

Committee of the Whole
OPERATIONS SESSION
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
May 4, 2020

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Additional Information

1. Memorandum from Mr. K. Crites, Chair, Accessibility Advisory Committee, dated April 30, 2020 relative to the Advocacy – Wearing of Masks.
2. Correspondence from Ms. J. Wright, dated May 4, 2020 containing a deputation letter relative to Advocacy – Wearing of Masks.
3. Memorandum from Councillor K. Oliver, dated May 4, 2020 containing an updated motion relative to Advocacy – Increase in Wages for Frontline workers.
4. Memorandum from Councillor A. Ruberto, dated May 4, 2020 containing an updated motion relative to Parking Fees – Parkades.

Memorandum

Office of the City Clerk
Fax: 623-5468
Telephone: 625-2230

TO: Ms. Krista Power, City Clerk

FROM: Mr. K. Crites, Chair, Accessibility Advisory Committee

DATE: April 30, 2020

SUBJECT: **Recommendation from Accessibility Advisory Committee – Use of Masks in Public Places During COVID-19 Committee of the Whole – May 4, 2020**

Members of Council,

At the May 4, 2020 meeting of Committee of the Whole there is a motion from Councillor. A. Ruberto that requests that the City encourage the Province to mandate use of masks in public places during the COVID-19 pandemic.

It is the position of the Accessibility Advisory Committee that Council and the Province must consider the numerous barriers this would impose on people with disabilities if this motion is approved. The Accessibility Advisory Committee provides the following barriers for Council's information and consideration when debating the motion relative to Use of Masks in Public Places.

- Not all people can independently put on a mask. Some people do not have the dexterity required to put on a mask or may have limited use of their hands. Home care workers may be required to help them put on a mask and this could mean a person has to wear their mask all day long without the ability to remove it.
- Masks limit the ability for people who are Deaf or hard of hearing to read lips and see facial expressions.
- Masks make it harder to hear and understand a person with a communication disability as people cannot see their lips and facial expressions.
- People with severe disabilities may not have the conceptual or cognitive ability to understand the requirement for a mask and maintain wearing it.
- A person who is hypersensitive to touch, for example a person with Autism or a person with a facial injury, may not physically be able to wear a mask.
- Financial barriers make it difficult for people to obtain masks.
- Not all people have independent transportation or a family or social support network in order to go shopping to purchase a mask.
- Not all people have a home and access to washing facilities where they can wash their homemade mask or even wash their hands after taking off their masks.

While the Accessibility Advisory Committee understands that this motion is an attempt to keep people safe within the current COVID-19 pandemic, there are concerns regarding wearing a mask that must be considered.

Clear exemptions would be necessary for people who could not obtain a mask, and masks would need to be provided in some cases due to financial barriers. In addition those with disabilities where wearing a mask is problematic as a result of their disability must be considered. People with disabilities have a right to access public spaces and the barriers noted in this memo must be considered and exemptions applied if this motion passes and the municipality appeals to the Province for a change in legislation as it relates to the requirement for masks in public spaces.

CC:

Ms. K. Power, City Clerk

Ms D. Earle, Deputy City Clerk

Mr. S. Garner, Municipal Accessibility Specialist

-----Original Message-----

From: josee and brandon wright

Sent: May 4, 2020 8:06 AM

To: City Clerk <CityClerk@thunderbay.ca>

Subject: Mandating wearing a mask in public

Dear City councillors,

My name is Josee Wright, I am writing as it has come to my attention that, the city is thinking of mandating citizens of Thunder Bay to wear facial masks when leaving their house. I am a nurse in the city, I ask that you reconsider this, as first of all, people do not know how to wear these masks, second of all, the masks unless properly cared for and removed, washed, are going to be another portal of entry for the virus. This is going to cause more of a widespread of the virus, if not properly done. Also let me ask you, how would you feel if you were forced against your own will to wear something that you did not want to wear? Although we are trying to be proactive and help those around us, and our community, we have to stop, take a deep breath, and look around, I think that the people of Thunder Bay, are being respectful of the hand washing, the appropriate distance. Wearing gloves and masks, is not something the public should be doing, it is something only health care providers should be wearing when they are at work!! Please keep in mind that we cannot have blanket statements for EVERYONE, We are all made up differently, We have to come to a common ground of respect for one another, although we may not all agree, we all have to agree to disagree, with respect. Making everyone wear a mask, is just another reservoir, and is infringing our rights, and putting us all at greater Risk!!

I am asking to look in your hearts, and step away from the fear propaganda, be mindful, be respectful, and remind the people of Thunder Bay to do the same, but mandating, will just cause more of a separation in the people than anything else,

Sincerely, a proud citizen of Thunder Bay, Nurse Educator, Nurse,

Josee Wright

Memorandum

Office of the City Clerk
Fax: 623-5468
Telephone: 625-2230

TO: Krista Power, City Clerk

FROM: Councillor Kristen Oliver

DATE: May 4, 2020

SUBJECT: Advocacy – \$4.00/hr - Increase in Wages for Frontline workers
Committee of the Whole – May 4, 2020 – **Updated Motion**

This updated motion are a follow up from my memo dated April 27, 2020 and in response to the Premier of Ontario declaring that workers on the front line within the current COVID-19 Pandemic would receive an additional \$4.00 an hour during the State of Emergency and clarifying that this increase would be applied to the wages of paramedics. Since this announcement was made, advocacy to include paramedics in the pandemic pay is no longer required.

As such, I offer the following updated motion for Council’s consideration;

With respect to the announcement by Premier Doug Ford on April 25, 2020 relative to pandemic pay increases of \$4.00 an hour for front line workers, we recommend that City Council advocate for pandemic pay to be extended to transit workers;

AND THAT a copy of this resolution be shared with the Premier of Ontario and the Minister of Health – Ontario, AMO and NOMA;

AND THAT any necessary by-laws be presented to City Council for ratification.

Memorandum

Office of the City Clerk
Fax: 623-5468
Telephone: 625-2230

TO: Krista Power, City Clerk

FROM: Councillor Aldo Ruberto

DATE: May 4, 2020

SUBJECT: Relief of Parking Fees – Parkades – **Updated Motion**
Committee of the Whole – May 4, 2020

Council, I have updated my motion relative to parkades. It is my request that Council request that the Parking Authority cease charging fees for parkades as of May 5, 2020.

As such, I offer the following motion for Council's consideration;

With respect to parking fees in the parkades operated by the City of Thunder Bay, we recommend fees charged for the parkades be removed and only be reinstated when the fees are once again charged for on street parking meters;

AND THAT any necessary by-laws be presented to City Council for ratification.