



DATE: October 9, 2018

CATEGORY: Consent

DEPT.: Public Works

TITLE: **Parking and Tow Code Amendments**

RECOMMENDATION

1. Introduce an Ordinance Amending Chapter 19 of the Mountain View City Code Related to Towing of Vehicles and Stopping, Standing, and Parking, to be read in title only, further reading waived, and set second reading for November 13, 2018 (Attachment 1 to the Council report).
2. Adopt a Resolution Prohibiting and Restricting Parking on Designated Streets, or Portions Thereof, to be read in title only, further reading waived (Attachment 2 to the Council report).

BACKGROUND

Various sections of Chapter 19 of the City Code regulate on-street parking, including time limitations, towing of vehicles, and administrative procedures. To enumerate the locations of parking restrictions (no-parking zones, no-stopping zones, no commercial vehicle parking, two-hour zones, five-hour zones, etc.), detailed tables are provided for each restriction indicating the limits of the restriction on each street as required by the California Vehicle Code (CVC). Staff periodically modifies parking restrictions to address safety concerns and for other reasons. While the City Code gives latitude to the Traffic Engineer to make some modifications to parking restrictions, to be enforceable, any modification to the restrictions enumerated requires the relatively time-consuming process of an introduction and second reading of an ordinance by the City Council. The CVC also permits cities to provide the locations subject to the restrictions in a resolution, which requires a public hearing but only one reading.

Some of the language in Chapter 19 is also out of date with current City practices and with the CVC.

ANALYSIS

Staff recommends amending the City Code to streamline future modifications to parking restrictions and update the language in the Code. Each is described briefly below.

Parking Revisions

A recent example of new parking prohibitions is the restriction of vehicles over 6' in height in areas where several commercial trucks or recreational vehicles park. In some locations, these tall vehicles impede visibility at driveways and intersections, causing a safety concern. To improve visibility while leaving as much parking as possible for other (shorter) vehicles, staff installed signs indicating "No Parking of Vehicles over Six Feet in Height" on Latham Street and other locations where visibility was compromised.

These signs were installed in anticipation of bringing an amended ordinance forward to the Council to address and eliminate a traffic hazard, but these locations have not yet been codified in the tables in Chapter 19.

To streamline the process of updating the City Code as new parking restrictions are implemented, staff recommends utilizing resolutions instead of ordinances as permitted by the CVC to identify the locations for parking prohibitions and restrictions. Revisions would still require Council approval, but streamline the process and reduce the staff time needed to implement any changes to the locations by resolution which requires only one Council action rather than two (introduction of and subsequent second reading of an ordinance).

The recommended actions would make the necessary changes to the City Code and also codify all existing parking restrictions by resolution (Attachment 2). As additional parking restrictions are implemented in the future, or inconsistencies are found between existing signage and adopted restrictions, staff will return with new resolutions codifying the restrictions.

To provide appropriate notice of parking restrictions, signage and markings will continue to be placed in the field in the manner required by the CVC, and parking restrictions will also be published on the City's website.

Tow Revisions

The recommended revisions also clarify in the City Code that the Police Department has the authority to tow vehicles that are in violation of parking prohibitions indicated by signs that are erected in the manner required by the CVC. Such prohibitions may be permanent or temporary (special events, construction, etc.). The recommended revisions do not change current Police Department practice, but serve to clarify the authority to tow in the City Code.

Other Minor Revisions

Other revisions include updating the name and location of the court where parking citation appeals are heard and other minor clarifications.

FISCAL IMPACT

The requested Code amendments will be processed by existing staff in the City Clerk's Office, City Attorney's Office, and Police Department and Public Works Department and not require any additional or special funding.

The cost of future resolutions to add or delete locations will also be handled by existing staff resources.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Do not introduce an ordinance.
2. Direct staff to take other action.

PUBLIC NOTICING – Agenda posting.

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JAS-MAF/JA/3/CAM
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Attachments: 1. Ordinance
2. Resolution

cc: ACA, SDCA, TE, STE, ATCM – Thomas, PL – Jaeger, PS – Albarillo, PS – Magee,
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Approved by:

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