



Ad Hoc Committee on Parking
Council of the Village of Merrickville – Wolford
Amended Meeting Minutes (April 18, 2016)

In Attendance:

Councillor Chuck MacInnis
Mike Neelin (Chair)
Mike Zaversenuke (Secretary)
Beverley Bryant
Connie Adams
Absent:
Carlos Card

Call To Order	10:05 AM
Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests	None
Approval of Agenda	First meeting so no previous agenda.
Approval of Previous Minutes	No previous minutes to approve.
Delegations	None
Open Question Period	None
Old Business	No old business (first meeting).
New Business	

The following discussions took place during the meeting:

- Councillor Chuck MacInnis stated that the committee needed a Chairman and Secretary and asked for nominations. Mike Neelin was subsequently nominated as Chairman and Mike Zaversenuke was nominated as Secretary. The appointments were accepted by them and the subsequent vote to approve the nominations was unanimous.
- As Chairman, Mike Neelin opened the meeting with a discussion of the past history of Merrickville parking issues, including the following:
 - Initial petition of 70 names asking to remove angle parking on Main Street West due to a stated safety hazard issue.
 - Subsequent petition of 328 names asking to preserve the angle parking on Mains Street and a presentation to Council by Mike Neelin asking to investigate the angle parking issues and proposing solutions to increase parking (not reduce the existing parking spaces) in Merrickville.
 - The overall issue of insufficient parking in the village and its affect on local businesses (i.e. no parking, visitors keep on driving and take their business elsewhere).
 - The initial stated concern was of safety with angle parking. Although the subsequent evidence obtained in an OPP report showed no significant safety issue existed (0.01% or 3 accidents over a 4 year period), the safety issue is of concern and all aspects of the parking safety issue will be investigated..

- Mike Neelin and Mike Zaversenuke had a subsequent meeting with Mayor David Nash to discuss the parking issues and provide potential solutions, which included reverse angle parking, to improve safety and increase parking.
- Council subsequently created the ad hoc parking committee to investigate and recommendation to Council parking solutions to improve safety and availability.
- There was then general discussion on the idea of reverse angle parking not being the only solution but that all suggestions should be investigated.
- There was a general brain storming discussion on some other parking solutions including: more public parking, improving existing parking spaces, obtaining event special parking spaces at schools and other vacant lots, new signage, bike parking areas, a passenger “drop off” dedicated parking area, etc..
- Councillor MacInnis reviewed the Village of Merrickville Parking Bylaw No. 27-89 and noted the bylaw was passed in 1989 so was in need of upgrading.
- Councillor MacInnis reviewed the Committee “Terms of Reference” document noting that the committee term was for one year and it included a clause that said “...and all parking related issues in the Village...” which meant that any and all parking issues were within our jurisdiction.
- The various parking issues were discussed including a solution for Main Street being reduced in width during winter. The issue could be resolved by removing snow from both sides of Main Street not just one.
- Councillor MacInnis mentioned that that was the kind of solutions we should propose to Council.
- Councillor MacInnis summed up the ideas discussions into four main categories:
- (1) Parking lot signage, parking lot improvements and parking area identification.
- (2) Street parking availability, marking and review of village road plan.
- (3) Bike parking, parking “drop off” areas, availability, and other ideas.
- (4) Investigation into expanding the number of public parking lots.
- Mike Zaversenuke proposed that everyone submit their parking ideas to him by next meeting to document some of the ideas so that they could be reviewed and prioritized into groups. Once vetted the ideas could be presented to Council in phases (i.e. from easy quick, inexpensive solutions to hard, long term, expensive solutions).
- Councillor MacInnis stated that the Bylaw Officer Andy Boffee is our staff liaison and should be invited to our Committee meetings.
- **Task List:**
- (1) It was agreed that everyone would submit their parking ideas to Mike Zaversenuke.
- (2) It was agreed that the Chairman (Mike Neelin) would be the sole contact person to interface with Dave Powers (Public Works) when the Committee had road questions.

Next Meeting

- The next meeting date will be Monday, April 25 at 10:00Am in the Council Chambers and the meeting duration would be no longer than 1 hour 15 minutes.

Adjournment

- Beverly Bryant motioned to adjourn the meeting and Connie Adams seconded it. All agreed and the meeting was adjourned.