



CITY OF DOVER

DOVER PARKING COMMISSION – AGENDA

Meeting Type: Regular Meeting
Meeting Location: **Room 305 – McConnell Center
61 Locust Street, Dover, NH**
Meeting Date: **Tuesday, March 19, 2024**
Meeting Time: **8:30 AM**

- 1) Roll Call
- 2) Citizen's Forum
- 3) Meeting Minutes
 - a) Review and Approval of February meeting minutes.
- 4) Staff Updates
 - a) Downtown development update – Chris Parker
 - b) Parking Activity & Budget - Bill Simons, Parking Manager
- 5) New Business
 - a) **Reconsideration of vote to eliminate the on-street short visit exception (15-minute rule) for paid parking.**

The following subsection of City Ordinance 141-31:A (3) (b) Unlawful acts; separate violations: was recommended for elimination at the February Parking Commission meeting.

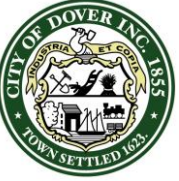
~~(b) Exception. No multi-space parking meter receipt is required for a vehicle parked in a parking meter zone for less than 15 minutes; this exception does not apply to metered parking lots or a metered parking garage.~~

Background: The 15-minute rule for on-street paid parking began in January of 2011 when the meter system rolled out for three main reasons:

- 1) As a temporary means to ease the transition to paid parking.
- 2) To allow drivers to get change for the meters at merchants since the meters did not take bills.
- 3) Returning to the vehicle to display the receipt was cumbersome, especially in bad weather.

The tracking of vehicles using the 15-minute rule is very labor intensive and prone to abuse by employees and downtown residents.

What has changed? Currently, only 7% of transactions are by coin. In addition, the advent of Pay by Phone and Pay by Plate eliminates the need to return to the vehicle to display the parking receipt.

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Other options available:

- 1) All purchases can have 15 minutes added to them.
- 2) Meters can allow a limited number of free 15-minute sessions per plate per day.
- b) **Reconsideration of the vote to provide free parking in the Orchard Street Garage and Transportation Center Lot in support of Plaid Friday and the Saturdays between Thanksgiving and Christmas.**

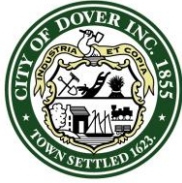
The following change was recommended at the February Parking Commission meeting.
(Removal of “the Friday after thanksgiving” from paragraph 2 and the addition of paragraph 4)

Amend City Ordinance 141-30.A.(2) and add 141-30A.(4) Hours of operation and rates:

§ 141-30. Hours of operation and rates.

A. Paid parking shall be required daily between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., except on Sundays, with the exception of:

- (1) The Orchard Street Parking Garage where designated as metered or paid parking shall also be required as paid parking at all times, 24 hours a day and seven days a week.
- (2) The following holidays: January 1; the third Monday in January, known as Martin Luther King, Jr. Civil Rights Day; the third Monday in February, known as Washington's Birthday; the last Monday in May, known as Memorial Day, or on a date to coincide with the federal observance if it is held on a different day; July 4; the first Monday in September, known as Labor Day; the second Monday in October, known in Dover as Indigenous People's Day; November 11, known as Veterans Day; Thanksgiving Day; ~~the Friday after Thanksgiving~~; and Christmas Day. When one of the listed holidays falls on a Sunday, the Monday after shall be observed as a holiday.
- (3) Any vehicle bearing the following special New Hampshire license plates and in use by the person qualifying for said special plates shall be entitled to free parking in metered spaces for no more than three hours each day: Purple Heart (including Purple Heart-Vanity), Gold Star, Prisoner of War, and Pearl Harbor Survivor (including Pearl Harbor Survivor-Vanity). Any vehicle with license plates from another state or United States territory bearing substantially equivalent governmental license plates shall, provided the vehicle is in use by the person qualifying for said special license plates, likewise be entitled to no more than three hours each day of free parking in metered spaces.



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(4) The Orchard Street Parking Garage and the Transportation Center Lot, unless otherwise restricted, on the Friday after Thanksgiving as well as the Saturdays between Thanksgiving and Christmas,

Background. After the February meeting, the Parking Manager had discussions with the merchants that had attended the meeting. They mentioned they had only asked for the free parking from 9 am to 5 pm, as parking in the evening hours was generally at capacity already. They also felt the train station was also probably not an attractive option.

The addition of the Train Lot may not provide the desired option due to the distance to downtown retail locations as well as cause confusion for commuters if a change to the recommended 9 am to 5 pm is made.

**** In addition, the Parking Manager is inquiring if it was the intention of the Parking Commission to include the electric vehicle charging stations in the free parking. Including these spaces would eliminate the need for users to vacate the space once charging is done, thus making it unavailable to other users. If not the intention, the addition of the following is recommend in paragraph 4 after the word “restricted”....“***or in spaces designated for electric vehicle charging***”

c) Increase in parking fines.

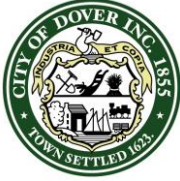
Resolution: Recommend to the City Council

Amend Chapter 105 Fine Schedule as follows:

	<u>Current Rate</u>	<u>Recommended Rate</u>
Table A (most citations)		
Initial Citation	\$20	\$25
After 10 days	\$30	\$35
14 days after notice	\$50	\$55

Table B (fire lane, accessible access aisle, permit parking – garage, winter parking...)

Initial Citation	\$50	\$60
After 10 days	\$70	\$75
14 days after notice	\$100	\$100



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Table D (Chronic Meter Offender...)

Initial Citation	\$100	\$100
After 10 days	\$100	\$120
14 days after notice	\$100	\$150

d) **Outside dining renewals.**

1. **The Nook – same two spaces on Locust Street as prior years**

6) Commission member's matters of interest.

7) Adjourn