



**CITY OF GREAT FALLS
COMMISSION AGENDA REPORT**

Item: Resolution 9779 Parking Meter Rate and Meter Violation Fine Increases

From: Mike Rattray, Community Development Director

Initiated By: Mike Rattray, Community Development Director

Presented By: Kim McCleary, Parking Supervisor

Action Requested: Set Public Hearing on Resolution 9779

Suggested Motion:

1. Commissioner moves:

“I move that the City Commission set a public hearing for Resolution 9779 Parking Meter Rate and Meter Violation Fine Increases for October 6, 2008”

2. Mayor calls for a second, discussion, inquiries from the public, and calls the vote.

Staff Recommendation: The Community Development staff recommends the City Commission set a public hearing for Resolution 9779 Parking Meter Rate and Meter Violation Citation Fine Increases for October 6, 2008.

Background: An analysis of anticipated cost increases for operating and maintaining the downtown parking garages and off-street surface lots, and the projected revenue for the 2008/09 downtown parking program during the annual budget process revealed a projected deficit. The purpose of the rate increase is to generate enough revenue to cover projected costs over the next five years. Staff conducted a survey of meter and citation rates in five major Montana cities, as well as, three cities in the region. This survey revealed that hourly meter rates range from \$.25 in Great Falls and Kalispell to \$.50 per hour in Missoula and Helena. The meter violation fine ranges from \$2 in Missoula, \$5 in Helena and Billings, and \$10 in Kalispell. Regionally, meter rates run from \$.60 to \$1 per hour, and meter violation citation fines range from \$5 to \$15. Staff presented the proposed incremental rate increases to the Parking Advisory Commission at their May 21, 2008 meeting. The Parking Advisory Commission concurred with staff’s recommendation for a meter rate increase to \$.50 per hour, and a meter violation fine of \$5. Over the past several years, there has been a steady increase of people working downtown that are regularly parking at the meters. Meter costs and the citation fine for meter violations are so low that it actually encourages the downtown workers to park at the meter rather than seek long term off-street parking. One of the downtown parking program’s goals is to create turnover in parking spaces on the street to allow ample parking for shoppers and people conducting short-

term business transactions downtown. There are five off-street parking lots and two parking garages available for longer term parking. There is no anticipated workload impacts to City staff or Standard Parking employees expected with these increases. The last hourly meter rate increase was from \$.10 to \$.25 in 1981. The last increase in the meter violation fine was from \$2 to \$3 in 1987.

Concurrences: The Parking Advisory Commission supports the staff recommendation to increase the hourly rate from \$.25 to \$.50, and increase the meter violation fine from \$3 to \$5.

Fiscal Impact: With rising costs to operate and maintain the City's downtown parking facilities, City staff is projecting a deficit in program funds for fiscal year 2008/2009 and into the future. Currently the revenue generated from the meters and the off-street parking facilities meet the operating expenses, but does not provide for annual capital improvements required to maintain the off-street parking facilities. The projected increase in revenue to the parking program, with an increase of \$.25 per hour, is estimated to be approximately \$14,000 per month and \$168,000 annually. Conservatively estimating a 3% increase in costs annually, the estimated increase in revenue could cover costs through the next five fiscal years without an additional increase. The revenue generated from citations goes into the City's general fund.

Alternatives: The City Commission can choose to adopt or deny Resolution 9779. If the Resolution is denied, needed capital improvements to parking facilities would be deferred indefinitely, and operating expenditures would be affected. Needed capital for the general fund would be lost. Incremental meter rate increases and corresponding revenue projections with a 0% increase, 40% (\$.10) increase, 60% (\$.15) increase, 80% (\$.20) increase and 100% (\$.25) increase are attached for consideration as alternatives.

Attachments/Exhibits: Meter Rate Increase Projections
Citation Revenue Projection
6-Year Projected Expenditures