

From: [Lynn Crawford](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: M2 parking changes to downtown
Date: Monday, February 20, 2023 7:59:10 PM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

I moved here 20 years ago because this city was so quaint and charming with a vibrant easy to access downtown shopping area. For years this town became even more welcoming causing the current dilemma. So many people wanting to eat, shop, work, and enjoy the downtown area that parking became a wonderful-to-have problem.

So elected officials attempted to fix it by giving employees a parking lot near the downtown so they wouldn't take up space for tourists and even paying locals to access the many shops and eateries.

The problem continued to exist as more and more people discovered this charming little town so the current pay-to park was initiated with the caveat that 2 hours would be free and an ap could be used to register license plates without having to walk to the end of the street to register. Many adjusted to this slight inconvenience and even the theater made it easier to register license plates at the movie house itself. Unfortunately the plan ended up costing the city money so a new plan is proposed.

Here is the unintended consequence of the city's proposal. Friends have come to visit but are confused by the rules so shop elsewhere. Locals have told me they went downtown to see if a local store had their special shoes in yet but didn't stop because they would have to walk all the way to the end of the block for a 10 minute stay. These same folks have already decided to stay away if they have to pay \$2 for the first hour in addition to walking to the kiosk to register. Alleviating this with a 30 minute green zone at the end of each block is not making it clear if these same folks have to PAY for this??

The General Store stated their concerns quite eloquently and I support their concerns wholeheartedly. We will adjust by changing our downtown shopping, eating, theater going, and park enjoyment activities but once all these parking spaces stay empty during "off" times the revenue generated during peak times probably won't show the profit that is expected.

The city will then change their policy again but it will be too late to change the habits of those who used to enjoy the freedoms this lovely town once enjoyed.

Lynn Crawford

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Joe Dorgan](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: Downtown parking
Date: Tuesday, February 21, 2023 9:34:52 AM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

I am writing to express my appreciation for the senior parking program that has been available for the past two years. I hope it can continue. As an 83-year-old who is unfamiliar with the kiosk technology, I have enjoyed the chance to visit the downtown area and park without concern of incurring a penalty. I am happy to pay whatever fee is selected for the annual senior downtown parking program.

Thank you for your consideration of this issue.

Sincerely, Ann Dorgan

From: [Bob McLaughlin](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: Parking Meters
Date: Monday, February 20, 2023 10:10:54 AM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

I am a 38 year resident of Paso Robles. One of the many things that make the town is the vibrant easy-to-access downtown. But parking has been an issue in recent years. City Council's solution was to encourage employees to park in designated lots thereby freeing up customer parking. The way to encourage that was the metered parking with two-hours free and a parking app that offset some of the inconvenience. The lack of a parking app makes local customer parking more inconvenient. The immediate fee for parking will drive locals away. If we have to pay to park why shop elsewhere or drink wine at the actual wineries or go elsewhere for a movie. The businesses of downtown are already struggling. Better to eliminate paid parking altogether with the city costs involved than to hurt downtown business. If they thrive, so does the city.

Dr. Bob McLaughlin

[REDACTED]

Paso Robles, CA 93446

[REDACTED]

From: [Ron Mueller](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: Proposed changes to the downtown parking.
Date: Monday, February 20, 2023 10:08:38 AM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Hello,

I'm writing to voice my concerns over the proposed changes to the downtown parking program. I am strongly against the removal of the current two hour free option. This will adversely affect the downtown businesses as well as local residents. This new plan poses huge problems for "short term" visits to downtown businesses ("short term" being visits to things like a jewelry store, ice cream store, hardware store, health food store etc..). While I don't necessarily agree with the city that the WayToPark app should have been discontinued, there are other ways to give local residents the benefit of a two hour free parking rate. The best is probably what every business I have worked for in my career did for their employees: a simple parking sticker placed in the rear window of their vehicle. If necessary a small charge for the sticker could be used to offset the implementation of this type of program. Another thing to think about is the possibility of free parking after a certain hour in the evening (6pm???) at least on weekdays which would benefit the local restaurants and residents combined.

The bottom line is this: If I, as a local resident, no longer see parking benefits downtown, then I will no longer patronize that area of Paso Robles.

Ron Mueller



From: [Sally Reynolds](#)
To: [Ty Lewis](#); [John Hamon](#); [Fred Strong](#); [Chris Bausch](#); [Steve Gregory](#); [City Clerk](#); [Damian Nord](#)
Subject: Downtown Parking Discussion #2
Date: Sunday, February 19, 2023 4:36:10 PM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

This is a very hot topic for local residents. It is apparent by placing this item last on a very busy agenda, this council wants to shove this through for approval without the public in attendance. People have to work. By the time this item is heard, it may be midnight or later. People can't be there for that many hours and they should not have to be. This program has lost money since its inception, currently in excess of 3/4 of a million dollars. It is time to cancel this program, accept our losses, and go on.

Regards,

Sally Reynolds

From: [Donna Williams](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: Fwd: Paso Robles downtown parking
Date: Monday, February 13, 2023 9:06:39 AM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Greetings Paso Robles City Clerk,

We would appreciate this email being read into the City Council meeting on February 21 at 6:30. Agenda item: Downtown Parking. We will livestream the meeting.

We are emailing you to expressed dismay at the no free parking for rural Paso Robles residents. We understand the the Way-to-Park app was discontinued on 2/10/2023 and the new program doesn't allow for any free hours. **Software is made to be programmed and adjusted to how you want it to be.** If you want to be fair to rural Paso Robles residents, you could surely make it happen.

We are very proud Paso Robles residents, as is our daughter and son-in-law. We are your rural residents. **Jim's mother lives in downtown but no longer drives. We drive her wherever she needs to go, including parking in downtown.** Also, our daughter works in downtown.

We frequent downtown often. We make purchases at many local shops as well as frequent the wonderful restaurants. The two hour free parking program is a benefit to all Paso's residents.

We understand the town needs to recoup some money. At least give rural residents one free hour of parking. It does not seem fair to single out your rural residents. It sure makes us all feel like we are not a part of the wonderful Paso community! It makes us feel as though we are tourists in our own town!

We seriously hope you reconsider the parking issue and remember the **economic impact** of all of Paso's rural residents.

Thank you for your consideration,
Donna and Jim Williams

To: Paso Robles City Clerk
1000 Spring Street
Paso Robles CA 93446
cityclerk@prcity.com

From: Jan Albin – Resident, Paso Robles
[REDACTED]

Date: February 21, 2023

Dear Mayor Martin and members of the City Council:

I attended and was part of every single meeting and stakeholder discussion for a Downtown Parking Program taking place roughly four years ago.

Not at any time was this current Pay-to-Park with Kiosks etc. the choice of those involved.

In fact, the majority of participants were more in favor of Timed Parking, but no formal vote was taken.

But when our backs were turned, and unbeknownst to all, the former City Manager signed an agreement with Dixon Resources for the program we have in place now.

The die was cast, and you, our City Council approved a program that had to borrow \$1,000,000.00 from the General Fund for start up, and one which promised to be cost-neutral in three (3) years.

Clearly that is not going to happen, as that loan, after four (4) years still has an outstanding balance of \$723,000.00.

We all recognize that downtown parking is a problem, and that it arose out of the downtown business owners not being willing or able to control their employees parking in prime customer spaces.

That lack of business acumen is their problem. It should not be the responsibility, or the burden of the entire community to solve that for them.

But because Council was eager to appease a tourist-driven downtown business community, they adopted this parking abomination in the hopes it would solve the problem and be the magic potion. It was not.

And there are too many fundamental design flaws that can not be overcome by the proposed changes.

Continuing to throw tax payer dollars at this failed program is not the solution.

I believe the only solution must come from the business owners themselves.

Maybe they draft an employment agreement for their employees to sign at hire.

That agreement specifies that as a condition of employment, they agree to park in the specifically designated parking lots or anywhere outside of the downtown core area.

Maybe we have to get back to the business community being responsible for their own success or failure and not rely on the City to fix everything that stands in their path.

There have been substantial changes to the demographics of our town in the last mainly 10 years.

Not all for the good. But for the most part, our citizens will accept that change must happen.

What they won't accept are changes that favor one faction of the community and disenfranchises another.

This program has alienated a substantial number of residents to the point of them now going anywhere else to shop and eat rather than bother with their own downtown. It has become that cumbersome and distasteful.

Four years ago you made this Downtown Parking Program decision based solely on the best interest and prosperity of the downtown business community.

That is not what you elected to do.

You were elected to make decisions in the best interest of your constituents and the *entire community*.

You've had weeks and weeks to read Social Media posts, newspaper articles and emails from your constituents and the downtown business community itself telling you what they think and how they feel about this program.

The changes you propose are not going to alter those opinions.

If you approve this "enhanced" plan, and vote to continue with this failed program, then please pay close attention to the attitude and disposition of your community going forward. Because that should be of paramount importance to you all.

Regards,
Jan Albin

From: [Jeff Carr](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: Public Comments: Discussion Item 2 -- February 21 2023 Council Mtg
Date: Tuesday, February 21, 2023 8:44:16 AM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Public Comments for February 21 2023 Council Mtg

Discussion Item 2: Downtown On-Street Parking Program

Another in the unending discussions on downtown parking. If you do nothing else in this meeting---PLEASE clarify when and how this program intends to become 'cost neutral'.

The written presentation does not make that clear. It does not include consideration of the full program. It does not consider the 'lifetime' of the kiosk meter units--that I'm told is 10 years, so replacement costs are approaching quickly. It does not consider the license plate reader (ALPR) aspect of the system. The Vigilant contract will need to be renewed in the next year or two, and there will be replacement costs for ALPR equipment.

All costs including personnel costs will most likely be rising. This technology evolves quickly, and these parking product companies like making money, so I wouldn't be surprised to see early product obsolescence and possibly a need to replace equipment earlier than in 10 years.

Please clarify that revenues resulting from the parking fee increase will cover all the program costs, pay back the General Fund loan, and that there will be reserves available in the fund to cover replacement costs as this equipment ages.

I still stand by my comments back in 2019. This parking system is wrong for downtown Paso Robles, and the parking study at that time did not dictate a need for such an expensive and complicated system.

I've never used the system and do not intend to start. But that does not allow me to ignore the complications and problems it has brought to the city. The parking system has been nothing but regular heated council meeting discussions, and ongoing public stress that is regularly illustrated on social media and in local news media. I see no end to this as the parking system will continue to be a bad fit for many local residents.

But the council--and that includes most of the current council--approved and brought this parking system to the city. So live with it, and at least get back on target to make it 'cost neutral'. This city cannot afford to maintain this system as a burden on the General Fund.

The best thing you could do is to remove the entire system and go back to how things were in 2018 with respect to downtown parking. I recommend developing and evaluating an exit strategy and a path towards separating the city from this parking

program---especially as the city approaches a time when repair and replacement costs will rise.

Jeff Carr--Paso Robles, CA