


City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: APRIL 5, 2011

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER 

SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH METER HOURS IN METER ZONES ONE AND TWO IN OLD TOWN

ISSUE: Consideration of a resolution to establish meter hours of 8:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. in all of Meter Zone One and Meter Zone Two six days a week Monday-Saturday except legal holidays.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council adopt the attached resolution (Attachment 1) which establishes uniform times the parking meters are in use in Meter Zones One and Two in the Old Town area, effective once the balance of the planned multi-space meters have been installed and are operational.

DISCUSSION: City Council held a work session on October 12 to discuss the recommendations of the Old Town Area Parking Study Work Group. At that time, Council accepted staff's recommendation to defer making changes in Old Town parking meter hours until the new multi-space meters could be installed by April of 2011. The proposed resolution was prepared to enable Council to implement new and consistent meter hours in Old Town. The Carlyle area is a district parking zone and its hours are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and are not proposed to change at this time.

The metered area of Old Town is divided into two meter zones. The metered spaces located on Henry Street and east to the Potomac River are within Meter Zone One and metered spaces located to the west of Henry Street to the Metrorail line are within Meter Zone Two. Currently, the hours of operation of the parking meters within both zones vary, but the days of operation are consistent and stated in the City Code as every day of the week except Sundays and legal State holidays. The City Code also states that the daily hours of operation of the meters included in the area to the east of Washington Street and bounded by Princess Street, Wolfe Street, and the Potomac River shall be in operation from 8:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. (Monday- Saturday). The Code states that the daily hours of operation of the other meters in Zones One and the meters in Zone Two shall be determined by resolution of the City Council.

Currently, as shown on the attached map (Attachment 2), meters in the area between Washington Street and Patrick Street are in operation between 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. and meters in the area between Henry Street and the Metro rail line are in operation between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Metered spaces on Patrick Street are not needed for HOV lanes during rush hour. The meters on Washington Street are in operation between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. except during the times in which the parking lane is used as HOV travel lanes during rush hour.

Meter operational hours are normally dependent on the times in which the parking spaces are in demand. This can be determined through occupancy studies of the area in question. The Old Town Area Parking Study showed that the metered spaces in these areas are in demand during the current operational hours and also during some non-operational times, such as Friday and Saturday nights. At these peak hours when the meters are not operational, parkers may leave their vehicles parked at no cost until the meters are operational again the following day or at such time that an additional parking restriction is in effect.

Establishing meter hours of 8:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. in Meter Zones One and Two would establish consistency throughout the Old Town metered area. Consistent meter hours throughout the Old Town area would reduce confusion for parkers and help to advance more turnover in parking spaces in the area. It should be noted that these hours will be modified by High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) restrictions on Washington Street, where the uniform meter hours will not apply to the northbound lane during the a.m. HOV period, and will also not apply to the p.m. HOV period to the southbound lane.

The Old Town Area Parking Study showed that occupancy rates where meter restrictions end earlier than 7:00 p.m. are at or above 80% on the majority of the blocks at 7:00 p.m. Extending the operational hours of the meters to 7:00 p.m. would encourage turnover in the metered area, which are generally considered to be the most convenient parking spaces in the Old Town area. Operation of the meters until 7:00 p.m. would encourage the use of off-street parking facilities for visitors who plan to stay in the area for longer than two hours in the evenings and reduce the use of these valuable metered parking spaces as long-term parking by business owners and their employees, opening the spaces for customers and short-term visitors.

Extending the evening operational hours and encouraging turnover at the premium spaces also reduces the number of drivers who circle the block or the area in the hopes of finding prime parking. This circling can represent a material percent of on street traffic during peak parking demand time periods. This tends to occur more frequently in the evening when the meters are not in use, as is the case after 5:00 p.m. or 6:00 p.m. at the metered spaces under consideration. This practice adds to congestion in the streets, frustration in drivers, and environmental issues such as poor air quality and increased fuel consumption.

Similar localities in the area have meter operational hours as shown in the chart below.

Figure 1 – Jurisdictional Meter Operational Times

Locality	Meter Operational Hours	Meter Operational Days
Alexandria	8:00 a.m. – 5:00, 6:00, 7:00 p.m.	Monday – Saturday (except holidays)
Arlington	8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.	Monday – Saturday (except holidays)
Georgetown	7:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.	Monday – Saturday (except holidays)
Bethesda	9:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.	Monday – Saturday (except holidays)
Annapolis	10:00 a.m. – 7:30 p.m.	Monday – Sunday (including holidays)

Extension of meter hours was a recommendation in the Old Town Area Parking Study and the Old Town Area Parking Study Work Group supported this recommendation. Establishing consistency in meter hours was generally supported by City Council during its October 12 City Council Work Session on the Old Town Area Parking Study. Staff recommends that the new meter hours go into effect once all of the multi-space meters in Meter Zones One and Two are brought online, which is expected to occur by April 30. While the attached resolution indicates that the resolution is “effective immediately,” section 2 of the resolution delegates to the City Manager when it is appropriate to change the meter hours. That gives City staff some flexibility as to the implementation date, given that issues may arise in making this transition. The Traffic and Parking Board unanimously approved these recommended changes in hours.

In its decision to purchase the multi-space meters, Council approved a temporary rollback in the single meter rate to \$1.25 per hour, with the intent that when the multi-space meters are installed and become operational, the rate would revert to \$1.75 per hour. The current multi-space meters in Carlyle and in the 100 and 200 blocks of King Street charge the \$1.75 per hour rate.

FISCAL IMPACT: Extension of the meter operational hours in Meter Zones One and Two until 7:00 p.m. Monday- Saturday would result in an estimated increase in an annual parking meter revenue of \$100,000 to \$150,000 based on the increase of parking meter rates to \$1.75 per hour with the installation of multi-space meters. This additional revenue, if Council approves this proposed uniform hours resolution, will be included in the FY 2012 General Fund revenue re-estimates.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Attachment 1: Resolution to Establish Meter Operational Hours
- Attachment 2: Meter Operational Hours Map

STAFF:

Mark Jinks, Deputy City Manager

Bruce Johnson, Chief Financial Officer

Richard J. Baier, P.E., LEED AP, Director, T&ES

Blaine Corle, Deputy Chief of Police

Abi Lerner, P.E., Deputy Director, T&ES

Bob Garbacz, P.E., Division Chief, Transportation, T&ES

Antonio J. Baxter, Division Chief, Administration, T&ES

Sandra Marks, Division Chief, Transportation Planning, T&ES

Andrea Wilkinson, Principal Parking Planner, T&ES

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION TO SET PARKING METER HOURS FOR ZONES 1 & 2

WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria, Virginia desires to set the parking meter rates for Zones 1 and 2; and

WHEREAS, the City is empowered by Charter Section 2.03(x) to charge for parking on its streets and is further empowered by City Code Section 5-8-93(a)(1) to set the hours for parking meters by resolution of City Council; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds and determines that the setting of such hours for parking meters is necessary and proper at this time; and

WHEREAS, the City Council wishes to authorize the City Manager to proceed with all steps necessary to implement the parking meter hours set forth herein;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA:

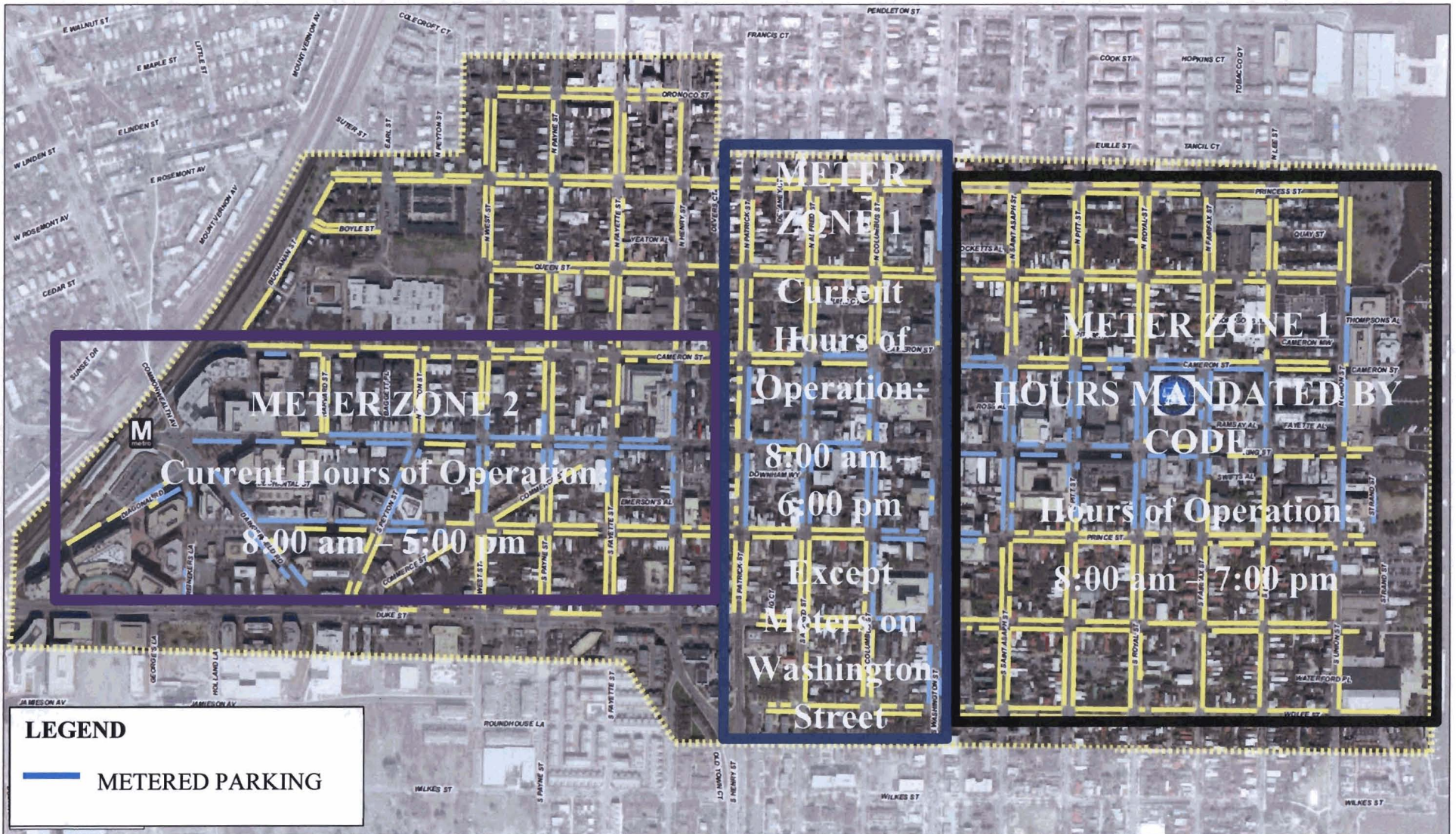
1. That the parking meter hours throughout parking meter zones 1 and 2 every day of the week except Sundays and legal State holidays be set to commence at 8:00 a.m. and end at 7:00 p.m., as modified where appropriate by any applicable HOV restrictions; and
2. That the City Manager be, and hereby is, authorized and directed to take such additional actions as may be necessary or convenient to set the parking meter hours as set forth by this Resolution; and
3. That the City Clerk be, and hereby is, authorized and directed to affix the seal of the City to such documents as may be necessary or convenient implement this Resolution; and
4. That this Resolution shall be effective immediately.

ADOPTED: _____

WILLIAM D. EUILLE, MAYOR

ATTEST:

Jacqueline M. Henderson, MMC City Clerk



**ALL METERS IN ZONES 1 AND 2 ARE CURRENTLY OPERATIONAL
 MONDAY – SATURDAY
 EXCEPT LEGAL STATE HOLIDAYS**

RESOLUTION NO. 2445

RESOLUTION TO SET PARKING METER HOURS FOR ZONES 1 & 2

WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria, Virginia desires to set the parking meter rates for Zones 1 and 2; and

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WHEREAS, the City Council finds and determines that the setting of such hours for parking meters is necessary and proper at this time; and

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OF THE CITY OF ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA:**

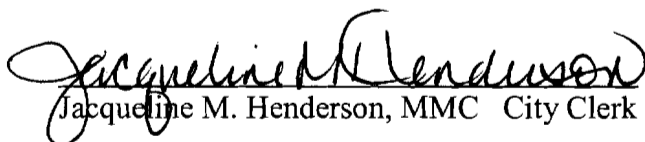
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2. That the City Manager be, and hereby is, authorized and directed to take such additional actions as may be necessary or convenient to set the parking meter hours as set forth by this Resolution; and
3. That the City Clerk be, and hereby is, authorized and directed to affix the seal of the City to such documents as may be necessary or convenient implement this Resolution; and
4. That this Resolution shall be effective immediately.

Adopted: April 12, 2011



WILLIAM D. EULLE MAYOR

ATTEST:


Jacqueline M. Henderson, MMC City Clerk