

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C. Traffic Code Section 1209, which establishes procedures for the enforcement of parking violations, contains outdated language referencing a program in which the City no longer participates and includes ambiguous provisions regarding the enforcement of parking violations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D. Traffic Code Sections 1221 through 1227 contain unclear and outdated requirements related to parking fees in parking garages and surface lots operated by the City, which do not reflect modern technology, operational practices,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the Traffic Code be amended to align with current Parking Services procedures, practices, and technology by updating outdated and ambiguous language governing the enforcement of parking violations and parking fee requirements in City parking garages and surface lots.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 ~~without a driver~~ 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 1208, any citizen participating in the City's Handicap Parking Enforcement Program who finds a vehicle parked or stopped in violation of Section 1208(5) or (9) may take its registration number, license plate or vehicle identification number, a photograph, record any other information displayed on the vehicle which may identify its owner(s) and conspicuously affix to the vehicle a notice of violation informing the driver that he or she is being investigated for a violation of handicap parking restrictions. The program participant shall thereafter, within seven (7) days, deliver the information, photograph and a copy of the notice to a Parking Services or Fort Collins Police Services officer. Upon receipt of the information from the program participant, a parking services or police officer shall review said information and make further inquiry regarding the owner of the vehicle in violation, and if appropriate, shall serve a penalty assessment notice by mail to the registered owner of the vehicle directing the owner to respond and answer the charge at a place and time specified in said notice.~~

~~(b) With respect to violations of Section 1227, any person who fails to return and pay a parking fee shall be mailed a citation directing him or her 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.**~~In addition to any other liability provided for in this Traffic Code, the owner of a motor vehicle who is engaged in the business of leasing or renting motor vehicles is liable for payment of a parking violation fine unless the owner of the leased or rented~~

~~motor vehicle can furnish sufficient evidence that the vehicle was, at the time of the parking violation, in the care, custody or control of another person. To avoid liability for payment, the owner of the motor vehicle is required, within a reasonable time after notification of the parking violation, to furnish to the prosecutorial division of the appropriate jurisdiction the name and address of the person or company who leased, rented or otherwise had the care, custody or control of such vehicle. As a condition to avoid liability for payment of a parking violation, any person or company who leases or rents motor vehicles to another person shall attach to the leasing or rental agreement a notice stating that, pursuant to the requirements of this Section, the operator of the vehicle is liable for payment of a parking violation fine incurred when the operator has the care, custody or control of the motor vehicle. The notice shall inform the operator that the operator's name and address shall be furnished to the prosecutorial division of the City when a parking violation fine is incurred by the operator.~~

- (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, by appearance or payment at the Office of Parking Services or Municipal Court, the Clerk of the Court or Parking Services Office **may** shall send another notice by mail to the registered owner of the vehicle to which the original notice was affixed, warning him or her 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** mailing, 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 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. ~~Parking meter zones.~~ Paid parking; definitions.**

(1) Wherever **paid** parking meter zones have **has** been established ~~on streets or in parking areas~~ **garages or surface lots** regulated by the City, the parking of vehicles at places, ~~streets or parts of streets~~ so designated shall be controlled by ~~parking meters~~ **Sections 1221 through 1227** between the hours and on the days ~~declared in said schedules or records and specified~~ on authorized **paid** parking meter 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. Parking meters.~~**

~~(1) Parking meters installed in parking meter zones established as provided in this Traffic Code shall be so designed, constructed, installed and set as to meet the following conditions:~~

~~(a) Said meters shall be capable of being operated, either automatically or mechanically, upon the deposit therein of one (1) or more coins of United States currency or authorized tokens, for the full period of time for which parking is lawfully permitted in any such parking meter zone or, in lieu thereof, for an appropriate fractional period of time.~~

~~(b) Upon the expiration of the time period registered by the deposit of one (1) or more coins or authorized tokens as provided herein, said meters will indicate by an appropriate signal that the lawful parking meter period has expired and during said period of time and prior to the expiration thereof, will indicate the interval of time which remains of such period.~~

~~(c) Each parking meter shall bear thereon an authorized sign or message clearly legible indicating the days and hours when the requirement to deposit coins or tokens therein shall apply, the value of the coins or tokens to be deposited and the limited period of time for which parking is lawfully permitted in the parking meter zone in which such meter is located.~~

### **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. Parking meter spaces. Identification of paid parking.**

- (1) A paid parking garage or surface lot Parking meter spaces shall be of appropriate length and width as determined by an engineering and traffic investigation and may be designated by appropriate markings upon the curb, sidewalk, or off-street location. and/or pavement of the street.
- (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. Every vehicle shall be parked wholly within a metered space with the front end or front portion of such vehicle immediately opposite the parking meter for such space.

- (3) — Except where prohibited by other provisions of this Traffic Code, a vehicle which is of a size too large to be parked within a single parking meter space shall be permitted to occupy two (2) adjoining parking meter spaces when coins or tokens shall have been deposited in the parking meter for each space so occupied as is required in this Traffic Code for the parking of other vehicles in such space.

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. Deposit of coins or tokens and time limits.**

- (1) — No person shall park a vehicle in any parking space upon a street, alongside of and next to which a parking meter has been installed during the restricted and regulated time applicable to the parking meter zone in which such meter is located unless a coin or coins of United States currency or authorized tokens of the appropriate government agency therein, shall have been previously deposited therein for an unexpired interval of time, and said meter has been placed in operation.
- (2) — No person shall deposit or attempt to deposit in any parking meter any slug, button or any other device or substance as substitutes for coins of United States currency or authorized tokens, and no person shall deposit any lawful coin or authorized token that is bent, cut, torn, battered or otherwise misshapen.
- (3) — No person shall permit a vehicle within his or her control to be parked in any such parking meter space during the restricted and regulated time applicable to the parking meter zone in which such meter is located while the parking meter for such space indicates by signal that the lawful parking time in such space is expired. This provision shall not apply to the act of parking or the necessary time which is required to deposit immediately thereafter coins or tokens in such meter.
- (4) — No person shall park a vehicle in any such parking meter space for consecutive periods of time longer than that limited period of time for which parking is lawfully permitted in the parking meter zone in which such meter is located, irrespective of the number or amount of the coins or tokens deposited in such meter.

~~(5) A vehicle may be parked in a parking meter space without operation of the meter on Sundays, on holidays as defined in this Traffic Code, and during those hours of the day when the requirement to deposit coins or tokens does not apply as determined from the parking meter sign or legend.~~

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

**1225. Tampering with parking meter payment methods.**

(1) No person shall deface, injure, tamper with, open or willfully break, destroy or impair the usefulness of any parking meter payment method.

(2) No person, firm or corporation shall place any sack or covering over, upon or around any parking meter head, remove any parking meter head payment method, block or obscure any payment method, or otherwise indicate or show that said meter 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 pPolice, eCommunity sService or pParking sServices eOfficers 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) ~~A person shall not take or drive a vehicle out of a City-operated parking structure or surface lot or any space for which payment for parking is required without paying the parking fee.~~ 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) ~~If the person cannot pay the parking fee upon exiting the parking structure or surface lot at which a parking services attendant is present, said person shall sign and provide the attendant with a written promise to return within forty eight (48) hours to pay the parking fee. If the parking fee is not paid within forty eight (48) hours, a citation for failure to pay the parking fee shall be mailed to the registered owner of the offending vehicle pursuant to Section 1209 of this Traffic Code.~~ 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 ~~space regulated by a pay station~~ without paying the parking fee indicated on the ~~pay station~~ payment method selected, nor shall any vehicle be parked in excess of the time of the parking session(s) purchased from a pay station, except during those times indicated on the pay station when payment is not required 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 ~~"failure to pay"~~ 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.

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Mayor

ATTEST:

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City Clerk

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

Exhibit: None