I'd be supportive. The presentation of the city as one drives through it is deplorable. The inability of City Council to attract business and keep business is shameful. | 5/7/2014 10:47 AM |
| 8 | We should pay people to park. Let's not deter people from shopping | 5/6/2014 9:20 PM |
| 9 | Why bother? Revenue from parking fines will be low regardless of an increase. Weigh the issue. How much does it cost for enforcement? How much revenue is generated? Is it worth it? If I ever get a ticket for parking too long while shopping locally, I won't shop local any more. It already cost more to support local businesses than travelling down island. Walmart's parking lot is free. | 5/6/2014 4:45 PM |
| 10 | Meters are one way to deter people from frequenting that area, and increasing fines isn't going to make it more popular to visit that area! | 5/6/2014 2:33 PM |
| 11 | not only do I support the increase in fines but they should be dramatically increased! If the City is going to go through the exercise of increasing then, assuming, enforcing them then they should actually have some "bite" | 5/6/2014 1:56 PM |
| 12 | They should be increased further. | 5/6/2014 1:51 PM |

Q2 The City of Port Alberni's current fines for other parking contraventions are: \$10.00 if paid within 48 hours; \$20.00 if paid after 48 hours but within 10 days; and \$50.00 if paid after 10 days The City of Port Alberni's proposed fines for other parking contraventions are: \$15.00 if paid within 48 hours; \$25.00 if paid after 48 hours but within 10 days; and \$60.00 if paid after 10 days Do you support the increase in fines for other parking contraventions?

Answered: 29 Skipped: 0



| Answer Choices | Responses |
|----------------|-----------|
| Yes | 44.83% 13 |
| No | 55.17% 16 |
| Total | 29 |

| # | Comments | Date |
|---|--|-------------------|
| 1 | stop comparing port alberni to other towns and cities, we have our own unique set of problems, just because some other town charges this or that rate for something doesn't mean we should. most of these places you love to compare us to are thriving. stop thinking of your citizens as an unexhaustable source of capital. | 5/8/2014 3:57 PM |
| 2 | Same as above!!! | 5/7/2014 10:19 PM |
| 3 | Again, see above. | 5/7/2014 3:19 PM |
| 4 | See above. | 5/7/2014 10:47 AM |
| 5 | Define other please!! | 5/6/2014 1:58 PM |
| 6 | not only do I support the increase in fines but they should be dramatically increased! If the City is going to go through the exercise of increasing then, assuming, enforcing them then they should actually have some "bite" | 5/6/2014 1:56 PM |
| 7 | They should be increased to an even greater extent. | 5/6/2014 1:51 PM |

Parking Fines - Proposed Increases - Opinion Survey

| | | |
|---|---|------------------|
| 8 | NOW TO MAKE THIS EQUAL TO ALL BUSINESSES IN THE UPTOWN CORE GET RID OF THE 4 20 MINUTE PARKING IN FRONT OF THE SMOKE STACK IT IS A DETRIMENT TO BUSINESS IN THAT AREA FIRST COME FIRST SERVE THIS WILL ALSO STOP EMPLOYEES FROM PARKING IN FRONT OF THE BUSINESSES THANKS | 5/6/2014 9:56 AM |
|---|---|------------------|

Scott Smith

From: lynn_mckay@shaw.ca
Sent: Tuesday, May 06, 2014 11:24 AM
To: Scott Smith
Subject: Increase Parking Fines

Sir,

I find that your decision to increase parking fines is not unreasonable.

Respectfully

L. McKay



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<http://www.portalberni.ca>

Scott Smith

From: islandrhino@shaw.ca
Sent: Thursday, May 08, 2014 10:15 AM
To: Scott Smith
Subject: Parking

Hi Scott, Strangely enough the parking situation has been coming up quite frequently over the last few weeks in this area. (Johnston/ Gertrude). I am not opposed to the increased fines but have been concerned about the parking along Gertrude that has no time limit on it. My customers have been complaining that there is no parking as it is always full of the employees cars of the businesses that are close by. With the increased parking of 2 hours from one hour on Johnston on this section, it is becoming apparent that limited parking may be better all the way along the Gertrude for the one block. I myself park up the street off Gertrude for 2 reasons. A- The spaces should be for customers of businesses along here. B- There is never any space anyway.... thanks for listening and hopefully this finds you well. I am open to any feedback about this concern... Take care. Tracy, Totally Board surf co



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Scott Smith

From: james tilsted <jtilsted@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 11, 2014 9:46 AM
To: Scott Smith
Subject: Opinion on increasing parking fines

Dear Mr Smith.

I fully support the increase in parking fines. Currently, at the current rate of parking fines, there is minimal incentive to obey the the parking regulations. It is worth taking the chance on not getting a ticket. I notice also, that people learn the commissionaires schedule and park accordingly.

Thank you.

James Tilsted
250-720-5773

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Scott Smith

From: Janice Sheehan <janicesheehan@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 15, 2014 11:55 PM
To: Scott Smith
Subject: Potential Increase to On-street Parking Fines

To: Scott Smith, City Planner
From: Janice Sheehan, Waterfront Gallery

I like to see movement in parking on the streets, and would support anything that would keep things moving. A \$5 is not sufficient deterrent. I've overheard that it is a lot easier to "risk" such a small fine than get up and move the truck. That's for someone with time on their hands to get the fine paid on time, of course. Starting at \$10 would be better.

How much trouble does the City currently have collecting fines once they get older and more expensive? If it turns out to be extremely difficult to collect a \$30 fine after 10 days, there may not be any point in adjusting it upwards to \$50.

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Scott Smith

From: Marshall Hammeraz <marshall.hammeraz@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 15, 2014 9:59 PM
To: Scott Smith
Subject: Re: Parking Fines

Mr. Smith,

I appreciate receiving your letter regarding the potential increase on parking fines in the City of Port Alberni and having a chance to voice my opinion.

First off I was wondering if you could tell me what this report on the potential to increase parking fines is costing/has cost the city. Please include person hours and their respective wages along with the cost of printing and mailing these letters.

Secondly, I would like to know the name(s) of the members of City Council who actually approved this study if it wasn't a unanimous decision

I was also wondering if you could tell me what the parking fine net revenue was for last year. I could be way off but it seems to me that the cost of this study is probably more than what the city took in last year

Now in the study it says that Port Alberni was compared to Nanaimo, Comox, Courtenay, Campbell River, Qualicum Beach and Parksville? Seriously? Last time I checked those cities actually had multiple businesses that attracted people into their restricted parking zones. Which of those cities was rated the worst place to live in Canada? Is it really fair to compare our downtown with any of theirs?

Probably the most disturbing word in your entire letter is "deterrent." Does the Council actually believe the City of Port Alberni should be deterring people from parking downtown? They meet at City Hall don't they? I believe before any rate increases should be considered perhaps it would be better to actually enforce the parking restrictions for more than a few hours, one or two times a week first and see how that goes.

My main fear is that this sounds like it would be something that would need to be announced to the public. That alone might shy people from coming to this side of town. If it weren't for the banks... I don't even want to think about what might happen. I have walked the entire restriction areas at different times of the day and I do believe something should be done.

Here are some suggestions:

Designated business parking stalls? I say this because I actually heard someone say that they were going to buy a new shirt at Cloud City and because there wasn't a parking stall right out front of the store he didn't stop.

Maybe make the 3rd Ave. corridor 1 hour only in addition to designated stalls? I see the Smoke Stack received 4, 20 minute stalls probably to appease them that the fact that the Steampunk put in that beautiful patio and actually classed-up the town. And seriously, there's one massive parking area, 2 relatively large and one large unofficial parking area all within very little walking distance of any business downtown. (maybe the city could take that gravel they used to block that small lane, replace it with a couple of concrete barriers and use the gravel to fill in the ponds and grade that gravel area?) I grew up here, moved away to various cities and came back. Port Alberners seem to be on another planet. I could walk from Kitsilano to downtown Vancouver in about the same time it would take me to drive and find a parking spot, and then once I did I'd have to pay for the privilege! Heaven forbid someone here should have to walk 50 metres.

I sure hope that Friday night 9pm parking restriction isn't enforced.

The block that the Swale Rock is on seems to be a bit of a problem, especially on weekends or if there's a festival of some sort. I've seen locals practically fight over parking spots so they could walk up the grassy hill to watch the Toy Run. Doesn't seem fair to the business owners there.

I also noticed that the parking stalls in front of the businesses such as the Doughnut Shop etc. are 3 hours. Maybe someone should ask them if they'd like those few stalls restricted to a shorter time so if someone actually wants to swing in there quickly for something they could do so.

Locals should know better. I don't know how advanced the parking fine system is here but maybe the city could instill a one time only "get out of jail free card" to visitors? By license plate perhaps? Maybe make it a promotional thing. Instead of mailing them a fine you could mail them a thank you note?

I don't know. Other than your salary I don't envy your position. Finding money to maintain the city's infrastructure must be like squeezing blood from a stone but this parking thing is ridiculous. I'm kind of disgusted it was even considered.

Thank you for your time,

M.H.

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May 11, 2014

Scott Smith, M.C.I.P. Planner
c/o City of Port Alberni
4850 Argyle St.,
Port Alberni B.C.
V9X 1V8

RECEIVED

MAY 16 2014

CITY OF PORT ALBERNI

Dear Sir - Re - Potential increase to - on - street
Parking Fees. - Port Alberni

In reply to your letter of May 1, 2014
(addressed to my deceased husband), I have
absolutely no objections to the proposed
changes to our on - street parking fees.
I feel they are reasonable and I
am sure, necessary.

Sincerely

(Mrs) Marie Anfield

201-4505 Victoria Quay
Port Alberni, B.C.
V9X 6G2

RE: Increased Parking Fines

FROM: JOHN MORTIMORE, OWNER CARLSON
APARTMENT BLDG
5111 ARGYLE
778-419-2275

RECEIVED
JUN 02 2014

CITY OF PORT ALBERNI

I am writing to let council know that I
DISAGREE with any increase in parking fines.
The "downtown" area of "South Port" is, in part, an
area where many Alberni Valley residents will not
frequent. We need to make positive changes and
accent a WELCOME/FRIENDLY environment. Offer
FRIENDLY "WARNING" TICKETS in most areas
of "downtown". If ~~we~~ increased revenues are needed
try and get together with other levels of government
and give incentives to owners of EMPTY buildings
to convert (PARTIALLY) to AFFORDABLE HOUSING,
which is sorely needed on the Island. We are stuck with
money losing buildings and still pay taxes. We want to
be part of the SOLUTION - so NO TRAFFIC FINE
INCREASES

CITY OF PORT ALBERNI

BYLAW NO. 4839

A BYLAW TO AMEND CITY OF PORT ALBERNI TRAFFIC REGULATION BYLAW, 2009 BYLAW NO. 4670

The Municipal Council of the City of Port Alberni in Open Meeting Assembled Enacts as follows:

Title

1. This Bylaw may be known and cited for all purposes as "Traffic Regulation No. T1 (Parking Fines), Bylaw No. 4839".

Text Amendment

2. Port Alberni Traffic Regulation Bylaw No. 4670 is hereby amended as follows:

- 2.1. By deleting the following from Section 10 - Penalties:

“10.2 The minimum penalty for the contravention of any section of this bylaw shall be a fine of thirty (\$30.00) dollars and in default of payment to a term of imprisonment not exceeding one month.

- 10.5. (a) The voluntary penalty for any contravention of Section 4.3(a) shall be:

- (i) Ten (\$10.00) dollars and fifty cents if paid within 48 hours from the issue of the parking offence notice;
 - (ii) Twenty (\$20.00) dollars if paid after 48 hours but within 10 days from the issue of the parking offence;
 - (iii) Thirty (\$30.00) dollars if paid after 10 days from the issue of the parking offence notice.

- (b) The voluntary penalty for any contravention of any other section of Section 4 shall be:

- (i) Ten (\$10.00) dollars if paid within 48 hours from the issue of the parking offence notice;
 - (ii) Twenty (\$20.00) dollars if paid after 48 hours but within 10 days from the issue of the parking offence;
 - (iii) Thirty (\$30.00) dollars if paid after 10 days from the issue of the parking offence notice.

- (c) The voluntary penalty for any contravention of Section 4, time limit shall be:

- (i) Five (\$5.00) dollars and fifty cents if paid within 48 hours from the issue of the parking offence notice;
 - (ii) Ten (\$10.00) dollars if paid after 48 hours but within 10 days from the issue of the parking offence;
 - (iii) Thirty (\$30.00) dollars if paid after 10 days from the issue of the parking offence notice.”

2.2. By adding the following to Section 10 - Penalties:

“10.2 The minimum penalty for the contravention of any section of this bylaw shall be a fine of sixty (\$60.00) dollars and in default of payment to a term of imprisonment not exceeding one month.

10.5. (a) The voluntary penalty for any contravention of Section 4, time limit shall be:

- (i) Ten (\$10.00) dollars and fifty cents if paid within 48 hours from the issue of the parking offence notice;
- (ii) Twenty (\$20.00) dollars if paid after 48 hours but within 10 days from the issue of the parking offence;
- (iii) Fifty (\$50.00) dollars if paid after 10 days from the issue of the parking offence notice.

(b) The voluntary penalty for any contravention of any other section of Section 4 shall be:

- (i) Fifteen (\$15.00) dollars if paid within 48 hours from the issue of the parking offence notice;
- (ii) Twenty five (\$25.00) dollars if paid after 48 hours but within 10 days from the issue of the parking offence;
- (iii) Sixty (\$60.00) dollars if paid after 10 days from the issue of the parking offence notice.”

READ A FIRST TIME THIS DAY OF , 2014.

READ A SECOND TIME THIS DAY OF , 2014.

READ A THIRD TIME THIS DAY OF , 2014.

FINALLY ADOPTED THIS DAY OF , 2014.

Mayor

Clerk