

ORDINANCE 3283

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE 10, CHAPTER 9, SECTIONS 230 AND 270-320 AND CHAPTER 10, SECTION 010 OF THE OFFICIAL CODE OF THE CITY OF GREAT FALLS (OCCGF) PERTAINING TO THE ADMINISTRATION AND OPERATION OF THE CITY'S PARKING SYSTEM

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WHEREAS, the City Commission established Title 10 of the OCCGF outlining provisions pertaining to Vehicles and Traffic, including parking management districts; and

WHEREAS, City staff has identified changes to Title 10 that aim to update the code's language, meet current needs, and ensure efficient and consistent administration and enforcement.

WHEREAS, a functional and financially sound parking system, including on-street parking turnover, is essential to the continuing redevelopment of downtown Great Falls and to the many citizens who use those facilities; and

WHEREAS, for clarification of the administration of the parking system, certain provisions of the OCCGF relating to meter bags, the courtesy parking program, and vehicle immobilization require updating; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission held a special meeting on December 1, 2025 and directed staff to prepare necessary amendments to the code's language regarding the Downtown Parking Program; and

WHEREAS, City staff, recommends that the City Commission approve the amendments to Title 10, Chapters 9 and 10 of the OCCGF for the continued administration and operation of the City's parking system.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF GREAT FALLS, MONTANA:

Section 1. That Title 10, Chapter 9 of the Official Code of the City of Great Falls be amended as depicted in Exhibit "A" attached hereto, which removes language indicated by a ~~strike-out~~ and adds language which is **Bold**.

Section 2. That Title 10, Chapter 10 of the Official Code of the City of Great Falls be amended as depicted in Exhibit "B" attached hereto, which removes language indicated by a ~~strike-out~~ and adds language which is **Bold**.

ACCEPTED by the City Commission of the City of Great Falls, Montana on first reading December 16, 2025.

ADOPTED by the City Commission of the City of Great Falls, Montana on second reading January 20, 2026.

Cory Reeves, Mayor

ATTEST:

(CITY SEAL)

Lisa Kunz, City Clerk

APPROVED FOR LEGAL CONTENT:

David G. Dennis, City Attorney

State of Montana)
County of Cascade : ss
City of Great Falls)

I, Lisa Kunz, City Clerk of the City of Great Falls, Montana, do certify that I did post as required by law and as prescribed and directed by the Commission, Ordinance 3283 on the Great Falls Civic Center posting board and the Great Falls City website.

Lisa Kunz, City Clerk

(CITY SEAL)

Chapter 9 STOPPING, STANDING, AND PARKING

Sections:

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10.9.230 Meter bags.

- A. Meter bags may be issued temporarily to reserve metered parking spaces for maintenance or construction activities, while moving, **for mobile food vendors**, or for other activities being conducted by or for the adjoining property owner that require reserved parking at a particular location within a parking management district.
- B. The daily cost of meter bags will be set by Commission resolution.
- C. Using a meter bag to attempt to avoid paying for parking when not engaged in the activities for which the meter bag was issued is a violation of this Title.

(Ord. 3283, 2025; Ord. 3188, 2018)

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~~10.9.270 Courtesy parking.~~

~~Upon request by the adjoining property owner or tenant and approval of the Administrator, metered spaces may be designated as courtesy parking, allowing the removal of the meters and their replacement with a sign stating that parking is being provided by the adjoining business. The number and location of spaces that may be thus designated will be determined by the Administrator. The fee for designating spaces as courtesy parking shall be set by Commission resolution and payable each year prior to January 1.~~

(Ord. 3283, 2025; Ord. 3188, 2018)

10.9.280270 Unauthorized parking in off-street parking facilities prohibited.

- A. It is unlawful for any person to stop or park a vehicle in any parking space in an off-street parking facility that is owned or leased by the City unless the occupants of that vehicle have paid the required fee.
- B. Parking spaces controlled by parking meters in off-street parking facilities owned or leased by the City shall be subject to the same rates, time limits, and periods of enforcement as other parking meters, unless otherwise provided by Commission resolution.

(Ord. 3283, 2025; Ord. 3188, 2018)

10.9.290280 Rates charged on City owned or operated off-street parking lots, garages, and parking meters.

Rates for City-owned or City-operated off-street parking lots, garages, and parking meters shall be set by Commission resolution.

(Ord. 3283, 2025; Ord. 3188, 2018)

10.9.300290 Parking in construction zones.

The Public Works Department is authorized to relocate vehicles parked in active construction zones. Prior to relocation the Department shall:

- A. Place a no parking notice in the construction zone twenty-four (24) hours prior to construction beginning;
- B. Provide notice to the GFPD that a vehicle is located in the construction zone and must be removed; and
- C. GFPD shall attempt to locate the registered owner of the vehicle.
- D. If the registered owner is not located, or the vehicle is not removed from the construction zone within twenty-four (24) hours, the Public Works Department shall remove the vehicle from the construction zone, and the costs of said removal shall be charged to the registered owner.

(Ord. 3283, 2025; Ord. 3188, 2018)

10.9.310300 Parking of certain types of vehicles prohibited.

- A. Except as provided in subsection (B), it is unlawful for any person to park a recreational vehicle, trailer or vessel upon the public right-of-way in any residential zoning district.
- B. 1. A person may temporarily park a recreational vehicle, trailer or vessel upon the public right-of-way in a residential-zoned district for the limited purpose of loading and unloading, which shall be limited to a period of no more than seventy-two (72) hours in a seven (7) day period.
 - 2. The time limits contained in this section do not apply to trailers that are being used in the course of providing commercial construction or other services in the location where the trailer is parked.
- C. It shall not be a defense to this section that the recreational vehicle, trailer or vessel parked in violation of this section was moved to a different location within the public right-of-way of any residential-zoned district. The recreational vehicle, trailer or vessel must be removed from the public right-of-way in order to achieve compliance with this section.
- D. The registered owner of any recreational vehicle, trailer or vessel parked in violation of this section will be held strictly and absolutely liable for the violation and will be subject to the penalties set forth in 10.9.330.
- E. This section is enforceable by Great Falls Police Officers, Community Service Officers and other persons as may be designated by the City Manager.

(Ord. 3283, 2025; Ord. 3230, 2021)

10.9.320310 Notice.

The City shall provide notice of a violation of 10.9.310 by affixing a written notice upon the recreational vehicle, trailer or vessel advising of the violation and requiring the removal of the recreational vehicle, trailer or vessel within twenty-four (24) hours. The notice shall advise that failure to remove the recreational vehicle, trailer or vessel within that time period will result in the issuance of a parking citation.

(Ord. 3283, 2025; Ord. 3230, 2021)

10.9.320320 Penalty.

Any registered owner of a recreational vehicle, trailer or vessel parked in violation of 10.9.310 who has not removed the recreational vehicle, trailer or vessel within twenty-four (24) hours of the affixing of the notice required under 10.9.320 may receive a parking citation with fines as set forth by City Commission Resolution. If, after the issuance of a second or subsequent citation, the registered owner has not removed the recreational vehicle, trailer or vessel from the public right-of-way, the recreational vehicle, trailer or vessel may be immobilized and removed in accordance with 10.10.010 through 10.10.050.

(Ord. 3283, 2025; Ord. 3230, 2021)

Chapter 10 VEHICLE IMMOBILIZATION

Sections:

10.10.010 Authorization to use vehicle immobilizer.

- A. Members of the GFPD, **a City parking official**, or other persons designated by the City Manager, are authorized to use a vehicle immobilizer ("boot") to immobilize any vehicle that is parked in a City parking space located in the downtown residential district, the parking meter district, or any City owned off-street pay-to-park facility that has five (5) or more parking tickets unpaid or delinquent thirty (30) days or more.
- B. Members of the GFPD, or other persons designated by the City Manager, are authorized to use a boot after a second or subsequent citation issued for violation of 10.9.310 when the registered owner has not removed the recreational vehicle, trailer or vessel from the public right-of-way.
- C. ~~Prior to any vehicle immobilization under subsection (A) above, City officials are required to either:~~
 - 1. ~~Mail the registered owner of the vehicle a final notice for five (5) or more of the unpaid or delinquent parking tickets; or~~
 - 2. ~~File a complaint in Great Falls Municipal Court charging the registered owner with unpaid parking tickets on the vehicle, and no individual has appeared for arraignment on the complaint.~~

(Ord. 3283, 2025; Ord. 3230, 2021; Ord. 3188, 2018)

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