



THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF THOROLD
PROCEEDINGS OF THE PUBLIC FORUM COMMITTEE MINUTES

PF 5-2024

Tuesday, November 12, 2024

Council Chamber / Video Conference

City of Thorold, City Hall, 3540 Schmon Parkway, Thorold, ON

Public Forum Mayor Ugulini, Councillors D'Angela, De Divitiis, DeRose,
Members Present in Handley, O'Hare
the Council Chamber:

Public Forum Councillors Dekker, Sentance
Members Present by
Video Conference:

Regrets: Councillor Longo

Staff Present in the L. Bubanko, Deputy City Clerk, N. Debono, City Clerk, J.
Council Chamber: Simpson, Director, Development Services

1. Call to Order

Mayor Ugulini called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Public Forum Applicant Presentation

3.1 Applicant Presentation

Brandon Mckenney-Somerville, Resident, appeared before the Public Forum Committee. He expressed concerns regarding the City's process for having cars towed. He spoke on the following points:

- he expressed concerns that his vehicle was towed without warning
- he enquired as to the consistency of enforcement, noting that he has observed other cars parked in the same location, which were not towed
- he was unable to attend the location where his towed car was moved to and unable to pay the fines that accumulated
- he is seeking some form of compensation such as a monetary reimbursement to help him acquire a new vehicle, or return of his towed vehicle

3.2 Staff Response

Jason Simpson, Director, Development Services, provided the following information:

- staff received a complaint about the subject car blocking a driveway and although staff attempted to locate the car owner by speaking to the neighbours, they were unable to do so
- due to safety concerns, staff arranged to have the car towed which is standard practice to mitigate an unsafe situation
- he advised that it is the towing company that sets fees for towing and storage

4. Questions from Public Forum Committee

Members of the Public Forum Committee enquired as follows:

- was there any warning provided to the resident, who responded in the negative, and said he only received a phone call from his roommate ten minutes before the car was towed
- how many cars were towed on Natalie Court in the past 3 months for blocking driveways and is towing a common practice; staff advised that the numerical data is not on hand, but could provide later and that it is a common practice to tow vehicles in this situation

- how the process is carried out and if there could be more education and signage for these issues; staff outlined the enforcement process including the determination for vehicles that have not moved based on the location of valve stem on tires which is done electronically
- whether parking enforcement is done on a reactive, complaint basis, or proactive, and if there is a required distance from driveways to park; staff advised that the by-law does not have a minimum distance requirement, but a driveway cannot be blocked and that enforcement is done proactively but complaints take precedence
- if it is common to communicate with the car owner before towing and if there is a policy on issuing warnings; staff advised that they do attempt to find the owner, but if they cannot, as there is no policy on issuing warnings, and the car is parked in an unsafe manner blocking a driveway, it will be towed
- whether staff can contact the towing company to get the resident's car returned; staff advised they can reach out to the towing company though it is unlikely the car would be returned without payment

Members of the Public Forum Committee suggested more education for the public around parking which is an issue in the community and requested that staff follow up and report to council on this matter.

5. **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Terry Ugulini
Mayor

Laura Bubanko
Deputy Clerk

Nicholas Debono
City Clerk