



BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL CITY OF MERCER ISLAND

AB 6678
May 6, 2025
Consent Agenda

AGENDA BILL INFORMATION

TITLE:	AB 6678: Town Center Parking Regulations (Resolution No. 1676 and Second Reading of Ordinance No. 25C-03).	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motion <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resolution
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Adopt Ordinance No. 25C-03 amending Town Center Parking Regulations in Title 10 of the Mercer Island City Code.2. Approve Resolution No. 1676 adopting the Revised 2025 Fee Schedule effective June 30, 2025.	

DEPARTMENT:	City Manager
STAFF:	Jessi Bon, City Manager Robbie Cunningham Adams, Senior Management Analyst Amelia Tjaden, Management Analyst
COUNCIL LIAISON:	n/a
EXHIBITS:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Ordinance No. 25C-032. Resolution No. 16763. Map of Town Center Parking Regulations.
CITY COUNCIL PRIORITY:	1. Engage the qualified expertise necessary to provide the guidance to enable the development of a comprehensive long-range plan for Town Center which recognizes, addresses, and balances business, housing, and parking uses

AMOUNT OF EXPENDITURE	\$ n/a
AMOUNT BUDGETED	\$ n/a
APPROPRIATION REQUIRED	\$ n/a

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this agenda item is to conduct a second reading of Ordinance 25C-03 (Exhibit 1), updating parking regulations in Town Center, and to receive approval of Resolution No. 1676 (Exhibit 2), setting the rate for paid parking at the Town Center Parking Area.

- The Town Center Parking Plan was adopted by the City Council in November 2023 ([AB 6369](#)).
- On March 18, 2025, the City Council directed staff to implement a parking program for the new Town Center Parking Area (former Tully's property) where a motorist would register their vehicle for two hours of free parking and have the option to extend their parking up to a fourteen hour maximum for a paid fee.
- The City would charge \$2.50 per hour for parking beyond two hours, up to a daily maximum rate of \$12.50. These parking regulations would be in effect from 8:00AM to 10:00PM every day ([AB 6603](#)).

- The Town Center Parking Area is anticipated to open in July 2025 with a fully operational parking system.
- On April 15, 2025, the City Council conducted the First Reading of Ordinance 25C-03. The City Council directed staff not to proceed with a mobile application for the on-street parking in Town Center and to standardize the time limit in Town Center to two-hours ([AB 6666](#)).
- Implementation of the two-hour time limit for the on-street parking can be expected this summer.
- Ordinance 25C-03 was amended from the first reading to add a definition of 'Official Sign' and to update Section 10.36.221D for clarity.
- Resolution No. 1676 adopts the revised 2025 Fee Schedule to include the amendments related to the provision of two hours of free parking, the hourly rate, and daily maximum rate for parking at the Town Center Parking Area. These new fees become effective June 30, 2025.

BACKGROUND

Well-planned and sufficient parking is vital to the success of Mercer Island's Town Center economy and the experience of residents, businesses, and visitors. The Town Center Parking Plan was adopted by the City Council in November 2023 ([AB 6369](#)).

On July 16, 2024, the City Council received a presentation and provided feedback on potential actions to update the Town Center parking regulations ([AB 6514](#)). On September 17, 2024, the City Council adopted Ordinance No. 24C-14, increasing the parking citation fee and sunsetting the Town Center Commuter Parking Permit Program ([AB 6543](#)). On January 1, 2025, the parking citation fee increased from \$20.00 to \$54.00, and the parking spaces previously reserved for the permit program were converted to unrestricted parking.

On-Street Parking in Town Center

On April 15, 2025, the City Council conducted the First Reading of Ordinance 25C-03, directed staff not to proceed with a mobile application for the on-street parking in Town Center and to standardize the parking time limit in Town Center to two-hours ([AB 6666](#)). These parking regulations would be in effect from 8:00AM to 10:00PM Monday through Saturday. Exhibit 3 shows a map of where these parking regulations would take effect in Town Center.

Town Center Parking Area (at the former Tully's Site)

Construction began on the new Town Center Parking Area at the former Tully's site (project 90.20.0024 in the 2025-2026 Capital Improvement Program) in February 2025. Construction of the new parking area will be substantially completed by July 2025.

On March 18, 2025, the City Council directed staff to implement a parking program for the new Town Center Parking Area where a motorist would register their vehicle for two hours of free parking and have the option to extend their parking up to a fourteen hour maximum for a paid fee. The City Council has since moved away from this plan and will not be pursuing the use of a parking app or charging a parking fee for on-street parking at this time.

Enforcement

Currently, parking enforcement is conducted in the Town Center by the Police Support Officer circling through at various time intervals to physically chalk tires and then return to issue citations for parking violations. Additionally, the City has three police vehicles equipped with Automatic License Plate Reader (ALPR) cameras

that can track parking duration. However, because City Code does not specify how far a vehicle must move to be considered reparked, and the ALPR location-detection capabilities are accurate to around 30 feet, the Mercer Island Municipal Court is currently unable to process parking citations generated using the ALPR cameras. This enforcement issue will be addressed with the new ordinance.

ISSUE/DISCUSSION

The purpose of this agenda item is to conduct a second reading of Ordinance 25C-03 (Exhibit 1) and to receive approval of Resolution No. 1676 (Exhibit 2). The intent of these changes is to implement a standard two-hour time limit for the on-street parking in Town Center, establish a parking program for the Town Center Parking Area, and to improve the ability of the Police Department to enforce parking by increasing the function of the ALPR system.

Ordinance No. 25C-03

Ordinance No. 25C-03 (Exhibit 1) will update the Town Center parking regulations and implement the following changes to Chapter 10 of the Mercer Island Municipal Code.

- Adds a definition for ‘block’ and establishes that a vehicle may not repark on either side of the same block to extend the vehicle’s parking time beyond the time limits established.
- Adds a definition for a ‘parking payment device.’ If adopted, management of parking payment/registration at the Town Center Parking Area will require the use of a mobile application to be implemented.
- Removes language that specifies parking restrictions on each block face and gives the City the authority to install official signs that establish time limits.

Ordinance 25C-03 was amended from the first reading to add a definition of ‘Official Sign’ and to update Section 10.36.221D for clarity.

Resolution No. 1676

Resolution No. 1676 amends the 2025 Fee Schedule, effective June 30, 2025. The resolution specifies that a user will receive two hours of free parking upon registering with the City’s selected mobile application and establishes the rate of \$2.50 per hour for parking beyond two hours and the daily maximum rate of \$12.50 at the Town Center Parking Area.

NEXT STEPS

Upon adoption of Ordinance No. 25C-03 and approval of Resolution No. 1676, staff will implement the new parking program for both the on-street parking in the Town Center and at the Town Center Parking Area.

Mobile Application

Staff will begin the implementation of a mobile application at the new Town Center Parking Area. Estimated time to launch is 60 days. Staff intend to open the Town Center Parking Area with a fully operational parking payment and registration system.

In addition, with the implementation of Park Mobile in the Town Center, the City will transition the boat launch parking system to this application as well.

Parking Signage

The City will need to install new signage in most of Town Center to reflect the standardized two-hour time limit and new hours of operation. Implementation of the new parking signage will occur this summer.

Revenue from Paid Parking

Staff recommend that revenue generated from the parking program at the new Town Center Parking Area be directed to supporting parking enforcement (equipment, signs, etc.). This policy recommendation will be subject to City Council approval and will be included in future budget discussions once the program is live and three to six months of revenue data is available.

Parking Enforcement

Ordinance No. 25C-03 specifies the distance a vehicle is required to move to be considered reparked, allowing the ALPRs to function for parking enforcement. The Police Department will deploy this technology as part of their parking enforcement. Once the new parking signage has been installed, it will be under the discretion of the Police Department to issue warnings before citations for violations of the new parking regulations.

Community Engagement & Outreach Campaign

Staff will implement a comprehensive outreach campaign to communicate the changes to the Town Center Parking regulations. Staff will attend community events, like Summer Celebration, to educate residents on the upcoming changes to Town Center. Staff will also post updates on the [Town Center Parking Plan](#) Let's Talk page, provide outreach to the business community and the Chamber of Commerce, promote information on social media, and in the MI Weekly.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

1. Adopt Ordinance No. 25C-03 amending Town Center Parking Regulations in Title 10 of the Mercer Island City Code.
2. Approve Resolution No. 1676 adopting the Revised 2025 Fee Schedule, effective June 30, 2025.