

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### Q: WHY HAVE PAID PARKING AND TIME LIMITS?

A: The On Street Parking available downtown is intended for those visiting businesses, shops, restaurants, and attractions who only intend on staying for 2 hours or less. Because on street parking provides close and convenient parking to the desired destination, by placing time limits, assessing a cost, and enforcing violations with fines, we are discouraging long term parking on street through disincentives. This allows turnover on the streets, which in turn creates available parking for short term visitors.

### Q: WHY NOT MAKING PARKING ON STREET FREE WITH A 2 HOUR TIME LIMIT?

A: As stated above, long term parking on streets is discouraged through the use of disincentives, one of those measures being the application of a direct cost to use On Street Parking. Many of the available off street parking lots and structures have hourly, daily or monthly costs associated with them. By eliminating the cost of On Street Parking, some may see it as an opportunity for daily parking at reduced rate. The City has experimented with free 2 hour parking on Capitol between 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, and on 5<sup>th</sup> Street between Capitol and Jackson on the west side of the street. We have noticed a number of vehicles that will utilize the full 2 hours and then move to a different block.

### Q: WHY CHANGE ANYTHING AT ALL? WOULDN'T IT BE EASIEST JUST TO LEAVE THE EXISTING METERS ALONE?

A: The current meters have reached the end of their useful life. The company we purchased the meters from no longer make the components to those existing meters, and therefore do not offer repairs when they malfunction. To sustain, the City has been removing meters from areas where there is a lower demand for On Street Parking and repurposing them. Because the meters are failing and a large number need replaced, this is an excellent opportunity to look at what alternatives are available to make paying for parking more convenient and user friendly.

### Q: WHY NOT INCREASE THE AMOUNT OF PARKING DOWNTOWN TO ADDRESS THE PARKING ISSUE?

A: The Springfield - Sangamon County Regional Planning Commission conducts a study of the downtown parking every two years. The study has consistently found that there is more than adequate parking available downtown. However, there is a common perception that insufficient parking exists. The goal is to educate the public on the location of available parking through public maps and the potential use a parking finder app. Giving users the right tools and information will ensure them the best opportunity to select the most convenient space for their need.