



AGENDA MEMORANDUM

First Reading for the City Council Meeting January 14, 2020
Second Reading for the City Council Meeting January 21, 2020

DATE: January 14, 2020
TO: Mayor and City Council
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Ordinance amending the City Code to allow for the issuance of parking placards

CAPTION:

Ordinance amending Chapter 53 of the City Code to amend section 53-187 allowing the City Manager, Chief of Police or their designee(s) to issue parking placards to exempt executive city officials from paying parking fees for city owned, paid parking spaces while conducting official city business.

SUMMARY:

Ordinance amending the City Code to allow for the issuance of parking placards.

BACKGROUND AND FINDINGS:

The City Manager's Office is considering issuing of parking placards authorizing City Council and executive city officials to park at City parking meters and City parking facilities free of charge when on official City business.

Article IV of Chapter 53 of the City Code of Ordinances establishes the rules for paid parking within the City. In relation to public employees, section 53-45 specifically applies the provisions of Chapter 53 to "the driver of any vehicle owned by or used in the service of the United States Government, this state, county or city, and it shall be unlawful for any such driver to violate any of the provisions of this chapter, except as otherwise permitted in this chapter or by state statute."

Section 53-187(a) mandates payment of parking fees. Section 53-187(e) of the City Code enumerates the only exemptions from paid parking contained within the entire chapter. That Section provides as follows:

Section 53-187(e) enumerates the only exemptions from paid parking contained within the entire chapter, referring to Texas Transportation Code sections 681.006, 681.007, and 681.008. These sections provide specific exemptions for persons with disabilities, vehicles displaying the International Symbol of Access, and certain veteran and military award recipients, respectively.

The City Code does not allow the city manager to administratively create and issue parking placards exempting the mayor and city council or executive city officials from paying for parking while on official city business. Section 53-45 specifically applies chapter 53's parking

requirements toward public employees. It may be appropriate to establish an exemption from parking restrictions for persons on official City business. Such an exception would need to be established by city council via amendment to chapter 53 of the City Code.

ALTERNATIVES:

The City would not issue parking placards and Council Members and executive city officials would need to pay the required parking fees and be reimbursed later.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The fiscal impact is undetermined, but it is estimated to be minimal as parking usage is dependent on the frequency of official City business.

RECOMMENDATION:

The City Manager recommends this amendment to accommodate Council Members and executive city officials when they are on official City business.

LIST OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

Ordinance