



**Item:** Resolution 10155- A Resolution by the City Commission of the City of Great Falls, Montana, temporarily amending the Enforcement and Application of Portions of Title 10 of the Official Code of the City Of Great Falls Pertaining to the City’s Parking System

**From:** Craig Raymond, CBO, Director, Planning and Community Development

**Initiated By:** City of Great Falls, Parking Advisory Commission

**Presented By:** Craig Raymond, CBO, Director, Planning and Community Development

**Action Requested:** Adopt Resolution 10155

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**Suggested Motion:**

1. Commissioner moves:

“I move that the City Commission (adopt/deny) Resolution 10155.”

2. Mayor requests a second to the motion, Commission discussion, public comment, and calls for the vote.

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**Staff Recommendation:** Staff recommends that the City Commission adopt Resolution 10155.

**Background:** As a result of recent changes in the downtown tenant landscape, the parking system revenue stream has seen a significant decline. The City Commission tasked the Parking Advisory Commission (PAC) with undertaking a thorough review of the downtown parking program to address concerns with budgetary shortfalls, and recommend changes to improve revenues needed to effectively operate the program and provide sufficient funds to properly maintain the parking facilities and assets.

While the PAC has not completed its review to date, it has determined that certain improvements can be made at this time which may improve the efficiency of operations, as well as encourage greater use of parts of the parking system. These changes are intended to be adopted on a temporary basis in order to monitor impacts. Staff and the PAC brought Resolution 10155 to the City Commission on July 19, 2016 for consideration. Ultimately, the Commission postponed final action in order to provide for more dialogue with the Commission and public input. The PAC met on August 15th in order to review Commission action, comments and to consider revising certain elements of the Resolution. To that end the PAC did discuss concerns about removing meters with a member of the public who attended the PAC meeting to express his concerns. The PAC agreed to revise Resolution 10155 in the following ways:

- 1) Decrease the number of meters being removed. The owner of B&B Rental desires to maintain the parking meters in front of his business to ensure convenient parking for his customers. Resolution 10155 as amended provides for this request and maintains meters on both sides of 2nd Ave South, between 2nd St. South and 3rd St. South, but removes the meters on both sides of 2nd Ave South between 3rd St. South and 6th St. South.
- 2) The original proposal in Resolution 10155 eliminated Saturday enforcement until October 29, 2016. After further consideration of time and seasons, the PAC voted to extend this proposal until March 31, 2017, to get a better feel for the effects of eliminating Saturday enforcement.

Staff and the PAC will continue to evaluate the system on a regular basis and bring recommendations in the future regarding the effectiveness of these particular changes.

There are three changes recommended at this time:

**1. Residential Parking Program-** In December of 2014, the City Commission adopted Resolution 10083 which instituted a \$25 fee (good for two years) within the residential parking district. The fees were designed to help offset the costs associated with enforcement within the residential parking district. Subsequent to the adoption of these fees, some citizens within these areas expressed concern about the fees and whether the enforcement was really necessary. After considering the costs associated with the enforcement of the residential parking district regulations and citizen testimony, the PAC is recommending that the City Commission suspend the residential parking program for one year as a test. During the course of this test, staff and the PAC will review citizen support and program cost savings. Staff will also conduct a thorough public education campaign in order to decrease confusion and reduce or eliminate unnecessary calls to the Police Department.

**2. Saturday Enforcement-** The Official Code of the City of Great Falls (OCCGF) 10.48.270(c) stipulates time periods that meter rates and time limits are in effect within the downtown parking district. In order to cut costs associated with enforcement, the PAC is recommending that the City Commission temporarily suspend enforcement of time limits at all metered locations on Saturdays, beginning immediately upon adoption of this Resolution until ~~October 29, 2016~~ March 31, 2017. During PAC deliberations, there was concern about suspending enforcement of time limits along the Central Avenue corridor on Saturdays, as some retail establishments remain busy at this time and turn-over is still desired to promote retail parking availability in convenient locations to businesses. Ultimately, consensus was established and the PAC voted to make this recommendation in order to test parking behavior and impacts to businesses. To a certain extent we may also learn to what degree parking meters, time limits, fees and fines impact citizen support of the local downtown businesses, as well as downtown resident and employee parking behavior without enforcement.

**3. Removal of Parking Meters in Low Demand Areas-** When staff and the PAC reviewed the results of an audit of meter revenue within the downtown parking district, it became apparent that some locations see very little traffic and use. The revenue collected in these areas does not support the costs associated with collecting the coins and enforcing the time limits, nor provide significant income for the maintenance of the parking facilities and assets. It also seemed to indicate that regular enforcement may not be beneficial to the adjacent businesses based on the low demand for parking in these areas. In order to decrease program costs, the PAC and staff are recommending that meters be removed and time limits suspended in specific areas for one year.

Staff and the PAC will evaluate the extent of cost savings and the effects of parking behavior after these changes.

These proposals will not have the total desired effect of fixing all parking program issues, but the PAC and staff felt it was a good time to take tangible steps toward that end while we continue our work of evaluating the program.

**Fiscal Impact:** The exact fiscal impact is impossible to predict. What we estimate the impact to be is as follows:

**Residential Parking Program-** Revenue reduction of approximately \$2,625 based on passes sold last fiscal year. Personnel cost savings unknown as enforcement personnel will likely be free to focus on higher priority areas, and routes may be modified and evaluated. Minor cost savings may be realized associated with vehicle expenses.

**Saturday Parking Enforcement-** Reduction in personnel costs of approximately ~~\$1,056~~ between July 23rd and October 29th \$2,464 between September 7th and March 31, 2017.

Reduction in revenue generated by parking fines estimated to be ~~\$522~~ \$1,218 based on average amount of tickets written on Saturday's during this time period.

**Removal of Meters-** Reduction of revenue estimated at \$6,188 annually. Personnel savings unknown until routes can be adjusted and evaluated.

**Alternatives:** The City Commission could deny Resolution 10155 and delay implementation of modest changes until entire review is complete. This may have a negative effect on knowledge gained by testing certain management techniques.

**Attachments/Exhibits:**

Resolution 10155

**RESOLUTION NO. 10155**

**A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF GREAT FALLS, MONTANA, TEMPORARILY AMENDING THE ENFORCEMENT AND APPLICATION OF PORTIONS OF TITLE 10 OF THE OFFICIAL CODE OF THE CITY OF GREAT FALLS (OCCGF) PERTAINING TO THE CITY'S PARKING SYSTEM, AND TEMPORARILY SUSPENDING CERTAIN FEES AS SET FORTH IN RESOLUTION 10083**

**WHEREAS**, Title 10 of the OCCGF provides for various parking system regulations, related rates, fees and penalties; and

**WHEREAS**, a financially sound parking system and properly maintained parking facilities are essential to the continuing redevelopment of downtown Great Falls and to the many citizens and visitors who use those facilities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Parking Advisory Commission has considered citizen testimony indicating that the residential parking program may not be effective or desirable; and

**WHEREAS**, it is desirable to introduce new management measures incrementally in order to monitor and assess impacts; and

**WHEREAS**, the Parking Advisory Commission has studied this matter and set forth the recommendations herein.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF GREAT FALLS, MONTANA, THAT:**

**(1) Residential Parking Districts**

**A.** Enforcement of the regulations provided for in OCCGF 10.48.250 will be temporarily suspended within the Residential Parking Districts as depicted in the Official Parking Management District Map of the City of Great Falls for a period of one year effective immediately upon adoption of this Resolution and ending on July 31, 2017.

**B.** Fees associated with the Residential Parking Program established by Resolution 10083 are also temporarily suspended for one year effective immediately upon adoption of this Resolution and ending July 31, 2017.

(2) **Saturday Parking Enforcement**

A. Enforcement of time limits and meter rates on all Saturdays will be temporarily suspended effective immediately upon adoption of this Resolution until ~~Saturday October 29, 2016~~ **March 31, 2017**.

B. Enforcement of parking time limits and meter rates will remain effective Monday through Friday from 9:00 am through 5:00 pm except for City holidays or as may be established by Resolution of the City Commission.

C. The Administrator may temporarily suspend parking meter enforcement for downtown events, holidays, or construction projects.

(3) **Amending Enforcement in Designated Areas of the Official Parking Management District**

A. Meter enforcement designated on the "Official Parking Management District Map of the City of Great Falls" is hereby suspended effective immediately upon adoption of this Resolution until July 31, 2017 in the following areas:

1. Along both **sides of** 2nd Avenue South between ~~2<sup>n</sup>~~**3rd Street South** and 6th Street South
2. Along 8th Street South between 1st Avenue South and 2nd Avenue North
3. Along 1st Avenue South between 8th and 9th Streets South
4. Along Central Avenue between 8th and 9th Streets South/North
5. Along 1st Avenue North between 8th and 9th Streets North
6. Along 2nd Avenue North between 8th and 9th Streets North
7. Along the North side of 2nd Avenue North between 2nd and 3rd Streets North
8. Along the West side of 3rd Street North between 2nd and 3rd Avenue North
9. Along the West side of 2nd Street North between 1st and 2nd Avenue North

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF GREAT FALLS, MONTANA,** that the effective date of Resolution No. 10155 shall be immediately upon adoption.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF GREAT FALLS, MONTANA,** that all other rates, fees and penalties not amended by this resolution pertaining to the City's parking system adopted in Resolution 10083 shall remain in effect until otherwise amended by Resolution of the City Commission.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Commission of the City of Great Falls, Montana, September 6, 2016.

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Bob Kelly, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Lisa Kunz, City Clerk

(CITY SEAL)

APPROVED FOR LEGAL CONTENT:

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Sara R. Sexe, City Attorney