



PO Box 1749  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
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**Item No. 11.1.8**  
**Halifax Regional Council**  
**April 13, 2010**

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

**SUBMITTED BY:**

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Dan English".

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Dan English, Chief Administrative Officer

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for \_\_\_\_\_  
Mike Labrecque, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer - Corporate  
Services and Strategy

**DATE:** April 6, 2010

**SUBJECT:** Parking Meter Rate Increase  
\_\_\_\_\_

**ORIGIN**

Staff.

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that Halifax Regional Council

- Increase the parking meter rate in the former City of Halifax, from \$1.50 per hour to \$2.00 per hour effective May 31, 2010.
- Increase the parking meter rate in the former City of Dartmouth, from \$1.00 per hour to \$1.50 per hour effective May 31, 2010.
- Approve an addition to Administrative order 15 (AO 15), to include the new rates for parking meters and that this report serve as notice of amendment to AO 15.

## **BACKGROUND**

Parking meters are an essential component of urban parking options as they are an effective device for controlling on-street, short parking in busy areas. The meter creates parking spaces by generating parking turnover at regular intervals and meters are easy to enforce because they clearly indicate when a vehicle is parked in violation.

In the last 25 years there have been three increases in the former City of Halifax parking meter rates. In 1984, the rate increased from \$0.25 per hour to \$.050 per hour, in 1990 the rate increased to \$1.00 and in 2006 the rate increased to \$1.50.

There are several guiding principles that must be followed when determining the appropriateness of rates for on-street parking. Parking meters must ensure convenience for customers in providing parking options. The location, time duration and charges must meet the demands of the customer, needs of the business owner and the principles of the HRM Parking Strategy. Policy objectives around sustainability and promotion of public transit are also influenced by parking policies and pricing.

## **DISCUSSION**

When meter rates are below off-street rates, the on-street metered spaces become more attractive to long term parkers, which negatively impacts the concept of parking turnover and fair and equitable parking. The following table is a comparison of the hourly parking meter rates to average off-street parking rates in HRM:

	<b>1984</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2010</b>
Parking Meter Rate Halifax	\$0.50	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$1.50	\$1.50
Parking Meter Rate Dartmouth		\$0.75	\$0.75	\$1.00	\$1.00
<b>Average off-street rate - HRM</b>	<b>\$0.75</b>	<b>\$1.20</b>	<b>\$1.84</b>	<b>\$2.08</b>	<b>\$2.40</b>
Downtown Halifax			\$2.10	\$2.28	<b>\$2.72</b>
Universities/Hospitals			\$1.76	\$2.10	<b>\$2.10</b>
Spring Garden Road			\$1.43	\$2.00	<b>\$2.31</b>
<b>Total Halifax</b>				<b>\$2.21</b>	<b>\$2.54</b>
Downtown Dartmouth			\$1.54	\$1.75	<b>\$1.94</b>

As per the above table, the proposed increases are comparable with both current HRM off-street rates and current metered rates of other Canadian Municipalities (see schedule 2). Since the last parking meter rate increase in 2006 the average hourly off-street parking rate for HRM has increased by \$0.32 or 15%, while on-street parking meter rates of Canadian municipalities increased by \$0.70 or 39%. Please see attached schedules 1 and 2 for off-street rates in HRM and meter rates for other Canadian municipalities. The proposed meter rate increase is \$0.50 or 33% for Halifax and \$0.50 or 50% for Dartmouth.

The price for short term on-street parking should be at a premium compared to off-street parking due to the convenience for motorists and the demand for high turnover metered spaces. In order for parking meters to be effective in controlling on-street parking they should be priced competitively compared to local off-street parking and in line with the Canadian off-street metered market.

### **BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

An approved rate increase will generate an estimated additional \$650,000 annually. Assuming an effective date of May 31, 2010, the rate increase would provide \$542,000 in incremental revenue for fiscal 2010-11. Once the rate increase is effective May 31st, total annual parking meter revenue, estimated at \$3,242,000 for 2010-11 would be allocated to fiscal services in cost center M550.

If the rate increase is approved Council, staff plan to come back to Council with a report to allocate up to 12.5% of total parking meter revenues annually into a reserve that will fund future ecomobility and sustainable transportation initiatives and projects.

### **FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES/BUSINESS PLAN**

This report complies with the Municipality's Multi-Year Financial Strategy, the approved Operating, Capital and Reserve budgets, policies and procedures regarding withdrawals from the utilization of Capital and Operating reserves, as well as any relevant legislation.

### **ALTERNATIVES**

1) Maintain current levels. This is not recommended by staff per discussion section of this report.

2) Have current metered rates in effect on Saturdays in downtown core. This initiative could increase parking meter revenue by an estimated \$200,000 annually.

**ATTACHMENTS**

Schedule 1: HRM Off-street Parking Rates

Schedule 2: Canadian Municipalities Parking Meter Rates

Appendix A: Amendment to AO 15

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/cagenda.html> then choose the appropriate meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

Report Prepared by: Jerry Blackwood, CGA Operations Manager, Revenue 490-6470



Financial Approval by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cathie O'Toole, CGA, Director of Finance, CFO 490-6308

**Schedule 1: HRM Off-street Parking Rates**

<b>Halifax - Downtown</b>	<b>May 2006</b>	<b>Jan 2010</b>
Waterfront Development	\$2.50	\$3.00
Cable Wharf	\$2.50	\$3.00
Queen Landing	\$2.50	\$3.00
Maritime Museum	\$2.50	\$3.00
Bishops Landing	\$2.50	\$3.00
Waterfront Warehouse	\$2.50	\$3.00
Scotia Square Parkade	\$2.50	\$3.50
Westin Hotel	\$2.00	\$2.50
5151 Terminal Road	\$1.50	\$2.00
Sexton Campus	\$1.00	\$1.00
Summit Place	\$2.50	\$2.50
Summit Place - meters		\$3.00
Law Courts	\$2.50	\$3.00
Casino Hotel	\$2.88	\$3.00
Purdys Wharf	\$2.25	\$2.75
Casino Parking	\$2.00	\$2.00
Salter Str/Lwr Water lot		\$3.00

<b>Hospitals / Universities</b>	<b>May 2006</b>	<b>Jan 2010</b>
Victoria General Hospital	\$2.50	\$2.50
NS Rehab Center	\$2.50	\$2.50
Camp Hill Site	\$2.50	\$2.50
Museum of Natural History	\$1.50	\$1.50
Fenwick Medical Ctr	\$1.50	\$1.50

<b>Spring Garden Road</b>	<b>May 2006</b>	<b>Jan 2010</b>
City Centre Atlantic	\$1.75	\$2.50
Spring Garden Cust. Parking	\$1.25	\$1.75
Parklane	\$2.50	\$2.50
Professional Ctr (spring garden)	\$2.50	\$2.50

<b>Dartmouth</b>	<b>May 2006</b>	<b>Jan 2010</b>
Belmont Place	\$1.50	\$1.50
Alderney Landing	\$2.00	\$2.00
Alderney Gate	\$1.00	\$1.50
Lot 1 - Queen St	\$2.00	\$2.50
Lot 2 - Queen St	\$2.00	\$2.00
Edwards St - lot	\$1.50	\$1.50
Royal Bank	\$2.00	\$2.00
Prince & Portland	\$2.00	\$2.50

**Schedule 2: Canadian Municipalities Parking Meter Rates**

<b>CITY</b>	<b>1994</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2010</b>
Halifax	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$1.50	\$1.50
Dartmouth	\$0.75	\$0.75	\$1.00	\$1.00
Moncton	\$0.40	\$1.25	\$1.25	\$1.25
Saint John	\$0.50	\$1.00	\$1.25	\$1.50
Fredericton	\$0.60	\$1.00	\$1.25	\$1.50 *
St. John's	\$0.75	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$1.25 **
Montreal	\$1.50	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$3.00
Ottawa	\$1.00	\$2.50	\$2.50	\$3.00
Kingston	\$1.00	\$1.50	\$1.50	\$1.50
Kitchener	\$1.25	\$1.25	\$1.60	\$1.85
Toronto	\$1.00	\$2.00	\$3.00	\$3.50
Winnipeg	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$2.00
Saskatoon	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$2.00
Calgary	\$1.25	\$3.50	\$3.50	\$5.00
Edmonton	\$1.25	\$1.25	\$2.00	\$3.00
Victoria	\$1.00	\$1.25	\$1.50	\$2.00
Vancouver	\$1.50	\$2.00	\$2.50	\$5.00
<b>Average</b>	<b>\$1.00</b>	<b>\$1.60</b>	<b>\$1.80</b>	<b>\$2.50</b>

\* Increase to take effect in May 2010

\*\* Proposed increase for fiscal 2010-11

## Appendix A

### 12. A, Definition

By-law #	Short title	Section	Fee
P-500	Parking By-Law	10	Within the former City of Dartmouth \$1.50/hour
B, P-500	Parking By-Law	10	Within the former City of Halifax \$2.00/hour