

CITY COUNCIL #8-76

March 1, 1976.

A special meeting of City Council was held this evening with the following members present: His Worship Mayor G. Parisien, Alderman M. Holden, J. Pescod, A. Lebano, K. Bough, G. Cameron, F. Guindon, L. Keen, B. Lynch, R. Pearson, G. Samson, A. LeBlanc, R. Aubry.

SECOND STREET PARKING RESTRICTIONS

Mayor Parisien informed the people attending tonight's meeting that he would have Messrs. Adams, Knight and Robertson present their reports on the traffic situation on Second Street. He added further that the Aldermen and members of the audience would have the opportunity to speak on the subject.

Mr. C.F. Adams gave a brief history on the Damas & Smith Traffic Study which was adopted by Council in 1965. At that time, the study indicated that Second Street and part of Montreal Road was operating at a near capacity traffic flow. The study also indicated that it was uneconomical to provide for on-street parking in those areas.

Mr. Bill Knight, Traffic Engineer, presented the people in attendance with several graphs related to different volumes of vehicle traffic on Second Street; effects of traffic congestion, collision reports; benefits to be derived from the parking restrictions, and a map detailing the downtown Municipal Parking Lots. He indicated that this restriction would represent the elimination of 31 parking stalls, and that his survey indicates that there are approximately 75 empty parking spaces in the Warrington/Brown parking lot, at great expense to the City. Mr. Knight firmly recommended that Council uphold their previous decision on the Second Street Parking Restrictions.

Mr. G. Robertson, Transit Manager, indicated to Council that he had two main concerns regarding the parking restrictions. Firstly, if the parking restrictions approved earlier by Council are removed, the two new extensions affecting service to the Westgate Court and Laflin Street area will no longer be possible. Secondly, that if parking restrictions during the peak hours are not in effect in the near future, the Transit System will, in all probability, have to operate on a forty minute headway, instead of the present thirty minute schedule.

Mr. Kevin Gault, spokesman for the Downtown Businessmen's Association, read a prepared statement which pointed out the definite lack of street parking,; pedestrian safety; and places such as the post-office and library will have general access cut off greatly. Mr. Gault mentioned that these were some of the ills that were evident and not counting the ones yet undiscovered. He maintained that this situation is not at all satisfactory to the association and to the public whom the downtown serves. It is the Association's contention that this parking restriction is ill-timed and that a further study should be continued, to find a more suitable solution.

The next spokesman was Mr. K. Bergeron, representing all those persons who signed the petitions objecting to the proposed by-law. Mr. Bergeron stated that the people concerned were objecting to the parking restrictions for many reasons. It was felt that the ban on parking during peak hours would seriously affect the doctors, dentists, lawyers and many other business people who have their offices along and near Second Street. Further the people who have appointments with the dentists, doctors etc. will also be affected. Mr. Bergeron further stated that with a four lane street, there will be a tendency to increase

speed through the downtown core. Another reason for objecting to the proposed restrictions, Mr. Bergeron added, is that there is not enough off-street parking to alleviate the problem that the professional people will be faced with.

Alderman Lebano favoured a deferment of this report until the One-way Street system was in effect, Montreal Road and Water Street construction is completed, and more off-street parking is made available. He indicated that in the near future, similar restrictions would probably be asked for on Montreal Road, where there is not sufficient off-street parking at the present time. Alderman Lebano felt that downtown shopping would be discouraged because of the parking ban during peak hours.

Alderman Samson stated that the timing for this project was wrong. He mentioned that to alleviate the problem faced by the doctors, dentists etc., perhaps certain side streets could be widened to allow parking on the side streets.

Alderman Guindon expressed concern for those people who had to attend weddings or funerals at the Churches on Second Street. He also agreed that Second Street would become a speedway, resulting perhaps with bad collisions.

Alderman LeBlanc indicated that he felt the present traffic flow was not as serious as reported. He further stated that he was in favour of delaying this report before, and hoped that we could delay it for another six months.

Aldermen Pearson, Pescod, & Keen indicated they were in favour of the parking restrictions. It was their opinion and that of others, that when the City can offer parking facilities on the Capital Theatre lot, the problem of off-street parking in the downtown area will more than offset the loss of thirty-one spaces mentioned earlier.

Aldermen Lynch & Aubry also voiced their support on the parking restrictions, stating that the Warrington/Brown parking lot was always less than half full. Alderman Lynch further indicated that he did not feel it was the City's responsibility to supply parking facilities for doctors, dentists or lawyers.

Alderman Cameron felt that this restricted parking ban and the implementation of the One-way Street system would probably assist in promoting tourism. He also stated that perhaps more people would use the bus, and help in reducing the deficit of our transit operations.

Alderman Holden favoured the restricted parking ban and suggested that the lot next to the library be used as a parking lot, and as a result, provide the library with revenue. Further, he reminded Council that because of their earlier decision on this matter, approximately 700 homes will be serviced with transit facilities.

Alderman Bough indicated his support to Mr. Knight's report. He agreed that this summer, especially with Montreal Road and Water Street under construction, a heavier flow of traffic will be experienced on Second Street, necessitating immediate action. Alderman Bough pointed out that Council has several times in the past, shown its flexibility in changing its mind, once a decision was made and proven wrong. He stated that if this parking restriction does not meet its expectations, Council will no doubt, made the necessary changes.

It was moved by Alderman Guindon, seconded by Alderman Keen that Rule 2.10 be suspended. Carried.

Several people in the audience were given the opportunity of voicing their opinions, regarding the parking restrictions during peak hours. Those who expressed their disapproval and wished to have

this report deferred were Mr. N. Kaneb, Mr. S. Renner, Mr. Revel, Mr. Freeman, Mr. Lough, Mr. McGlynn, Dr. Fraser, Dr. Sidorchuk, and Mr. Markham on behalf of A.R. McLennan.

Other citizens present at the meeting expressed their approval to Mr. Knight's report. Miss Mary Mack, and Mr. J. Johnson, who both live on Second Street within the restriction boundaries, could see no inconvenience being caused with the proposed parking ban. Mr. E. Schaefer was of the same opinion, however, he questioned the adequacy of our Police Force being able to enforce the No Parking law during the peak hours. Mr. Jean-Louis Lapierre also favoured the parking restriction. He indicated that he could not see where this ban would adversely affect the downtown business, and he added further, that snow removal in this area would be greatly improved.

Moved by Alderman Lebano, seconded by Alderman Guindon that Council change their thinking on this matter, and have the report deferred until the Montreal Road and Water Street projects are completed, and until the implementation of the One-way Street System is in progress, and that there be adequate off-street parking available in the downtown area.

A recorded vote was requested.

For the Motion

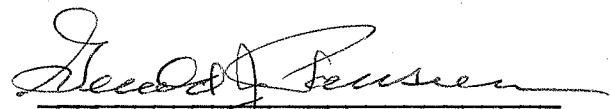
Alderman A. Lebano
Alderman F. Guindon
Alderman G. Samson
Alderman A. LeBlanc

Against the Motion

Alderman M. Holden
Alderman J. Pescod
Alderman K. Bough
Alderman G. Cameron
Alderman L. Keen
Alderman B. Lynch
Alderman R. Pearson
Alderman R. Aubry.

The Motion was defeated.


Clerk


Mayor