



CITY OF ST. ALBERT ADMINISTRATIVE BACKGROUNDER

TITLE: Traffic Bylaw 18/2005 Proposed Amendment

On September 19, 2016 Councillor Heron provided notice in accordance with Section 23 of Procedure Bylaw 35/2009 that she intended to bring forward the proposed motion below.

In order for Council to debate the motion, the motion must be formally moved.

That Administration bring forward amendments to the Traffic Bylaw 18/2005 to remove Section 34. a), and allow recreational trailers to be unattached from a vehicle on residential streets for up to 24 hours.

BACKGROUND:

Administration understands that the intent of this motion would be to allow for owners of recreational vehicle trailers (5th wheel or travel trailer) to be provided a legal opportunity to park their trailer in front of their home for a short period of time to load and unload, service and charging batteries.

Information requests 500-2016 and 501-2016 are attached and provide some information related to the general intent of this section as well as how it compares to other Municipalities.

Section 34 of St Albert Traffic Bylaw 18/2005 states:

34. No Person shall Park a Trailer on any portion of a Highway

(a) unless the Trailer is attached to a Vehicle that is mechanically capable of, and properly equipped for, towing the Trailer in a safe manner; and

(b) in a residential district (as described in the Land Use Bylaw) at a single location (or in proximity to that single location) for a period exceeding 24 consecutive hours

There are a few other pieces of legislation and information that should be considered when contemplating this motion and intent for unattached trailer parking.

1. Commercial/Utility Trailers. Removing section 34(a) as proposed would also permit commercial and utility trailers to be left unattached for up to 24 hours in residential areas and up to 72 hours in all other areas.

2. Electrical Cords crossing sidewalks. Often when a travel trailer or 5th wheel is brought home owners have been seen to leave power cords plugged in to the trailer crossing the public sidewalk. This is prohibited under section 44 of the Traffic Bylaw in that it would constitute an interference with the use and passage of pedestrians in a public place.
3. Parking near driveways. Section 44(j) of the Alberta Use of Highway and Rules of the Road Regulation prohibits vehicles and trailers from being parked within 1.5 meters of a private driveway. In some residential areas there is not enough room for a travel trailer or 5th wheel to be parked without prohibiting this regulation.
4. Public Opinion. Although we know that there are many residents who utilize recreational vehicles in our community and this amendment would have a positive impact for them, we also know that in 2015/2016 ytd there have been 64 complaints received relating to unattached trailers. This would lead us to believe that there is a segment of the community who would not be supportive of the motion which may draw in a negative reaction a change.

If Council is supportive of the concept that residents in St Albert should have a legal ability to park an unattached recreational vehicle trailer for up to 24 hours to allow for charging of batteries and loading and unloading, then Administration would recommend the following motion be considered for debate:

That Administration by June 30, 2017, brings forward an amendment to the Traffic Bylaw or other permitting processes for Council consideration that would allow for residents to park their unattached recreational travel or 5th wheel trailer in a residential area for up to 24 hours. Administration shall engage the public through a short informal online/website survey within existing resources and include those results in the report.

Report Date: October 3, 2016
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General Manager: Chris Jardine
Interim City Manager: C. Jardine