

Aldermen,

Please support expanding the hours on parking meters downtown. Street parking is a valuable resource that's best used for quick visits, such as a quick meal or stop in a store. Meters encourage this usage, while discouraging people from taking up valuable space for a multi-hour stay. Priced correctly, they also encourage people to park in lower demand areas and walk which helps to spread the parking demand around downtown.

I live in Murray Hill. Most of my trips downtown are on the bus, but that's a painful option for quick trips or when I am bringing visitors. During weekdays this is often fine, we can drive and find parking to make a quick stop, buy something, and be on our way. On nights and weekends parking is much tougher, so we generally avoid the area unless we're planning to stay long enough to justify taking the bus, searching for parking, or dealing with a garage. I can't count the number of times my wife and I have passed through downtown, considered stopping, and decided not to because we didn't want to spend the time finding parking.

Some are concerned that meters will scare customers away. That may happen at the margins, but it's not a significant issue. By freeing up visible spaces meters make parking easy and reduce congestion from drivers circling for spaces. Both of which make people feel more comfortable driving into the area. Meanwhile, bargain hunters are encouraged to park in lower demand areas and walk or take the streetcar (there are plenty of free or very cheap parking areas within walking distance of the Hop). Additionally, the time penalty of walking a couple blocks is fairly low when you're spending several hours enjoying the area but very high when you just need two things from Mod Gen. All together, this means most people looking to spend an evening downtown will continue to come and many more will be able to make quick visits.

I want to spend more at downtown businesses, please support this change to make it easier.

Thanks
Kevin Germino

Following up on the conversation with Ax...

I saw that your office is reconsidering the parking meter change to 9pm. If your office was considering more opinions, I think it would be bad for business to change the parking meters. Having free parking helps downtown businesses that already have a very limited amount of parking available. It also will make it difficult for customers to come and dine at our establishments before an event because they would need to return to their cars or apps to redo their parking because it would expire with the current 2-hour limits when they were going from our establishments to the event causing unnecessary conflicts with timing and ticketing with parking. This will discourage people from frequenting downtown entertainment establishments.

I believe the cost reward or parking revenue to sales tax and downtown public opinion is not worth changing the parking meters to 9pm and weekends.

Eliminating parking late night on weekends can help with the loitering issues that Water Street has experienced in the summertime, but it will hurt our dinner crowds in non-bar establishments that rely on a dinner service.

Please continue to reconsider this change.

Cheers,

Bobby Wiltgen

Owner

Cream City Concepts

Who's on Third

Oak Barrel Public House

Third Street Tavern

Third Street Property Management

President – Old World Third Street Organization

Treasurer- Executive Committee- Westown Association

Hi Aids. Zamarripa and Bauman,

I'm writing regarding the ordinance changes relating to downtown parking. I understand that this is being discussed at the Public Safety and Health Committee today. I am unable to attend but I wanted to share my thoughts on the matter. It's unclear to me why the new ordinance is so promptly being walked back after it was unanimously supported by the council.

I've heard that a lot of the opposition to the new ordinance was coming from downtown condo associations. Speaking as a resident of a downtown condo and a member of one of those associations, I'm strongly in favor of the extended metered parking hours on evenings and weekends. This is anecdotal, but there's been no chatter -- negative or otherwise -- from other residents about this change on our building's private Facebook group. I don't believe this new policy is as controversial as you might think. I expect our elected leaders to LEAD on this issue and rally public support, rather than giving in to a few loud voices from those who reflexively work against change.

There's a dramatic oversupply of parking in garages and ramps downtown, and there's no reason that street parking should be so heavily subsidized the way it is -- especially in the most transit-connected area of the city. I'm sure you know far better than I that the city is in a dire financial situation, and this is a revenue stream we should be taking advantage of. If people are going to lug a couple tons of personal property around town with them, they should be prepared to pay for storing it on city streets.

It's also my understanding that the council had previously authorized city staff to implement demand-based parking pricing a few years back (<https://urbanmilwaukee.com/2018/09/25/city-hall-council-okays-market-based-parking-fees/>). So not only am I urging you to leave the new ordinance in place, but I would also push for implementation of demand-based pricing. It's well understood that this kind of pricing scheme actually improves availability of metered parking for drivers, while maximizing revenue for the city.

Thanks for your consideration,

Charlie Megenity
1108 N. Milwaukee St.