

Subject: Feb 21/2005 Agenda item #2 - Fees and Charges Bylaw, Pay Parking

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Your Worship & Members of Council,

I congratulate you on your decision to reconsider the matter of pay parking in our parks. Sober seconds thoughts should always be considered on matters of this importance. I trust the majority (if not all) members of council now consider that adding to our taxes is a better alternative than what would essentially be a user pay system for the use of our parks.

I believe the media has incorrectly indicated the impact of a tax increase from 3.5% to 3.66%. I understood that the amount added to the taxes this year was \$85,000 which if spread across the some 30,000 households amounts to \$3 per household. Actually, since residential taxes amount to only about 70% of the total, each household would see closer to a \$2 increase. Next year council may not wish to use its contingency fund to keep the tax increase down so we may expect another increase to our taxes of about \$4 for 2006.

To keep things in perspective, the maximum tax impact per household of foregoing pay parking revenues in our parks will amount to no more than \$10/household. Note that each household currently pays about \$200/yr to subsidize those who use our public rec centres.

Yours truly,

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