

Report seeks support to conduct survey on expansion of metered parking

(Penticton, BC – July 17, 2020) – To assist with the creation of the City’s 2021 Business Plans, a report appearing on the July 21 agenda will seek Council’s support to conduct a community survey on whether or not the current metered parking program should be expanded into the following areas:

- Downtown (Main Street, Ellis Street, Front Street and removing one hour free parking from Backstreet lot)
- Lakeshore Drive and Okanagan Lake parking lots (Loco Landing, Lakawanna, Marina Way)
- Skaha Park and Parkview Street
- South Okanagan Event Centre (SOEC) Campus
- Resident only parking areas (permits are currently provided at no charge)

“With the arrival of COVID-19 and the subsequent closure of revenue earning City facilities, including the Casino and the South Okanagan Events Centre, an expected \$3.9 million budget shortfall for 2020 is projected and it is likely to grow for 2021,” said the City’s Chief Financial Officer, Jim Bauer.

Through the proposed survey, the City will gauge if attitudes towards metered parking have changed as a result of financial pressures related to COVID-19.

“In addition to cost savings already achieved through City staff reductions and service adjustments, the City is seeking the public’s opinion on non-taxation revenue options, like expanding metered parking, as a means to contribute new revenue towards future anticipated revenue shortfalls,” said Bauer. “The information gathered will be used to develop recommendations on whether or not the current metered parking program should be expanded into areas that do not currently require payment.”

If supported by Council, the survey will open Wednesday, July 22 and will run until Wednesday, August 5. Residents will be able to respond online at shapeyourcitypenticton.ca or fill out a paper version available at a kiosk outside City Hall. The survey will take about 5-7 minutes to complete and all submissions are anonymous.

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