

# Worksession

<b>Agenda Item #</b>	8
<b>Meeting Date</b>	September 21, 2009
<b>Prepared By</b>	Sara Anne Daines HCD Director
<b>Approved By</b>	Barbara B. Matthews City Manager

<b>Discussion Item</b>	Discussion of Amendment to Code Adding Flexibility to the Time Limits on Parking Meters in Takoma Park
<b>Background</b>	<p>The requirements set forth in <i>Takoma Park Code Chapter 3.12 Parking Meters</i> provide specific detail on the placement of parking meters throughout the community. The Code establishes specific parking meter zones - 30 minute limit, one hour limit, two hour limit, eight hour limit and 12 hour limit - and identifies the costs per increment of time that may be charged, and the specific placement and number of individual meters that can be installed within each zone.</p> <p>For example, <i>Takoma Park Code Section 13.12.030 Parking meter zones - one hour limit</i> states that “one-hour limit meters shall require \$0.25 for 30 minutes, \$0.10 for 12 minutes, and \$0.05 for 6 minutes, from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., except Sundays and holidays, at the following locations: Carroll Avenue, west curb, between 7056 Carroll Avenue and 7012 Carroll Avenue: 13 meters.” The Code goes on to identify four additional one-hour limit zones.</p> <p>While the specificity of the ordinance is informative, this level of detail has proven to be problematic on occasion as there is no provision in the Code for the City Manager to respond, in a timely manner, to situations where it may be appropriate to increase or decrease the number of parking meters located in a specific zone, increase or decrease established time limits, or adjust the fees charged or the hours the parking restrictions are enforced. To do so requires a two reading ordinance, regardless of the nature of the modification or exception.</p> <p>Recognizing the lack of flexibility of the ordinance as currently written and its effect on the City’s response time to requests such as that submitted by the Old Takoma Business Association to modify the parking limits during construction projects which have affected the number of parking spaces available for customers, staff is recommending that Sections 13.12.020 - 13.12.060 of the City Code be repealed and new language, similar to that in Section 3.24.010 which allows the City Manager to place and maintain traffic control signs and devices at his/her discretion in accordance with established regulations, be adopted.</p>

	<p>If similar language were to be incorporated into the Code for parking meters, new regulations would be written that would establish the criteria for the establishment of various meter limit zones.</p> <p>The Council asked to review the current ordinance (copy of text is included as an attachment) and to discuss its interest in repealing Sections 13.12.020 - 13.12.060 of the City Code and the incorporation of new language allowing the City Manager the authority to establish parking zones which would not require ordinance amendments.</p>
<b>Policy</b>	<p>“Engaged, Responsive and Service-Oriented Government: Ensure, in partnership with other, the delivery of high quality City service. The City Council and the City need to understand the community’s needs, be responsive to these needs, and to measure its progress in meeting those needs.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Strategic Plan FY2010-FY 2015 (Adopted May 18, 2009)</i></p>
<b>Fiscal Impact</b>	N/A
<b>Attachments</b>	<p>City Code Chapter 13.12 - Parking Meters  City Code Section 3.24.010 - Erection and Maintenance of traffic signs</p>
<b>Recommendation</b>	Discuss and provide staff with direction on how to proceed.
<b>Special Consideration</b>	<p>The Old Takoma Business Association (OTBA) has requested that the parking meters in front of the businesses along Laurel Avenue, currently limited to 30-minute parking, be changed to two hour parking during the reconstruction of the parking lot behind the businesses. As previously noted, the City Code does not allow for this to be done without an amendment to Ordinance nor does it allow the City Manager to temporarily modify the meters.</p> <p>The 30-minute meters were installed during the reconstruction of the median at the request of the community and were intended to provide parking options for customers stopping briefly to run into the post office and pick up their laundry and take-out orders from the restaurants operating along the street. Two hour parking is available on the opposite side of the street, adjacent to the church. Historically, customer and employee parking has been provided by the property owner who has maintained a surface parking lot for his tenants. The lot is being improved and, due to the scope of the project, parking for this purpose has been limited for an extended period of time.</p>

**EXCERPT - TAKOMA PARK CITY CODE**  
**Chapter 13.12 Parking Meters**

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1. Article 1. Parking Meter Zones

13.12.010 Parking meter zones--Violations--Installation.

- A. Parking meter zones, including those already established by ordinance, and those hereafter established by ordinance, shall be governed by the provisions of this chapter.
- B. The parking of motor vehicles and other vehicles in these parking meter zones, contrary to the provisions of this chapter, is prohibited.
- C. There shall be installed along designated streets and avenues within these parking meter zones parking meters and designated spaces for the parking of motor and other vehicles as provided in this chapter.

(Prior code § 13-29)

13.12.020 Parking meter zones-- 30-minute limit.

30-minute limit meters shall require \$0.25 for 30 minutes, \$0.10 for 12 minutes, and \$0.05 for 6 minutes, from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., except Sundays and holidays, at the following locations:

- A. Carroll Avenue, north curb, directly in front of 6950 Carroll Avenue: 3 meters.
- B. Laurel Avenue, east curb, Eastern Avenue to Carroll Avenue: 8 meters.

(Ord. 2005-11 (part), 2005: prior code § 13-30)

13.12.030 Parking meter zones--One-hour limit.

A. One-hour limit meters shall require \$0.50 for one hour, \$0.25 for 30 minutes, \$0.10 for 12 minutes, and \$0.05 for 6 minutes, from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., except Sundays and holidays, at the following locations:

- 1. Carroll Avenue, west curb, between 7056 Carroll Avenue and 7012 Carroll Avenue: 13 meters.
- 2. Carroll Avenue, west curb, in front of 7000 Carroll Avenue: 3 meters.
- 3. Carroll Avenue, west curb, Grant Avenue to Lee Avenue: 7 meters.
- 4. Grant Avenue, north curb, Carroll Avenue, to driveway entrance: 3 meters.
- 5. Lee Avenue, west curb, Carroll Avenue to driveway entrance: 2 meters.

B. Subsection (A)(2) of this section shall be exempted from enforcement on Saturdays between the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in addition to Sundays and holidays.

(Ord. 2005-11 (part), 2005: prior code § 13-31)

13.12.040 Parking meter zones-- 2-hour limit.

A. 2-hour limit meters shall require \$1.00 for 2 hours, \$0.50 for one hour, \$0.25 for 30 minutes, \$0.10 for 12 minutes, and \$0.05 for 6 minutes, from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., except Sundays and holidays, at the following locations:

1. Carroll Avenue, east curb, Laurel Avenue to Eastern Avenue: 13 meters.
2. Laurel Avenue, west curb, Carroll Avenue to Eastern Avenue: 6 meters.
3. Willow Avenue, east curb, Carroll Avenue to driveway entrance: 3 meters.
4. Westmoreland Avenue, south curb, from center radius of turn at intersection with Carroll Avenue to a point 260' southward: 5 meters.
5. A parking lot located on that parcel of property located between 201 Ethan Allen Avenue and 7221 Carroll Avenue.
6. Maple Avenue, east curb, between 7117 Maple Avenue and the D.C. line: 4 meters.
7. Carroll Avenue, east curb, in front of 7003 Carroll Avenue: 3 meters.
8. A parking lot located on that parcel of property located off of Carroll Avenue in B.Y. Morrison Park: 4 meters.

B. Subsections (A)(1), (2) and (3) of this section shall be exempted from enforcement on Saturdays between the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in addition to Sundays and holidays.

(Ord. 2005-11 (part), 2005: prior code § 13-32)

13.12.050 Parking meter zone-- 8-hour limit.

8-hour limit meters shall require \$0.25 for one hour, \$1.00 for 4 hours and so forth, up to 8 hours, from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., except Sundays and holidays, at the following location:

- A. Chicago Avenue, east curb, from Philadelphia Avenue to New York Avenue: 12 meters.

(Ord. 2005-11 (part), 2005: prior code § 13-32.1)

13.12.060 Parking meter zone-- 12-hour limit.

12-hour limit meters shall require \$0.25 for one hour, \$1.00 for 4 hours and so forth, up to 12 hours, from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., except Sundays and holidays, at the following location:

- A. Takoma Avenue, north curb, from New York Avenue to Fenton Street: 10 meters.

(Ord. 2005-11 (part), 2005: prior code § 13-32.2)

**EXCERPT - TAKOMA PARK CITY CODE**  
**Chapter 13.24 Traffic Signs**

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13.24.010 Erection and maintenance of traffic signs.

A. On every highway and parking area under the jurisdiction of the City, the City Administrator shall place and maintain those traffic control signs and devices that he or she considers necessary to regulate traffic and parking and for the safety or control of vehicular or pedestrian traffic.

B. The City Administrator shall issue appropriate regulations for the placement, installation and maintenance of traffic control signs and devices in the City.

(Prior code § 13-70)

13.24.020 Temporary signs--Time limit.

To deal with temporary situations, the Director of Public Works is authorized, whenever the Chief Police Officer concurs, to place, erect and maintain temporary traffic signs and devices and temporary signs controlling parking and standing, effective for not more than 72 hours.

(Prior code § 13-71)