

ORDINANCE NO. 2024 - 125

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 358 TITLED "PARKING METERS", IN ORDER TO CHANGE SECTIONS 358.01, 358.06, 358.11 AND ADDING A NEW SECTION 358.16, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

WHEREAS, the City of Kent wishes to amend Chapter 358 titled "Parking Meters" in order to change sections 358.01, 358.06, 358.11 and adding a new section 358.16 of the Codified Ordinances in order to address inclement weather, compliance and enforcement, meter hours and new EV charging stations.

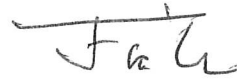
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Kent, Portage County, Ohio:

SECTION 1. That Council does hereby amend Chapter 358 titled "Parking Meters" in order to change sections 358.01, 358.06, 358.11 and adding a new section 358.16 of the Codified Ordinances per Exhibit "A", attached hereto and made a part thereof.

SECTION 2. That it is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the adoption of this Ordinance were adopted in an open meeting of this Council and that all deliberations of this Council, and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action, were in meetings open to the public in compliance with all legal requirements of Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

SECTION 3. That this Ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, safety, and welfare of the residents of this City, for which reason and other reasons manifest to this Council this Ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure and shall take effect and be in force immediately after passage.

PASSED: December 18, 2024
Date



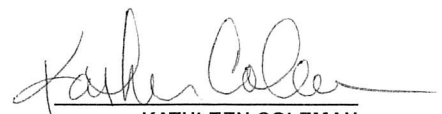
Jerry T. Fiala
Mayor and President of Council

EFFECTIVE: December 18, 2024
Date

ATTEST: Kathleen Coleman
Kathleen Coleman
Interim Clerk of Council

I, KATHLEEN COLEMAN, INTERIM CLERK OF COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF KENT, COUNTY OF PORTAGE, AND STATE OF OHIO, AND IN WHOSE CUSTODY THE ORIGINAL FILES AND RECORDS OF SAID COUNCIL ARE REQUIRED TO BE KEPT BY THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF OHIO, HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING IS A TRUE AND EXACT COPY OF ORDINANCE No. 2024-125, ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENT ON December 18, 2024.

(SEAL)



KATHLEEN COLEMAN
INTERIM CLERK OF COUNCIL



CITY OF KENT, OHIO

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

DATE: November 20, 2024

TO: Dave Ruller, City Manager

FROM: Bridget Susel, Community Development Director

RE: Amendments to Chapter 358: Parking Meters

In 2014, Council approved the return of parking meters to the downtown as part of the much larger downtown redevelopment project that was undertaken to revitalize the City's central business district and promote greater economic development. Meters were re-introduced primarily to keep the on-street downtown parking spaces rotating for patrons visiting the new and existing businesses downtown, rather than as a means of penalizing for parking violations.

Since the pandemic, many of the City's small businesses have reported concerns about a lack of foot traffic into their various establishments. Coupled with this concern, is an increase in recent months in the number of complaints being submitted to City staff regarding two different meter related issues, specifically:

1. Meter parking citations issued when a patron cannot read an LCD screen because of weather conditions (i.e. condensation in cold/rain); and
2. Instances where a person purchased 2 hours of time at a meter, but then pulls out of the parking space and there is still time left on the 2-hours purchased, but because of the maximum 2-hour parking regulation, the meter will not allow time to be added until the full two-hour previously purchased has expired.

In order to identify a possible approach to mitigating concerns raised regarding the second issue listed above, the meters' programming was temporarily adjusted to allow a 30-minute expansion of time on the payment period to see if it would assist with addressing the system limitation inherent in the meters' programming that causes this issue. The temporary adjustment was successful in reducing the complaints associated with not being able to add time to the parking meters, so the administration is

recommending a proposed amendment to Chapter 358 to increase the allowed parking time from its current two (2) hours to three (3) hours for all metered parking spaces.

The administration is also recommending a second proposed amendment to address the first issue that will specify that during increment weather or when outside conditions generate issues that make it difficult to adequately read the meter screens (i.e. condensation, ice, snow), the Compliance Officer(s) can exercise discretion and not issue a citation at a meter until such time the outdoor weather conditions improve and the LCD screens on the meters are readable.

Since amendments to Chapter 358 are being proposed, a third amendment is being presented for Council's consideration regarding the payment for charging time at the two dual-port "electrical vehicle charging stations (EVCS)" to be installed at the new city hall. Since these will be the first EVCS under the purview of the City, an amendment is needed to the Kent Codified Ordinances (KCO) to establish the requirement for payment and time limits on use at the charging stations to ensure regulations are enacted prior to the charging stations becoming operational.

I am respectfully requesting time at the December 4, 2024 Council Committee meeting to discuss the proposed amendments to Chapter 358 in greater detail and to request Council authorization, with emergency, to adopt the proposed amendments to Chapter 358.

If you need any additional information in order to add this item to the agenda, please let me know.

Thank you.

Attachments

Cc: Nick Shearer, Police Chief
Kathy Coleman, Interim Clerk of Council
Melanie Baker, Service Director
Julie Morris, Sustainability Coordinator

Blue Text: New language

Red Text: Stricken

358.01 DEFINITIONS.

As used in this chapter, the following words shall have the meanings indicated:

- a) "Parking meter" means a pay-operated automatic or mechanical meter placed or erected for the regulation of parking.
- b) "Parking meter space" means a space within a parking meter zone, adjacent to a parking meter and designated for the parking of a single vehicle, by lines painted or otherwise marked on the curb or on the parking surface.
- c) "Parking meter zone" means that portion of a street or other public area on which the parking of vehicles is regulated by parking meters.
- d) "Electric vehicle charging station" or "EVCS" means a public parking space that is served by battery charging station equipment for the purpose of transferring electrical energy (by conductive or inductive means) to a battery or other energy storage device within an electrical vehicle.

358.06 PARKING TIME LIMITS.

- a) Parking or standing a vehicle in a designated meter space within the parking meter zones, as established by Section 358.02, shall be no more than ~~two (2)~~ three (3) hours upon the deposit of the proper payment required for legal parking time, and in sufficient amount so as to prevent any vehicle so parked from being parked overtime in such space, as such time and amount are disclosed on the meter installed for the control of each such space.
- b) Parking meters shall be operated in such parking meter zones every day between the hours of ~~8:00 a.m.~~ 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. except Saturdays, Sundays, holidays and other days designated by the mayor as parking holidays. Holiday includes the following days: New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and Good Friday. If any of such days falls on the first day of the week, known as Sunday, the next succeeding business day shall be considered a holiday.

358.11 ENFORCEMENT; CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES.

- a) It shall be the duty of the Police Department to enforce the provisions of this chapter. The Police Chief, with approval from the Safety Director, may hire civilian employees of the City to enforce all of the parking provisions in the City of Kent's Codified Ordinances.
- b) During periods of inclement weather when outdoor conditions reduce visibility of a meter interface screen because of condensation, mist, snow, ice, or any other weather induced condition, the Police Department Compliance Officer(s) can exercise discretion and not issue a citation at a meter until such time outside weather conditions improve and the meter screen is readable.

358.16 ELECTRICAL VEHICLE CHARGING STATION (EVCS) PARKING

- a) If a charging station has more than one (1) port, each port shall count as a separate EVCS.
- b) Each parking space designated for an EVCS shall be clearly identified as reserved for electric vehicle charging only.
- c) Parking or standing a vehicle in a designated EVCS space shall be for no more than four (4) hours and the vehicle must be actively charging while parked.
- d) The fee and method of payment for use of the EVCS will be in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications and/or recommendations.
- e) EVCS shall be installed and operated in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications and in compliance with all electric code requirements listed in the Ohio Revised Code (ORC), as amended.
- f) Emergency shutoff devices or electrical disconnects shall be installed in an approved location accessible to patrons, but not less than 20 feet from the EVCS and clearly identified as "Emergency Electrical Vehicle Charging System Shutoff."

