



ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

County Board Agenda Item Meeting of April 16, 2011

DATE: March 29, 2011

SUBJECT: Enactment of An Ordinance to Amend, Reenact and Reordain Chapter 14.2 (Motor Vehicles and Traffic), Article I, Division 2, Subdivision D, Section 14.2-44 (b) of the Code Of Arlington County, Virginia Concerning Parking Meter Rates to be Effective on July 1, 2011.

C. M. RECOMMENDATION:

Enact an Ordinance to Amend, Reenact and Reordain Chapter 14.2 (Motor Vehicles and Traffic), Article I, Division 2, Subdivision D, Section 14.2-44 (b) of the Code Of Arlington County, Virginia Concerning Parking Meter Rates to be Effective on July 1, 2011.

ISSUES: Changing maximum parking meter rates requires County Board enactment of an Ordinance to amend the parking meter rates. The proposed increases of \$0.25 per hour would make Arlington rates consistent with other rates in the region, and will result in more efficient utilization of valuable curb space. There are no issues related to this item.

SUMMARY: Arlington County uses parking meters to encourage parking turnover and to manage curb space. The most recent change to meter rates was in 2007 (FY 2008). Since then, parking pressures have increased, parking operating costs have increased, and rates elsewhere in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan region have increased. The proposed increase in maximum rates is \$0.25 per hour. Off-street rates in Arlington's commercial areas vary. Existing maximum on-street parking meter rates in Arlington County range from \$0.75 to \$1.00 per hour. On-street parking meter rates in neighboring jurisdictions range from \$0.75 per hour to \$2.00 per hour.

BACKGROUND: Parking meter rates in the County have remained unchanged since 2007. However, during that four year period, parking pressures have increased, parking operating costs have increased, and rates in other jurisdictions have increased. The proposed increase in maximum rates is \$0.25 per hour for short-term and long-term meters.

County Manager:

BMD/mjs

County Attorney:

BAK *AKM*

Staff: Wayne Wentz, DES

32. K.

DISCUSSION: The proposed parking meter rate increase is intended to encourage more frequent turnover in parking spaces. The proposed maximum rate increase for long-term parking (four hours or more) is from the existing \$0.75 per hour to the proposed \$1.00 per hour. The proposed maximum rate increase in the short-term rate is from the existing \$1.00 per hour to the proposed \$1.25 per hour.

This increase will move Arlington's parking rates more in line with market rates and with other governmental rates in the area, as displayed in Attachment A. Other subsections of County Code Section 14.2-44 are proposed to remain unchanged at this time.

The Parking Element of the Master Transportation Plan calls for an optimal parking occupancy of 85%. Generally, County staff estimates utilization rates well over 50% in most areas, with some exceeding 90%. The proposed rate increase is one tool that can help achieve this optimal rate. Especially in areas where short term parking is needed, the rates can help to encourage parking turnover.

Consistent with the current County practice, parking meter rates lower than the maximum rates are determined by the County Manager. Some metered areas, established by the County Manager in accordance with the County Code process, have very low occupancy. To keep this valuable parking resource useful, the County Manager authorizes parking meter rates in such areas lower than the maximum rates. Generally, when County staff determines that parking spaces in an area are regularly occupied at less than 25% occupancy, then a meter rate reduction will be considered. Since the request to advertise, a phrase describing the factors to be considered by the County Manager before reducing parking meter rates has been added to the first paragraph of Section 14.2-44(b).

FISCAL IMPACT: : The proposed increase in parking meter rates will produce an additional \$1.7 million in FY 2012 and is included in the FY 2012 Budget.

COMPARATIVE PARKING METER RATES (January 2011)

The following is a table of present parking meter rates in area jurisdictions along with the proposed rates:

Location	Rate(s)	Type/Subarea
Alexandria	\$1.25 per hour \$1.75 per hour	Parts of Old Town Carlyle area, Part of Old Town
Washington, D.C.	\$2.00 per hour \$0.75 per hour	Premium business districts All other business districts
Arlington County (Existing)	\$1.00 per hour \$0.75 per hour	Short-term meters Long-term meters
(Proposed)	\$1.25 per hour \$1.00 per hour	Short-term meters Long-term meters

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND, REENACT AND REORDAIN CHAPTER 14.2 (MOTOR VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC), ARTICLE I, DIVISION 2, SUBDIVISION D, SECTION 14.2-44 (b) OF THE CODE OF ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA CONCERNING PARKING METER RATES TO BE EFFECTIVE ON JULY 1, 2011.

I. BE IT ORDAINED by the County Board of Arlington County, Virginia that Chapter 14.2, Article I, Division 2, Subdivision D, Section 14.2-44(b) of the Code of Arlington County, Virginia, is hereby amended, reenacted, and reordained, to be effective on July 1, 2011, to read, in pertinent part, as follows:

§14.2-44. Parking time limits; when parking meters operative.

* * *

(b) Parking or standing a vehicle during the hours of meter operation in a designated space or area in a parking meter zone shall be lawful upon the deposit of coin or coins of the United States of America or upon the use of a credit card or other acceptable form of payment or upon the proper designation of time on an in-vehicle parking regulator at the following maximum rates, unless a lower rate is determined by the County Manager after considering, among other factors, volume, duration, and time of day of metered parking space utilization:

- (1) *Thirty (30) minute parking meter zone:* One dollar ~~(\$1.00)~~ and twenty-five cents (\$1.25) for each hour parked.
- (2) *One (1) hour parking meter zone:* One dollar ~~(\$1.00)~~ and twenty-five cents (\$1.25) for each hour parked.
- (3) *Two (2) hour parking meter zone:* One dollar ~~(\$1.00)~~ and twenty-five cents (\$1.25) for each hour parked.
- (4) *Four (4) hour parking meter zone:* One dollar ~~(\$1.00)~~ and twenty-five cents (\$1.25) for each hour parked.
- (5) *Over four (4) hour meter zone:* ~~Seventy-five cents (\$0.75)~~ One dollar (\$1.00) for each hour parked.
- (6) *Tour bus parking zone:* Three dollars (\$3.00) for each hour parked.

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II. The remaining sections and subsections of Article I, Division 2, Subdivision D of Chapter 14.2 not hereby amended shall remain as previously enacted.

III. This Ordinance shall be effective on July 1, 2011

