RECOMMENDATION

(a) That no action be taken on the request to remove the parking meters from Downtown Waterdown; and,

(b) That the item titled “Petition respecting removal of parking meters in Waterdown” be considered complete and removed from the Planning Committee’s Outstanding Business List.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On March 23, 2011, City Council received a petition from the Flamborough Citizen’s Coalition requesting that the parking meters in Waterdown be removed. City Council referred the matter to the Planning Committee for a Report.

This Report responds to the directive and recommends that the on-street parking meters remain in Waterdown.

Alternatives for Consideration – See Page 3
Vision: To be the best place in Canada to raise a child, promote innovation, engage citizens and provide diverse economic opportunities.

Values: Honesty, Accountability, Innovation, Leadership, Respect, Excellence, Teamwork

FINANCIAL / STAFFING / LEGAL IMPLICATIONS (for Recommendation(s) only)

Financial/Staffing/Legal: N/A

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND (Chronology of events)

As part of the 2008 budget process, staff was directed by the (former) Economic Development and Planning Committee to investigate and report on new/enhanced revenue sources. Staff recommended, among other things, increasing the parking meter rates across the City and installing paid parking on and off-street in all commercial areas. These matters were considered by Committee/Council during the 2008, 2009 and 2010 budget processes.

On January 12, 2010, as part of the 2010 budget deliberations, City Council approved a recommendation of the (former) Committee of the Whole “That paid parking be implemented in additional commercial areas of the City being Locke Street, Stoney Creek, Ancaster and Waterdown.”

On May 12, 2010, City Council directed that paid parking in Stoney Creek, Ancaster and Waterdown not apply to the off-street lots, and further that:

“(g) That a review of commercial paid parking for the areas of Stoney Creek, Waterdown and Ancaster be completed with BIA and public consultation after two years,

(h) That any revenue shortfall be funded from the Tax Stabilization Reserve.”

On-street paid parking was installed on Locke Street and in Stoney Creek, Ancaster and Waterdown on or about July 1, 2010.

On March 23, 2011, City Council received a petition from the Flamborough Citizen’s Coalition requesting that the parking meters in Waterdown be removed. City Council referred the matter to the Planning Committee for a Report.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

N/A
In addition to new revenue sources, staff recommended paid parking in all commercial areas to deal with some of the inequities and inconsistencies in the City’s municipal parking program created by municipal amalgamation in 2001.

It is a policy decision of City Council to operate any on or off-street parking program on a user pay or levy subsidized basis. The (former) City of Hamilton and Town of Dundas had paid parking on and off-street pre and post municipal amalgamation in 2001, whereas the other former area municipalities financed their commercial on and off-street parking programs from the levy.

The on-street parking meters in Waterdown generated approximately $7,300 in revenues for the six months in 2010. While staff estimated the on-street revenues for budgeting purposes at $48,000 annually, to-date these parking meters have underperformed financially because:

- Community non-acceptance of paid parking,
- the net loss of 12 meters in Waterdown primarily on Mill Street (Heritage District); and,
- budget estimates were based on paid parking both on and off-street, and there has been a significant increase in the number of motorists parking in the municipal carpark where there is no charge, rather than paying to park on the street.

Staff would anticipate the resistance to paid parking subsiding over time such that the gap between budgeted and actual revenues would close somewhat. However, removing the 60 on-street parking meters in Waterdown and returning to unrestricted free parking would result in a budget variance of $48,000 annually.
CORPORATE STRATEGIC PLAN  (Linkage to Desired End Results)


**Financial Sustainability** - paid parking supports the self-sustaining (no levy funding) mandate of the Hamilton Municipal Parking System.

APPENDICES / SCHEDULES

N/A

MH/TA:dt