

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

CITY OF LOWELL

In City Council

ORDINANCE

An Ordinance Amending "The Code of Ordinances City of Lowell, Massachusetts" With Respect to various articles in Chapter 266 as they relate to parking rates and fines: Article VII Entitled, "Parking Meters"; Article IX Entitled "Public Off-Street Parking Areas"; and Article XI entitled "Miscellaneous Parking Fines".

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LOWELL, as follows:

"The Code for the City of Lowell," hereinafter called the "Code", adopted by the City Council on December 23, 2008, is hereby amended with respect to Chapter 266 thereof, by amending certain sections relating to parking rates and or fines.

It is recommended to update some Parking Rates and Fines in the Parking Department.

1. **\$266-90. Parking meter rate.**

A. Notwithstanding anything in this Article VII to the contrary, the parking meter rate for all parking meters in all areas of the City is \$0.30 for each 12 minutes and \$1.50 for each hour is hereby amended to read as follows:

A. Notwithstanding anything in this Article VII to the contrary, the parking meter rate in the City of Lowell is hereby established according to the following levels of demand:

High Demand Zones – the parking meter rate for all parking spaces in high demand zones is \$0.50 for each 12 minutes and \$2.50 for each hour.

Moderate Demand Zones – the parking meter rate for all parking spaces in moderate demand zones is \$0.40 for each 12 minutes and \$2.00 for each hour.

Low Demand Zones – the parking meter rate for all parking spaces in low demand zones if \$0.30 for each 12 minutes and \$1.50 for each hour.

The relative level of demand zone for a particular parking space may be determined by the Parking Director based on an examination of the parking data from the kiosk computer system for a period of at least three months.

If, during the examination period, the level of demand in a particular space or block of spaces exceeds 85%, the Parking Director may, upon approval by the City Manager, designate said spaces as “**High Demand Zones**”.

If, during the examination period, the level of demand in a particular space or block of spaces is below 15%, the Parking Director may, upon approval by the City Manager, designate said spaces as “**Low Demand Zones**”.

In any zone within the Central Business District, the Parking Director, may with the approval of the City Manager, grant a fifteen (15) minute grace period, in an effort to promote economic development.

2. **§266-115. Hours of operation; changes.**

Parking meter rates shall be applicable between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. on any day, except Sundays and holidays.

3. **§266-120. Davidson Street Lot.**

The schedules of parking rates at the Davidson Street Lot for monthly pass card holders and transient (hourly) rate parking, effective July 1, 2024, shall be amended as follows:

B. Monthly pass card rates.

- (1) Individual pass card: \$125, market rate.
- (2) Pass cards, group billing (20 or more): \$112.50, 90% of market rate.
- (3) Residents of central business district: \$93.75, 75% of market rate.
- (4) Persons 65 years of age and over, or those 62 years of age and over receiving a reduced rate as of the passage of this ordinance, residing in downtown Lowell and handicapped or disabled persons residing in downtown Lowell shall pay \$46.50 per month per space.

C. Transient (hourly) rates.

Hours	Fee
Up to 1 hr	\$1.50
Up to 2 hrs	\$3.00
Up to 3 hrs	\$4.50
Up to 4 hrs	\$6.00
Up to 5 hrs	\$7.50
Up to 6 hrs	\$9.00
6 to 24 hrs	\$11.00

And inserting a new section C which shall read as follows:

“C. CPI Adjustment. All parking rates in this section shall be adjusted upward (but not downward) annually based on the Consumer Price Index plus 1% each July 1, effective 7/1/25. Adjustments shall be rounded to the nearest quarter.”

4. **§266-121. Joseph Downes Parking Garage.**

By Amending Section B as follows:

B. Parking Rates. The schedules of parking rates at the Joseph Downes Parking Garage for monthly pass card holders and transient (30 minute) rate parking, effective July 1, 2024, shall be amended as follows:

(1) Monthly pass card rates.

- a. Individual pass card: \$125, market rate
- b. Pass cards, group billing (20 or more): \$112.50, 90% of market rate
- c. Residents of the central business district: \$93.75, 75% of market rate
- d. Persons 65 years of age and over, or those 62 years of age and over receiving a reduced rate as of the passage of this ordinance, residing in downtown Lowell and handicapped or disabled persons residing in downtown Lowell shall pay \$46.50 per space per month

(2) Transient (30 minute) rate.

Hours	Fee
Up to 30 mins	\$0
30 mins - 1 hr	\$1.00
1 - 1.5 hrs	\$2.00
1.5 - 2 hrs	\$3.00
2 - 2.5 hrs	\$4.00
2.5 – 3 hrs	\$5.00
3 – 3.5 hrs	\$6.00
3.5 – 4 hrs	\$7.00
4 – 4.5 hrs	\$8.00
4.5 – 5 hrs	\$9.00

5 – 5.5 hrs	\$10.00
5.5 – 6 hrs	\$11.00
6 – 6.5 hrs	\$12.00
6.5 – 7 hrs	\$13.00
7 – 7.5 hrs	\$14.00
7.5 – 8 hrs	\$15.00
8 – 24 hrs	\$16.00

And inserting a new section C which shall read as follows:

“C. CPI Adjustment. All parking rates in this section shall be adjusted upward (but not downward) annually based on the Consumer Price Index plus 1% each July 1, effective 7/1/25. Adjustments shall be rounded to the nearest quarter.”

5. §266-122. Leo A. Roy Parking Garage.

The schedules of parking rates at the Leo A. Roy Parking Garage for monthly pass card holders and transient (30 minute) rate parking, effective July 1, 2024, shall be amended as follows:

A. Monthly pass card rates.

- (1) Individual pass card: \$125, market rate
- (2) Pass cards, group billing (20 or more): \$112.50, 90% of market rate
- (3) Residents of the central business district: \$93.75, 75% of market rate
- (4) Persons 65 years of age and over, or those 62 years of age and over receiving a reduced rate as of the passage of this ordinance, residing in downtown Lowell and handicapped or disabled persons residing in downtown Lowell shall pay \$46.50 per space per month

B. Transient (30 minute) rate.

Hours	Fee
Up to 30 mins	\$0
30 mins - 1 hr	\$1.00
1 - 1.5 hrs	\$2.00
1.5 - 2 hrs	\$3.00
2 - 2.5 hrs	\$4.00

2.5 – 3 hrs	\$5.00
3 – 3.5 hrs	\$6.00
3.5 – 4 hrs	\$7.00
4 – 4.5 hrs	\$8.00
4.5 – 5 hrs	\$9.00
5 – 5.5 hrs	\$10.00
5.5 – 6 hrs	\$11.00
6 – 6.5 hrs	\$12.00
6.5 – 7 hrs	\$13.00
7 – 7.5 hrs	\$14.00
7.5 – 8 hrs	\$15.00
8 – 24 hrs	\$16.00

And inserting a new section C which shall read as follows:

“C. CPI Adjustment. All parking rates in this section shall be adjusted upward (but not downward) annually based on the Consumer Price Index plus 1% each July 1, effective 7/1/25. Adjustments shall be rounded to the nearest quarter.”

6. §266-123. Lower Locks Parking Facility.

The schedules of parking rates at the Lower Locks Parking Facility for monthly pass card holders and transient (hourly) rate parking, effective July 1, 2024, shall be amended as follows:

- A. Monthly pass card rates.
 - (1) Individual pass card: \$125, market rate
 - (2) Pass cards, group billing (20 or more): \$112.50, 90% of market rate
 - (3) Residents of the central business district: \$93.75, 75% of market rate
 - (4) Persons 65 years of age and over, or those 62 years of age and over receiving a reduced rate as of the passage of this ordinance, residing in downtown Lowell and handicapped or disabled persons residing in downtown Lowell shall pay \$46.50 per space per month
- B. Transient (hourly) rate.

Hours	Fee
Per hour	\$1.00

And inserting a new section C which shall read as follows:

“C. CPI Adjustment. All parking rates in this section shall be adjusted upward (but not downward) annually based on the Consumer Price Index plus 1% each July 1, effective 7/1/25. Adjustments shall be rounded to the nearest quarter.”

7. §266-124. George A. Ayotte Parking Facility.

The schedules of parking rates at the Lower Locks Parking Facility for monthly pass card holders and transient (hourly) rate parking, effective July 1, 2024, shall be amended as follows:

A. Monthly pass card rates.

- (1) Individual pass card: \$125, market rate
- (2) Pass cards, group billing (20 or more): \$112.50, 90% of market rate
- (3) Residents of the central business district: \$93.75, 75% of market rate
- (4) All students within the City of Lowell public school system shall pay \$33 per month per space. Persons 65 years of age and over, or those 62 years of age and over receiving a reduced rate as of the passage of this ordinance, residing in downtown Lowell and handicapped or disabled persons residing in downtown Lowell shall pay \$46.50 per space per month.
- (5) Spaces shall be provided to the Wannalancit Tech Center. The monthly rate for the first one hundred spaces will be set at \$25.20 per month and each additional space will have a monthly rate of \$22.05, as adjusted annually based on the Consumer Price Index.

B. Transient (hourly) rate.

Hours	Fee
Per hour	\$1.00

And inserting a new section C which shall read as follows:

“C. CPI Adjustment. All parking rates in this section shall be adjusted upward (but not downward) annually based on the Consumer Price Index plus 1% each July 1, effective 7/1/25. Adjustments shall be rounded to the nearest quarter.”

8. §266-125. Edward J. Early Parking Garage.

By Amending Section B as follows:

- B. **Parking Rates.** The schedules of parking rates at the Edward J. Early Parking Garage for monthly pass card holders and transient (30 minute) rate parking, effective July 1, 2024, shall be amended as follows:

(1) **Monthly pass card rates.**

- a. Individual pass card: \$125, market rate
- b. Pass cards, group billing (20 or more): \$112.50, 90% of market rate
- c. Residents of the central business district: \$93.75, 75% of market rate
- d. Persons 65 years of age and over, or those 62 years of age and over receiving a reduced rate as of the passage of this ordinance, residing in downtown Lowell and handicapped or disabled persons residing in downtown Lowell shall pay \$46.50 per space per month

(2) **Transient (30 minute) rate.**

Hours	Fee
Up to 30 mins	\$0
30 mins - 1 hr	\$1.00
1 - 1.5 hrs	\$2.00
1.5 - 2 hrs	\$3.00
2 - 2.5 hrs	\$4.00
2.5 – 3 hrs	\$5.00
3 – 3.5 hrs	\$6.00
3.5 – 4 hrs	\$7.00
4 – 4.5 hrs	\$8.00
4.5 – 5 hrs	\$9.00
5 – 5.5 hrs	\$10.00
5.5 – 6 hrs	\$11.00
6 – 6.5 hrs	\$12.00
6.5 – 7 hrs	\$13.00
7 – 7.5 hrs	\$14.00
7.5 – 8 hrs	\$15.00

8 – 24 hrs	\$16.00
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And inserting a new section E as follows:

“E. CPI Adjustment. All parking rates in this section shall be adjusted upward (but not downward) annually based on the Consumer Price Index plus 1% each July 1, effective 7/1/25. Adjustments shall be rounded to the nearest quarter.”

9. **§266-126. HCID Parking Facility.**

By Amending Section B as follows:

B. Parking Rates. The schedules of parking rates at the HCID Parking Facility for monthly pass card holders and transient (hourly) rate parking, effective July 1, 2024, shall be amended as follows:

(1) Monthly pass card rates.

- a. Individual pass card: \$125, market rate
- b. Pass cards, group billing (20 or more): \$112.50, 90% of market rate
- c. Residents of the central business district: \$93.75, 75% of market rate
- d. Persons 65 years of age and over, or those 62 years of age and over receiving a reduced rate as of the passage of this ordinance, residing in downtown Lowell and handicapped or disabled persons residing in downtown Lowell shall pay \$46.50 per space per month

(2) Transient (hourly) rate.

Hours	Fee
Up to 1 hr	\$1.50
Up to 2 hrs	\$3.00
Up to 3 hrs	\$4.50
Up to 4 hrs	\$6.00
Up to 5 hrs	\$7.50
Up to 6 hrs	\$9.00
Up to 7 hrs	\$10.50
Up to 8 hrs	\$12.00
8 to 24 hrs	\$14.00

And inserting a new section E as follows:

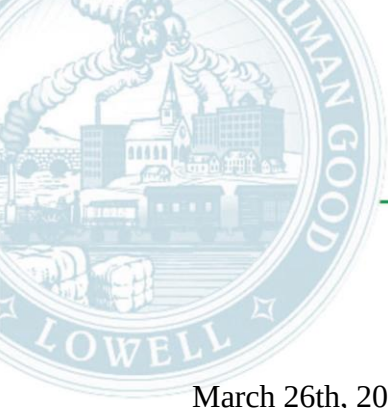
“E. CPI Adjustment. All parking rates in this section shall be adjusted upward (but not downward) annually based on the Consumer Price Index plus 1% each July 1, effective 7/1/25. Adjustments shall be rounded to the nearest quarter.”

10. All provisions of the Lowell City Code, as amended, which are consistent with this Ordinance, shall continue in effect, but all provisions of said Code inconsistent herewith, are repealed.

11. This Ordinance shall take effect upon its passage in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 43 of the Massachusetts General Laws.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Corey Williams
City Solicitor



Thomas A. Golden, Jr.
City Manager

March 26th, 2024

Mayor Daniel Rourke
And
Members of the Lowell City Council

Dear Mayor Rourke and Members of the Lowell City Council,

I am hereby requesting the council vote to amend the city's ordinances related to the Parking Enterprise Fund rate fees. These purposed ordinances, if amended, will allow for much needed additional revenue in the Parking Enterprise Fund by increasing rates along with generating new fees. Since my administration began, a Parking Enterprise Fund rate amendment has been discussed with the City Council as a whole and through several subcommittee meetings. Through these discussions, the Parking Director has worked in conjunction with my Finance Team and the Law Department to carefully draft these new fees to not overly burden the taxpayers. During our last public hearing regarding these amendments, suggestions were brought forth by the residents and the City Council. This purposed ordinance reflects these changes by reducing the hours of enforcement for the parking meter rates from 10 P.M to 8 P.M as well as adding language to remove the CPI adjustment for July 1, 2024 and having it begin again on July 1, 2025. I have asked the Law Department to prepare this ordinance with these amended sections.

Please let me know if there are any questions.

Sincerely,

Thomas A. Golden, Jr.
City Manager

CC: Conor Baldwin, Chief Financial Officer
Terry Ryan, Parking Director