



701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201

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 Code of Ordinances to establish a parking rate of \$1.00 per hour for all City parking structures from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday, excluding City Holidays, and to reduce the free parking period in all parking structures from one hour to thirty minutes or less.

Impacted Ward: Ward 1

Executive Summary

Staff is requesting that Council authorizes an amendment to Chapter 14 of the Code of Ordinances to revise parking structure rates. The proposed amendment would establish a parking rate of one-dollar (\$1.00) for every one (1) hour or any portion thereof, for all City parking structures and reduce the free parking period from one (1) hour to thirty (30) minutes. Vehicles parked for thirty (30) minutes or less would continue to park free of charge. The proposed rate of one-dollar per hour is consistent with the current on-street metered parking rate. The effective date would be January 1, 2027.

This ordinance was introduced on the July 20, 2026 Council meeting agenda as an introduction and first reading item. At the August 3, 2026 Council Meeting a motion was approved to table this agenda item until the information can be presented to the Parking Advisory Commission (PAC). The next PAC meeting was held on August 12, 2026. A presentation of the financial condition of the Parking Utility and the need for additional revenue to address ongoing maintenance, technology upgrades and future capital needs was given. They discussed other alternatives, but following the discussion, the PAC supported the changes by a vote of 4-2. No other revisions have been made to the proposed ordinance.

Discussion

Since 2019, the Parking Utility has not requested a rate change for City owned parking structures. The Parking Utility faces ongoing cost escalations due to inflation and other economic factors, along with capital improvement projects that require funding to address the deteriorating condition of parking facilities and outdated technology. Research conducted by Walker Consultants in coordination with City staff, estimates these projects could cost approximately \$10 million over the next five years.

The current parking structure rates, established in 2019, are one (\$1.00) dollar for every two (2) hours or any portion thereof; provided any vehicle parked in a parking structure less than one (1) hour is not charged a fee for parking between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, with the exception of City designated holidays.

The proposed amendment would also establish a uniform rate of \$1.00 per hour for all parking facilities, both on-street and off-street, thereby simplifying the parking experience for residents and visitors while also increasing revenue for the Parking Utility, estimated at \$350,000 annually

Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: By increasing the rate, City Staff project that the Parking Utility will see an increase in revenue of approximately \$350,000 in the next fiscal year.

Long-Term Impact: A sustained \$350,000 revenue increase per year over current parking structure revenue.

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
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.
12/16/2019	B283-19 Amending Chapter 14 to repeal and re-enact in place thereof a new Section 14-391 relating to the assessment and payment of hourly parking fees in parking structures.
12/02/2013	B341-13 Amending Chapter 14 of the City Code as it relates to hourly parking and fees for certain facilities; and fixing the time when this ordinance will become effective.

Suggested Council Action

Authorize amending Chapter 14 of the Code of Ordinances to increase the rate for all parking structures to \$1.00 per hour, establish paid parking on Saturdays, and reduce the free parking time from one hour to thirty minutes.