

Capitola City Council

Agenda Report

Meeting: June 8, 2023

From: Community Development

Subject: Modification to Parking Meter Rates



Recommended Action: Introduce, by title only, waiving further reading of the text, an ordinance of the City of Capitola amending Municipal Code Sections 10.36.055A and 10.38.010.

Background: Historically the City has had parking meters in the Capitola Village to help ensure turnover of parking spaces and to help fund City services. The Village meter rates were last increased in 2009.

On April 28, 2022, the City Council established the Temporary Village Parking Committee (TVPC). The TVPC met seven times during the summer and fall of 2022 to review and discuss parking meter rates, parking permits, parking signage, and renaming the Upper and Lower Beach & Village Parking Lots. The TVPC made the following recommendations for City Council:

- Increase parking rates from \$1.50 per hour to \$2.00 per hour in the Village and maintain three-hour maximum.
- Increase parking rates from \$1.00 per hour to \$2.00 per hour on Cliff Drive and maintain twelve-hour maximum.
- Increase parking rates from \$0.50 per hour to \$1.00 per hour in the Upper and Lower Beach and Village parking lots and maintain twelve-hour maximum.

On March 23, 2023, the City Council received these recommendations from the TVPC and directed staff to prepare the necessary documentation to implement the recommended changes.

On May 4, 2023, a draft of the ordinance was published on the city's website for public review and notification letters were sent to regional agencies.

Discussion: Currently, metered parking rates are included in Capitola Municipal Code section 10.36.055 and section 10.38.010. Section 10.36 is part of the City's Local Coastal Program (LCP) Implementation Plan. Each time the City updates parking meter rates in Section 10.36, the change must be certified by the Coastal Commission prior to taking effect. This process can take up to six months.

Capitola is the only coastal city in California with parking rates located within the LCP. Only some portions of the Capitola Municipal Code are included in the LCP (for example: Chapter 17, Section 10.36). In other coastal cities, parking meter rates are outlined in a code section outside the LCP, but changes to those rates require issuance of a Coastal Development Permit (CDP). The City would be authorized to issue such a CDP, however the Coastal Commission would have the authority to appeal the City's decision.

State Vehicle Code Section 22508 requires the City establish parking meter rates and zones by ordinance. In 2013, Chapter 10.38 was added as a clone of section 10.36.055 to establish parking meter zones and rates outside the LCP in anticipation of Coastal Commission approval of removing the rates from 10.36. However, Coastal Commission did not approve the City's 2013 proposed LCP amendment as submitted and inserted other requirements, which the City did not ultimately accept.

The proposed amendment will remove parking rates from LCP section 10.36.055 and add a requirement for a Coastal Development Permit to establish or modify parking meter rates. The ordinance also adjusts the parking meter rates in Section 10.38, consistent with prior City Council direction.

Coastal Commission staff reviewed the City's proposed LCP amendment and recommended additional language to ensure protection of coastal access. In addition, Coastal Commission staff strongly

recommended including language that restricts parking meter revenue for specific uses. Because parking meter review is a significant revenue source to the City, staff worked very closely with Coastal staff to ensure the proposed language was potentially workable for the City. The operative text reads as follows:

Any revenue from fee-based parking programs within the Coastal Zone shall only be used to fund public access to coastal resources, protect public safety in the Coastal Zone, and provide public services in the Coastal Zone.

Given that approximately two thirds of the City is within the Coastal Zone, City staff believes this requirement, as drafted, will not pose significant restrictions on future parking revenue.

The full text of the new proposed section of code contained within the LCP would read:

10.36.055 Parking meter zones and rates.

A. Parking meter zones and rates.

1. The City Council may establish parking meter zones and rates consistent with State of California Vehicle Code Section 22508.
2. Changes to parking meter zones and rates shall only be upon the issuance of a CDP.
3. When considering a Coastal Development Permit application for parking meter zones and rate modifications, the City shall evaluate the potential impact on public coastal access, and ensure existing levels of public access are maintained, including through ensuring that alternative access opportunities, including bike lanes and parking, pedestrian trails, and relocated free vehicular parking spaces, are provided so as to fully mitigate any potential negative impacts and maximize access opportunities. Any revenue from fee-based parking programs within the Coastal Zone shall only be used to fund public access to coastal resources, protect public safety in the Coastal Zone, and provide public services in the Coastal Zone.

Fiscal Impact: Parking meter rates have not increased since 2009. The proposed increase is consistent with inflation over the past 14 years. The parking meter rate increases would result in an estimated annual revenue increase of \$400,000.

Attachments:

1. Ordinance

Report Prepared By: Katie Herlihy, Community Development Director

Reviewed By: Julia Moss, City Clerk

Approved By: Jamie Goldstein, City Manager