



Department Source: Public Works

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: January 16, 2024

Re: Amending Chapter 14 of the City Code relating to Taxi Stands, Hours of Operation for Street and Off-street Metered Parking Spaces, and the Designation and Location of Metered Time Zones

Executive Summary

Staff is recommending amendments to Chapter 14 of the City Code relating to taxi stands to authorize rideshare vehicles the use of allotted spaces, the hours of operation for enforcement of street and off-street metered parking spaces, and the removal of specific references to the designation and location of metered time zones.

Discussion

Staff recommends amendments to Chapter 14 of the City Code as follows:

Secs. 14-1 and 14-295

Currently, Sec. 14-295 limits the use of taxi stand spaces to taxis, limousines, buses, and STRIPES vehicles between 11:00 p.m. and 2:00 a.m. With the advent and popularity of rideshare companies, e.g. Uber, Lyft, etc., the Columbia Police Department has observed rideshare vehicles congesting downtown streets while waiting for patrons. These vehicles will often park outside of parking spaces and along the streets. By allowing reputable rideshare companies the use of taxi stand zones, staff believes congestion in the downtown area streets can be mitigated during the late night, early morning hours. A proposed amendment to Sec. 14-1 will specifically define a rideshare vehicle.

Secs. 14-301 and 14-411

In 2014, Council approved amendments to Secs. 14-301 and 14.411 to change on-street meter operating hours from 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Based on the attached recommendations from the Parking Advisory Commission (PAC) and the Downtown CID (CID), staff requests that Council amend these sections to revert back to the original operating hours of 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m., Monday – Saturday. By doing so, the operating hours of on-street meters, outside of Saturday operation, will coincide with the operating hours of the parking garages. Staff, the PAC, and the CID all believe that making this change will lead to less confusion about parking for both the public and downtown businesses. Staff is asking for the change to on-street meters as opposed to asking for a change to the garage operating hours to match current on-street hours, as a change to garage operating hours would be more complex with the rate system at the gate arms and would require third party assistance as opposed to being solely managed in-house.

Secs. 14-413 – 14-417, 14-423

Currently, Secs. 14-413 through 14-417 denote the exact location where 10-hour, 5-hour, 4-hour, 2-hour, 1-hour, and 24-minute meters are located throughout the downtown footprint. By doing so, any time that the Parking Utility may need to make an adjustment to a meter's maximum timing mechanism, it requires a City Code amendment to reflect that change. This



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process effectively slows down a routine and simplistic operation making the Utility more inefficient and creates delays in bettering the parking environment for the community. Staff believes by reducing the need to bring meter timing adjustments to the City Council for amendment approvals, it will allow the Parking Utility to adapt more quickly to the ever-changing downtown community and provide a more positive parking environment for those citizens who work and visit downtown.

Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: Amendments to Secs. 14-301 and 14-411: Fiscal impacts are unknown at this time. While there will be a loss of revenue in the 6pm – 7pm hour, there will be a gain of revenue from the 8am – 9am hour. Staff will monitor revenue impacts. Amendments to Secs. 14-413-14-417: Saves resources, staff time, and council time.

Long-Term Impact: Amendments to Secs. 14-301 and 14-411: Unknown; staff will monitor revenue impacts. Secs. 14-413-14-417: Accumulated cost saving in staff time and quicker turnaround in parking adjustments that should lead to increased rate of revenue.

Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Safe Community, Secondary Impact: Resilient Economy, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Mobility, Connectivity, and Accessibility, Secondary Impact: Economic Development, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

Legislative History

Date	Action
12/01/2014	Ordinance No. 022288 (B350-14) – Amendment to Chapter 14 of the City Code relating to on-street parking enforcement hours.
09/15/2014	Ordinance No. 022211 (B237-14A) – Amendment to Chapter 14 as it relates to parking rates and parking enforcement hours.

Suggested Council Action

Passage of the ordinance amending Chapter 14 of the City Code.