

The Vehicles for Hire Amendment Bylaw, 2023

ISSUE

This report submits Bylaw No. 9875, *The Vehicles for Hire Amendment Bylaw, 2023* (“Bylaw”) for City Council’s consideration. The Bylaw amends *The Vehicles for Hire Bylaw, 2019* to require commercial curb fees to be added to metered taxi fares.

RECOMMENDATION

That City Council consider Bylaw No. 9875, *The Vehicles for Hire Amendment Bylaw, 2023*.

BACKGROUND

At its [January 25, 2023 Regular Business Meeting](#), City Council considered a report of the General Manager, Community Services dated January 10, 2022, and resolved, in part:

That the City Solicitor be requested to prepare an amendment to Bylaw No. 9651, *The Vehicles for Hire Bylaw, 2019*, to permit the Saskatoon Airport Authority Commercial Curb Fee to be added to the taxi fare, as outlined in the report of the January 10, 2023, report of the General Manager, Community Services.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

In accordance with City Council’s instructions, we are pleased to submit Bylaw No. 9875, *The Vehicles for Hire Amendment Bylaw, 2023* for City Council’s consideration.

If approved by City Council, the Bylaw will come into force on February 23, 2023, to give taxis and taxi brokers a brief period to adjust their charging practices.

City Council resolved to “permit” the fee to be added to fares, which could be interpreted as creating an optional fee that may be added to fares, similar to debit transaction fees.

For clarification, as originally intended, the Bylaw requires, rather than simply permits, a taxi that incurs the commercial curb fee to add that fee to the taxi fare. Currently all taxi brokers support the inclusion of this fee in taxi fares. A mandatory fee prevents the possibility of taxis competing on price by offering to waive this fee, which could result in operational issues at the airport. Additionally, if the fee were optional, taxis would need to be able to manually add the fee to fares, which would open up the possibility of the fee being incorrectly added to fares. A mandatory fee will instead be able to be added to taxi meters automatically using GPS.

APPENDIX

1. Proposed Bylaw No. 9875, *The Vehicles for Hire Amendment Bylaw, 2023*.

Report Approval

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