

Parking thoughts

Our business dropped and has not rebounded since the city raised the parking rate from 25c to 50c per hour.

The no-fine ticket for the first violation has gotten good remarks.

Attempts to find new tenants for downtown are complicated by parking meter rates and tickets.

Folks seem to be pro downtown, but when it comes to support and recruiting assistance many are not downtown boosters. Business development groups and the government entities are often not as helpful as they should be. The Social Security office is an example. Despite federal requirements and city claims this office went to a out of the way location because the city 'owned the lot'.

If a sales type business experiences a decrease in volume, the cure is surely not to raise the price. Increasing parking meter fees does not seem to me to be the cure for a declining revenue. I know the "profit center" philosophy is the concept of city departments, but I personally do not think this works in the case of parking in the downtown area. Raise the price and run the patrons off, a net loser.

The size of the meter district is probably too large.

The policing the north side neighborhood should to be revised.

The hitch to the program is integrating new businesses with a large employee base into the parking district. To convince the management of these companies to pay some part of the parking as additional compensation is the key.

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