

Council Memo

Department Source: Public Works

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: August 17, 2026

Re: Amending Chapter 14 of the City Code relating to rate changes in parking permit for on-street parking at designated ten-hour zone meters.

Impacted Ward: Ward 1

Executive Summary

City of Columbia Ordinance 14-413 establishes parking rates. This amendment would include an increase the cost of the ParkLync Downtown Employee Permit Program from \$35/month to \$50/month, when this had previously been a pilot project. This rate change is to better reflect the current parking meter rates, while still providing a discount in comparison to monthly rates of City owned parking structures and lots.

Discussion

In 2015, Council authorized the City Manager to create the Downtown Employee Parking Permit Pilot Project. The goal of the program was to provide a more affordable option for employees who worked downtown in comparison to City owned parking structures and lots. While the program is marketed towards downtown workers, it is open to anyone.

The monthly rate of \$35 was established in 2015 and has not been increased since that time while meter rates have increased. Increasing the monthly rate to \$50/month brings the permit fee more in line with current parking meter rates while still offering a significant discount to City owned parking structures and lots which charge a monthly rate of \$75-\$100.

No other changes to the ParkLync Downtown Employee Permit Program are being proposed, other than it now being part of Ordinance 14-413.

Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: Staff anticipates the program will continue to be revenue neutral.

Long-Term Impact: Staff anticipates the program will be revenue neutral; however, parking revenue will be monitored and rates adjusted if needed.

Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

[Strategic Plan Impacts:](#)

Primary Impact: Resilient Economy, Secondary Impact: Reliable and Sustainable Infrastructure, Tertiary Impact: Organizational Excellence

[Comprehensive Plan Impacts:](#)

Primary Impact: Infrastructure, Secondary Impact: Secondary, Tertiary Impact: Tertiary

Legislative History

Date	Action
05/18/2026	R109-26 Authorizing the City Manager to sign an agreement with ParkLync for the Downtown Employee Parking Permit Project.
09/15/2025	B205-25 Amending Chapter 14 to the City Code as it relates to parking meter rates; and fixing the time when the ordinance will become effective.
06/15/2015	R100-15 License Agreement with Parkmobile for the Downtown Employee Parking Permit Pilot Project.

Suggested Council Action

Authorize Amending Chapter 14 of the City Code of Ordinances to revise the rates and include the increase in the ParkLync Downtown Employee Parking Permit from \$35/month to \$50/month, bringing the cost closer in line with parking meter revenue.