

Shoemaker's motion to charge public employees for parking downtown fails

By **Christopher Shoust** - May 29, 2018



In a 7-4 vote city councilor Matthew Shoemaker lost in his bid to start charging public employees for parking downtown.

Although some city councilors were in favour of his motion, and voted against it, found it to be done in haste and inconsistent.



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City staff brought forward a report for information about charging public employees in other cities of the North of Ontario like Thunder Bay, Sudbury and North Bay.

Shoemaker's motion came late Friday after reading the report from city staff.

There was some issue brought forward by councilor Joe Krmpotich and Judy Hupponen about collective agreements with unionized employees. City staff said it may propose difficulty during a current collective agreement.

Shoemaker's motion did not include summer students and part time employees.

Areas affected would be the Ermatinger Clerge Historic Site, the Civic Centre, the Essar Centre, the Transit Terminal and the Transit Centre.

His reasoning in a nutshell was that people already pay for parking downtown and why shouldn't the public employee.

Councilor Sandra Hollingsworth said there were better ways to fix “leaks” in the city’s operations than focus on parking.

Krmpotich thought separating full time from students and part time employees would create a division in morale.

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Christopher Shoust, Dip. J, BFA (honours), is a working artist in Sault Ste. Marie, who primarily works as a painter, writer, sculptor, filmmaker and reporter for SaultOnline.com He is excited to be a part of the SaultOnline team and has great things to contribute!

