



## CITY OF VANCOUVER

### ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Date: February 27, 2006  
Author: Bob Macdonald  
Phone No.: 604 873 7347  
RTS No.: 05631  
VanRIMS No.: 13-5500-31  
Meeting Date: March 21, 2006

TO: Standing Committee on Transportation and Traffic

FROM: General Manager of Engineering Services

SUBJECT: Parking Meter Equipment Purchase and Parking Meter Rate Review

#### RECOMMENDATION

- A. THAT Council approve the parking meter rate changes as detailed in Appendices A and B, and the Director of Legal Services bring forward the necessary By-laws to enact these changes.
- B. THAT Council approve the purchase of parking meter housings, for replacements and new installations in approved areas, at an estimated cost of \$300,000 with \$100,000 provided from the parking meter replacement fund, and \$200,000 from increased parking meter revenue.
- C. THAT Council approve an increase in parking meter maintenance funding of \$35,000 annually starting in 2007, funded from increased parking meter revenue.
- D. THAT Council approve an increase for parking meter depreciation of \$5,000 annually in 2006 and a further \$5,000 annually in 2007, funded from increased parking meter revenues.

#### COUNCIL POLICY

Council policy is to set parking meter rates to reflect market demand and also to identify offsetting cost reductions or revenue enhancements for any increased expenditures.

Council policy is to provide parking meters to improve turnover of street parking for short-term use, with the support of local businesses.

## PURPOSE

This report reviews the City's parking meter operations and recommends meter replacements, the purchase of additional equipment and selected parking meter rate changes to better reflect market conditions.

## DISCUSSION

### PARKING METER RATES

Council policy is that parking meter rates reflect market demand, and that they be set to provide short term parking for area visitors. To determine market rates, staff review street use and prevailing off-street parking rates. A balanced rate between parking meters and off-street parking increases the availability of on-street parking spaces. This reduces the long-term parking usage of the meters, typically by employees, and reduces the traffic congestion created by drivers circulating around the block looking for parking spaces.

Parking rates are reviewed on a regular basis and Appendix A details the proposed changes. The recommended changes raise average meter rates by 5% in 2006 from \$1.71 to \$1.80 per hour. The changes proposed in this report are in areas which have generally not been changed for a number of years and need to be changed to better reflect off-street market conditions. The area changes are noted in Appendix A, and detailed in Appendix B.

### EQUIPMENT PURCHASE

The parking meter program is a large City business unit and attention is needed to ensure it provides good service and value for the general public and business community. Revenues have increased in recent years due to expansion of metered areas and approved rate changes. It is recommended that additional meter equipment be purchased at this time, due to the increase in the number of new meter requests, and to replace some older meter housings which are at the end of their life. The replacement meters represent the last purchase of a 3 year replacement program.

\$300,000 is required for new parking meter equipment: \$100,000 for replacement equipment provided by the Parking Meter Replacement Fund, and \$200,000 for the purchase of equipment for new meter installations. Funds for this purchase are available from additional parking meter revenue.

### STAFFING NEEDS

There is a need for increased staffing in parking meter maintenance to continue to adequately deal with the increased number of meters and increased meter revenue. In addition, due to levels of vandalism, staff are not able to complete their regular maintenance duties. In 2007 it is recommended that \$35,000 in additional annual funding for staff be approved. Funding would be from the increased parking meter revenues.

### CONSULTATIONS

Several business groups were consulted about the proposed meter rate increases. Many did not express any concerns, largely due to the limited scope of the proposed changes. However, the Downtown Vancouver Business Improvement Association (DVBIA) has ongoing

concerns about any meter rate increases. The DVBIA feels that increasing meter rates would discourage customers from visiting and shopping in the downtown. They are already concerned about business impacts from the construction of the Canada Line.

The proposed meter rate increases would improve the parking turnover in areas of high demand. This turnover would make it more convenient for customers to find short term parking and should not result in any negative impact to businesses given that they reflect off-street market conditions. This year, the proposed parking meter rate increases within the DVBIA area is very limited. Concerns about the construction impact of the Canada Line are being addressed through the Vancouver Business Liaison and Communications Committee established as part of the Canada Line project.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The parking meter program provides significant revenues to the City, totalling approximately \$22,000,000 in 2005. Operating costs for maintenance and coin collection amount to roughly 10% of the total revenues.

\$300,000 is required for new parking meter equipment: \$100,000 for replacement equipment provided by the Parking Meter Replacement Fund, and \$200,000 for the purchase of equipment for new meter installations funded from increased parking meter revenues.

The increased staff costs of \$35,000 annually starting in 2007, should be funded from the increased parking meter revenues. The Parking Meter Replacement fund should also be increased by \$5,000 annually in 2006 and a further \$5,000 annually in 2007. This is due to the expansion of meters on the street, and will provide adequate funding for future replacement of meter equipment.

In 2006, the parking meter rate increase is expected to generate \$600,000, and the new meters should generate an added \$255,000 for a total revenue increase of \$855,000. In 2007 and subsequent years, the parking meter rate increase is expected to generate a further \$200,000, and the new meters should generate an added \$145,000, for a total ongoing increase in revenues of \$1,200,000. These revenue increases, together with the above mentioned increases in equipment and staff costs, will result in a net revenue increase of \$650,000 in 2006, and a further net increase of \$505,000 in 2007, for a total ongoing net revenue increase of \$1,155,000 (see table below).

**Financial Impact on Operating Budget**

	2006	2007
New revenue	\$855,000	\$1,200,000
Staff costs		(\$35,000)
Depreciation	(\$5,000)	(\$10,000)
Cost of Meters*	(\$200,000)	
<b>Total Net Revenue Increase</b>	<b>\$650,000</b>	<b>\$1,155,000</b>

\*The cost of meters is \$300,000 with \$200,000 funded from the Operating Budget as shown in the above table, and \$100,000 funded from the Parking Meter Replacement Reserve.

PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

The funding increase for parking meter maintenance combined with existing funds will allow the creation of a Temporary Full Time Parking Meter Technician position in 2007. A copy of this report has been given to CUPE 15.

\* \* \* \* \*

## Appendix A

		Existing rates	Proposed rates 2006*
Downtown area	Central Core	\$2.00	No Change
		\$3.00	No Change
		\$4.00	No Change
	Downtown South	\$1.50/\$2.00	\$1.50/\$2.00/\$2.50
	Downtown Stadiums	\$1.50	\$2.00
	Robson Street	\$2.00	No Change
		\$2.50/\$3.00	No Change
	Coal Harbour	\$1.50	No Change
	Denman Street	\$2.00	No Change
	Davie Street	\$2.00	No Change
	Gastown	\$2.00	No Change
	Chinatown	\$1.00/\$1.50	No Change
	Yaletown	\$2.50	No Change
Central Broadway	West Broadway	\$1.50	\$2.00
		\$2.50	No Change
	VGH	\$2.50	No Change
	Broadway/Mt Pleasant	\$1.00/\$1.50	No Change
	South Granville	\$1.50	No Change
	Burrard Slopes	\$1.00	No Change
	Main Street	\$1.00	No Change
	Cambie Street	\$1.00	No Change
Kerrisdale		\$1.00/\$1.50	No Change
Kitsilano	1 <sup>st</sup> Avenue	\$1.00	\$1.50
	4 <sup>th</sup> Avenue	\$1.00	No Change
	Broadway	\$1.00	No Change
Commercial Dr		\$1.00	No Change

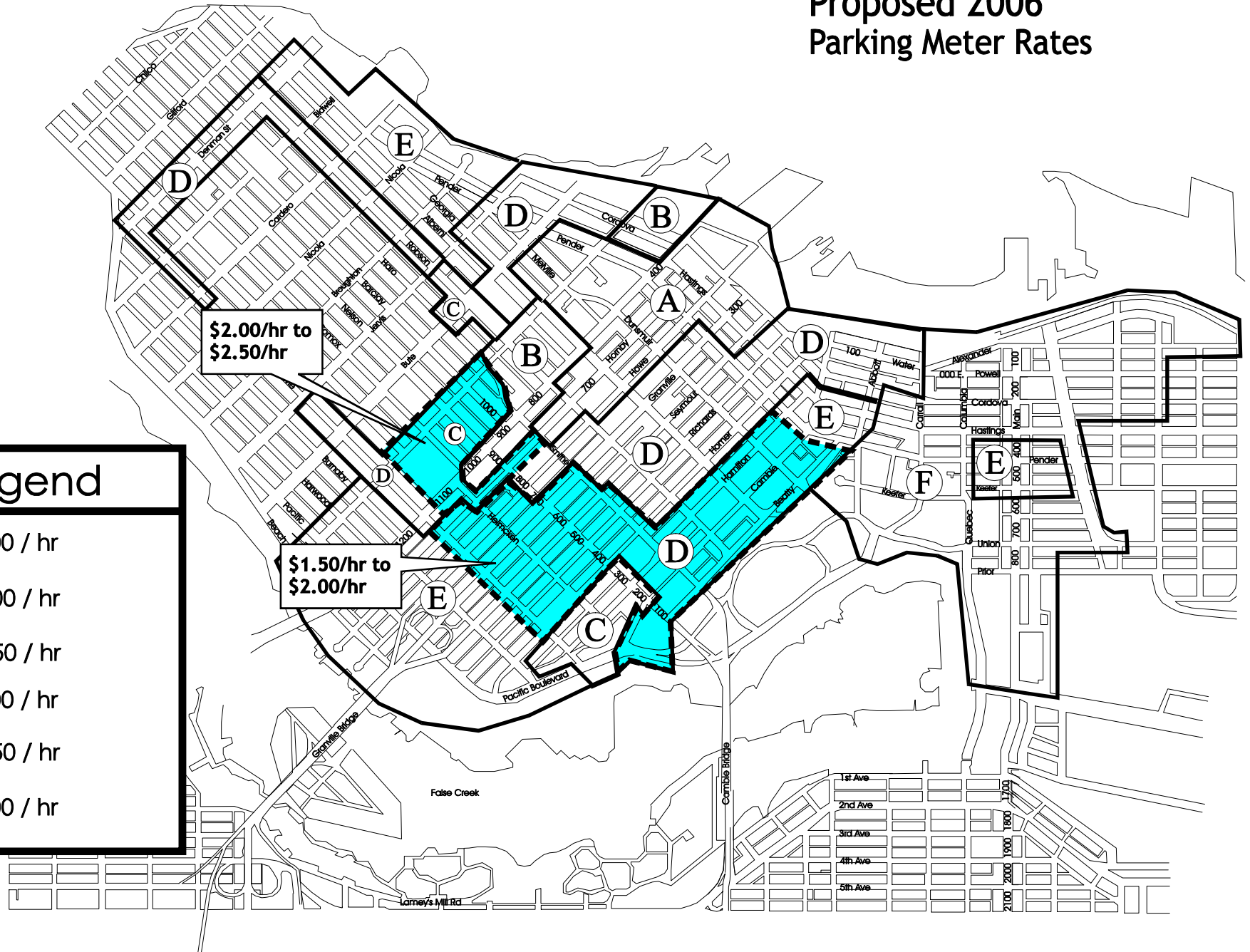
Total number of meter spaces - 7611 - average rate - 2005 \$1.71/hr  
 - 2006 \$1.80/hr + 5%

\*for details see attached schedules

# Downtown Proposed 2006 Parking Meter Rates



Legend	
(A)	\$4.00 / hr
(B)	\$3.00 / hr
(C)	\$2.50 / hr
(D)	\$2.00 / hr
(E)	\$1.50 / hr
(F)	\$1.00 / hr



# Broadway Corridor Proposed 2006 Parking Meter Rates



Legend	
(A)	\$4.00 / hr
(B)	\$3.00 / hr
(C)	\$2.50 / hr
(D)	\$2.00 / hr
(E)	\$1.50 / hr
(F)	\$1.00 / hr

