

STAFF REPORT

To: Finance Committee Date: January 26, 2016
Via: Gary Jackson, City Manager
From: Ken Putnam, PE, Transportation Department Director
Subject: Single-Space Credit Card (Smart) Parking Meters

Summary Statement: The consideration of a proposal for the Parking Services Division to conduct a 90-day test of single-space credit card (smart) meters for on-street metered parking and an addendum to the current Fees and Charges Manual for the inclusion of a convenience fee set at the same rate as the convenience fee for Passport Parking which is currently \$0.25 per transaction.

Review: Currently, parking meters are only located in the downtown central business district as determined by City Council (Ordinance # 19-162 Meter Zones) and there are 765 metered on-street parking spaces in this area. The existing parking meters only accept coins and most of them have been in place for several years (Passport Parking enables customers to use a debit or credit card at the parking meters). Due to ever increasing and ongoing maintenance issues, staff is planning to begin replacing the parking meters in FY 2016-17. Originally, we hoped to be able to find new parking meters that only accepted coins but our research is verifying that the equipment is becoming obsolete and we are concerned that in a very few years, it might not be available any longer. So, we are now considering single-space smart meters.

In order to help with our decision process, we will be conducting a 90-day test period at 35 parking spaces in the Grove Arcade area beginning in February 2016 using IPS M5 parking meters (see attached brochure). These parking meters will accept coins, credit cards, and Passport Parking (pay-by-phone). In addition, they are capable of variable pricing which is one of the strategies that will be researched in the Comprehensive Parking Study (RFP will be released during January 2016). The parking meters use a comprehensive web-based management system (changes are accomplished via computer input) compared to the existing parking meters that require a person to physically go to each meter in order to make various changes.

City Council approved Ordinance # 4105 on August 14, 2012 to establish a convenience fee for credit/debit card usage at on-street parking meters. At the time this action was taken, Passport Parking, a pay-by-phone system, was going to be tested so the ordinance was specifically for that system. Staff suggests that a new ordinance be approved to expand the convenience fee to include credit/debit card usage for the smart meters as well.

Pros:

- Enables customers to use credit or debit cards in addition to cash.
- Enhances the Passport Parking option by "pushing" the data to the actual smart meter.

Cons:

- \$0.25 per transaction convenience fee (same convenience fee as Passport Parking).

- Credit card fees.

Fiscal Impact: The total anticipated cost of the 90-day test is about \$800 and is currently budgeted in the FY 2015-16 Parking Enterprise Fund Operating Budget.

Recommendation: Staff recommends that the Finance Committee endorse and move forward to City Council for consideration a proposal for the Parking Services Division to conduct a 90-day test of single-space credit card (smart) meters for on-street metered parking and an addendum to the current Fees and Charges Manual for the inclusion of a convenience fee set at the same rate as the convenience fee for Passport Parking which is currently \$0.25 per transaction.

Attachment
(1) Single-Space Parking Meters Brochure