



Minutes

TOWING INDUSTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

THURSDAY, JUNE 21, 2011 – 9:00 AM

COUNCIL CHAMBERS
SECOND FLOOR, MISSISSAUGA CIVIC CENTRE, MISSISSAUGA, ONTARIO
www.mississauga.ca

Members Present: Councillor Ron Starr, Ward 6 (**Chair**)
Councillor Nando Iannicca, Ward 7
Mark Bell (Citizen Member)
Daniel Ghanime (Citizen Member)
Todd Keely (Citizen Member)
John C. Lyons (Citizen Member) (**Vice Chair**)
Tullio (Tony) Pento (Citizen Member)
Daniel R. Wallace (Citizen Member) (arrived: 9:05am)

Staff Present: Jamie Hinton, Acting Director, Enforcement
James Bisson, Manager, Mobile Licensing Enforcement
John Britto, Legislative Coordinator, Office of the City Clerk

John Britto, Legislative Coordinator
Office of the City Clerk 905-615-3200 ext. 3795 Fax 905-615-4181
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CALL TO ORDER – 9:00

DECLARATIONS OF DIRECT (OR INDIRECT) PECUNIARY INTEREST – Nil

PRESENTATIONS/DEPUTATIONS – Nil

MATTERS CONSIDERED

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Approved as presented (Councillor Nando Iannicca)

2. Annual Review of the Collision Tow Rates Regulated Under Tow Truck Licensing By-law 521-04, as amended

Corporate Report dated May 16, 2011 from the Commissioner of Transportation and Works with regard to increase in fees that may be charged for various services contained in Schedule 3 of the City of Mississauga Tow Truck Licensing By-law 521-04, as amended.

Mr. James Bisson, Manager Mobile Licensing informed the Committee that over the years, the Towing Industry has not seen increases to the rates governed by the by-law. This review has provided an opportunity for an increase in the rates relative to the consumer price index. The proposed increase in the rates reflects the 3.2% increase in the cost of living for the period ending October 2010.

Mr. Mark Bell moved the following motion that was voted on and carried.

RECOMMENDATION

TIAC-0007-2011

That a by-law be enacted to amend the Tow Truck Licensing By-law 521-04, as amended, to increase the fees that may be charged for various services contained in Schedule 3 to the By-law as follows:

- (a) The per kilometre rate for the towing of a passenger vehicle, light duty van or truck not exceeding six thousand (6000) pounds (2721 kg) in towing weight found in Section 1 of Schedule 3 be increased from \$3.00 to \$3.10 per kilometre (\$4.98 per mile).
- (b) The collision tow fee contained in Section 2 of Schedule 3 be increased from \$230.00 to \$237.00.

- (c) The winching fee contained in Section 2.2 of Schedule 3 be increased from \$100.00 to \$103.00.
- (d) The re-tow rate from a Vehicle Pound Facility contained in Section 5 of Schedule 3 be increased from \$100.00 to \$103.00.

Approved (Mark Bell)

Discussions ensued with regard to storage rates being charged in neighboring municipalities.

Staff was requested to prepare a comparative study of storage rates over a period of 5 to 10 years for consideration at a future meeting of the Towing Industry Advisory Committee.

Mr. James Bisson, Manager Mobile Licensing requested committee members to provide staff with the costs over a period of 5 years, which would help in preparing a suitable comparative study.

Mr. Bisson informed the committee that storage rates in neighbouring municipalities vary from as low as \$20 (in the City of Toronto) to as high as a recommended \$100 a day (in the City of Vaughan). Most municipalities prefer to charge fixed storage rates, based on the appropriate space available for storing the vehicle. In unregulated areas, other fees are added to the storage rates, viz. environmental fee, administration fee, etc. ranging from \$150 to \$200 or higher depending on the unregulated area that the vehicle is towed to.

With regard to avoiding vehicles being towed outside City limits, Mr. Bisson advised that currently, the customer has the option of asking the tow operator for suggestions as to where the vehicle could be towed. Depending on the value of the tow to the operator, the vehicle could be towed to a location within the City or outside City limits. Staff is of the opinion that the by-law should be amended restricting the operator from towing the vehicle to a location outside the City limits.

Mr. Todd Keely suggested that the Committee consider an emergency increase in the storage rates for the City of Mississauga.

Mr. Bell was of the opinion that the storage rates in the City of Mississauga should be increased to \$60 per day.

Mr. Daniel Wallace advised that the low storage rates in the City of Mississauga is affecting towing operators in the City, as operators tend to tow vehicles outside City limits where higher storage rates can be charged.

Mr. Mark Lockwood, Manager, RBC General Insurance informed the Committee that any rates increase would have a direct impact on the City's ratepayers. Mr. Lockwood was of the opinion that there was no justification for any increase in the rates. He stated that the issue of storage rates has not been properly addressed in the Greater Toronto Area.

Responding to a question from Mr. John Lyons, Mr. Lockwood informed that storage rates in the City of Vaughan is \$60 per day and tow truck operators charge approximately \$1,000 to \$1,200 for towing. Mr. Lockwood further advised that RBC is in the process of getting the City of Vaughan to regulate towing fees within their city.

Mr. Allan McConnell of Eastgate Towing addressed the Committee expressing concerns with regard to the increase in the number of vehicles being towed outside the City of Mississauga for storage and repairs. Mr. McConnell also expressed concerns regarding the \$25 capped storage rate in the City of Mississauga, which is contributing to vehicles being towed outside the City. Mr. McConnell further advised that, considering the overall increase in the consumer price index, the capped \$25 storage rate is causing immense hardship for industry owners and operators in the City. This is also causing industry operators to move outside the City of Mississauga.

Mr. David Smart of Smart Choice Towing.& Collision Services addressed the Committee expressing concerns with regard to vehicles being towed outside the City limits.

Councillor Nando Iannicca moved the following motion which was voted on and carried.

RECOMMENDATION

TIAC-0008-2011

That staff prepare a report on storage rates being charged in the surrounding municipalities of Mississauga, for consideration at the July 19, 2011 Towing Industry Advisory Committee meeting.

Approved: (Councillor Ron Starr)

INFORMATION ITEMS - Nil

DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 9:00am Tuesday, July 19, 2011, Council Chambers

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Todd Keely requested that a determination be made on what is a heavy vehicle.

Mr. James Bisson, Manager Mobile Licensing advised that a report on gross vehicle weight rating can be prepared for consideration by the Committee at its September 2011 meeting.

ADJOURNMENT – 10:08AM