

ORDINANCE NO. 022, 2026
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT COLLINS
AMENDING SECTION 1209 AND SECTIONS 1221 THROUGH
1227 OF THE FORT COLLINS TRAFFIC CODE RELATING TO
PARKING ENFORCEMENT PROCEDURES

A. On February 18, 2003, by Ordinance No. 016, 2003, the City Council adopted the Fort Collins Traffic Code (the "Traffic Code").

B. When City Council adopted the Traffic Code, it was with the understanding that the Traffic Code would most likely be subject to future amendments to clarify and correct errors and to ensure that the Traffic Code remains consistent with Colorado traffic laws.

C. Traffic Code Section 1209, which establishes procedures for the enforcement of parking violations, contains outdated language referencing a program in which the City no longer participates and includes ambiguous provisions regarding the enforcement of parking violations against rental car companies.

D. Traffic Code Sections 1221 through 1227 contain unclear and outdated requirements related to parking fees in parking garages and surface lots operated by the City, which do not reflect modern technology, operational practices, or procedures utilized by Parking Services.

E. To help provide clearer, more transparent guidance to the public, Staff recommends that the Traffic Code be amended to align with current Parking Services procedures, practices, and technology by updating outdated and ambiguous language governing the enforcement of parking violations and parking fee requirements in City parking garages and surface lots.

F. The City Council has determined that these Traffic Code amendments are in the best interests of the City and its residents.

In light of the foregoing recitals, which the Council hereby makes and adopts as determinations and findings, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT COLLINS as follows:

Section 1. Section 1209 of the Traffic Code of the City of Fort Collins is hereby amended to read as follows:

1209. Notice and procedure for parking violations.

- (1) Whenever any motor vehicle is found parked or stopped in violation of any of the parking, standing or stopping provisions of this Traffic Code, an authorized person or officer finding such vehicle shall take its registration, license plate or vehicle identification number and any other information

displayed on the vehicle which may identify its user. Except as otherwise provided for below, such person or officer shall conspicuously affix to the vehicle a penalty assessment notice directing the driver to respond and answer the charge at a place and time specified in said notice.

- (a) With respect to violations of Section 1227, any person who fails to pay a parking fee shall be mailed a citation directing ~~him or her~~ **them** to respond and answer the charge at a place and time specified in the citation.
- (2) In any prosecution charging a violation of any provision of this Part 12, proof that the particular vehicle described in the notice was parked or stopped in violation of such provision, together with proof that the defendant named in the notice was at the time of such violation the registered owner of the vehicle, shall constitute prima facie evidence that the registered owner was the person who parked or stopped the vehicle at the time and place of the violation.
- (3) If the registered owner of a motor vehicle involved in a traffic code violation under traffic regulations adopted by the City is engaged in the business of leasing or renting motor vehicles, the registered owner remains liable for payment of the civil penalty even if the registered owner was not driving the motor vehicle but may obtain payment from the lessor or renter of the motor vehicle and forward the payment to the City.
- (4) If the driver or owner of a motor vehicle charged with a violation of any parking, standing or stopping provision of this Traffic Code fails to respond to a penalty assessment notice affixed to such vehicle or mailed to ~~him or her~~ **them**, by appearance or payment at the Office of Parking Services or Municipal Court, the Clerk of the Court or Parking Services Office may send another notice by mail to the registered owner of the vehicle to which the original notice was affixed, warning ~~him or her~~ **them** that a default judgment may enter and, in addition, in the event that either such notice is disregarded for a period of twenty (20) days from the date of citation, the vehicle is subject to immobilization and the procedures described in Part 18 of this Traffic Code.
- (5) Any person charged with a parking, stopping or standing violation under this Traffic Code for which a penalty assessment notice may be issued and for which payment of a fine may be made to the Parking Services Office shall have the option of paying such fine within the date, time and at a place specified in the penalty assessment notice upon entering a plea of guilty and upon waiving appearance in court; or may have the option of depositing any required lawful bail, and upon a plea of not guilty shall be entitled to a hearing before the Parking Services Referee or Judge.

- (a) Payment of a penalty assessment notice by the person to whom the notice is served shall constitute an acknowledgment of guilt by such person of ~~his or her~~ **their** violation of the offense stated in such notice.
- (b) Payment of the prescribed fine shall be deemed a complete satisfaction for the violation, and the Parking Services Office, upon accepting the prescribed fine, shall issue a receipt to the violator acknowledging payment thereof. Checks tendered and accepted and on which payment is received shall be deemed sufficient receipt.

Section 2. Section 1221 of the Traffic Code of the City of Fort Collins is hereby amended to read as follows:

1221. Paid parking; definitions.

- (1) Wherever paid parking has been established in parking garages or surface lots regulated by the City, the parking of vehicles at places so designated shall be controlled by Sections 1221 through 1227 between the hours and on the days specified on authorized paid parking signs or legends.
- (2) The following definitions shall apply in Sections 1221 through 1227:

Fee enforcement period shall mean the days and hours when the requirement to initiate a parking session shall apply to a particular paid parking garage or surface lot.

Parking session shall mean the time period during which a specified vehicle has been permitted, through the use of a payment method, to park in a paid parking garage or surface lot to which the parking session has been designated to apply.

Payment method shall mean any device or online or mobile application capable of initiating a parking session by accepting payment for the fee required to park in a particular paid parking garage or surface lot.

Section 3. Section 1222 of the Traffic Code of the City of Fort Collins is hereby deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following:

1222. Initiating parking sessions.

- (1) A parking session must be initiated immediately upon parking a vehicle in a paid parking garage or surface lot.

- (2) A parking session for a paid parking garage or surface lot may be initiated using any payment method for that paid parking garage or surface lot.
- (3) Initiation of a parking session for a paid parking garage or surface lot requires payment of the fee indicated on the payment method selected.
- (4) If a parking session is scheduled to expire while the paid parking garage or surface lot is still in use, a new parking session may be initiated using any of the payment methods subject to any time restriction established for the paid parking garage or surface lot. No person shall park or direct another person to park a vehicle in a paid parking garage or surface lot for a period in excess of any time restriction established.

Section 4. Section 1223 of the Traffic Code of the City of Fort Collins is hereby amended to read as follows:

1223. Identification of paid parking.

- (1) A paid parking garage or surface lot may be designated by appropriate markings upon the curb, sidewalk, or off-street location.
- (2) A paid parking garage or surface lot shall be identified with an authorized sign or message clearly legible from the garage or surface lot. Such signage shall indicate the fee enforcement period and the limited period of time for which parking is lawfully permitted in the paid parking garage or surface lot.

Section 5. Section 1224 of the Traffic Code of the City of Fort Collins is hereby deleted in its entirety and held in reserve.

1224. Reserved.

Section 6. Section 1225 of the Traffic Code of the City of Fort Collins is hereby amended to read as follows:

1225. Tampering with payment methods.

- (1) No person shall deface, injure, tamper with, open or willfully break, destroy or impair the usefulness of any payment method.
- (2) No person, firm or corporation shall place any sack or covering over, upon or around any payment method, block or obscure any payment method, or otherwise indicate or show that said payment method is inoperative or inapplicable without proper authority to do so.

Section 7. Section 1226 of the Traffic Code of the City of Fort Collins is hereby amended to read as follows:

1226. Removal of chalk from tires.

No person shall knowingly erase, rub off or otherwise remove the chalk markings used by Police, Community Service or Parking Services Officers to determine the length of time a particular vehicle has remained in a parking space.

Section 8. Section 1227 of the Traffic Code of the City of Fort Collins is hereby amended to read as follows:

1227. Failure to pay parking structure or surface lot fees.

- (1) No vehicle shall be parked in a paid parking garage or surface lot during the fee enforcement period outside of an appropriate parking session meeting the criteria identified in subparagraph (2). This provision shall not apply to the act of parking or the necessary time which is required to initiate a parking session via the payment method selected.
- (2) For the purposes of subparagraph (1), a parking session is only appropriate if:
 - (a) The parking session is initiated immediately upon parking in a paid parking garage or surface lot,
 - (b) The parking session is initiated using a payment method for the paid parking garage or surface lot in which the parked vehicle is located,
 - (c) The parking session is associated with the license plate(s) affixed to the parked vehicle, and
 - (d) The parking session is active and not expired.
- (3) In a paid parking garage or surface lot where egress and exit is controlled by a gated system, a person shall not take or drive a vehicle out of the paid parking zone or area without paying the parking fee.
- (4) No vehicle shall be parked in a paid parking garage or surface lot during a fee enforcement period without paying the parking fee indicated on the payment method selected, nor shall any vehicle be parked in excess of the time of the parking session(s) purchased except during those times indicated as outside the fee enforcement period.

- (5) No person shall deposit or attempt to deposit in any payment method any slug, button, or any other device or substance as substitutes for bills or coins of United States currency, and no person shall deposit any lawful bill or coin that is bent, cut, torn, battered or otherwise misshapen.
- (6) A parking session shall not be required to park a vehicle in a paid parking garage or surface lot on Sundays, on holidays as defined in this Traffic Code, and during those hours of the day outside the fee enforcement period applicable to that paid parking garage or surface lot.
- (7) Failure to pay the fine for a citation issued under this section may subject the vehicle to immobilization and impoundment pursuant to Part 18 of this Traffic Code.
- (8) The provisions of this section shall not relieve any person from the duty to observe other and more restrictive provisions of this Traffic Code prohibiting or limiting the stopping, standing or parking of vehicles in specified places, at specified times or in a specified manner.

Section 9. The City Attorney and the City Clerk are hereby authorized to modify the formatting and to make such other amendments to this Ordinance as necessary to facilitate publication in the Fort Collins City Code; provided, however, that such modifications and amendments shall not change the substance of the Code provisions.

Introduced, considered favorably on first reading on March 3, 2026, and approved on second reading for final passage on April 7, 2026.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Effective Date: April 17, 2026
Approving Attorney: Madelene Shehan

Exhibit: None