

CITY OF KINGSTON

Office of the Mayor

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Steven T. Noble
Mayor



Let's talk about parking...

Why are we changing our parking system?:

- The City maintains 11 public parking lots, 9 of which it owns. Right now, the City must bond for any capital improvements to those 9 lots. This means that every taxpayer within the City, regardless of whether they own a car or use these lots, are paying for their daily maintenance, along with the long term costs of capital improvements.
- The City is taking a proactive approach to lower its expenses, but the vast majority of City spending is made up of mandated costs that are not amendable. With insurance costs alone projected to increase by \$700,000, the City must either raise taxes or raise revenues. While some municipalities are choosing to exceed the tax cap, we are working to prevent that.
- Our current on-street parking meters are not able to facilitate credit card transactions, leaving users scrambling to find enough coins to park their cars. In addition, it is inconvenient for individuals to return to their parked cars to add more time to the meters while at work or visiting our local stores.
- A review of comparable communities in our state shows that Kingston charges less for on-street parking than other small cities.

What are we looking to change?:

- We are reviewing five proposals from reputable companies specializing in parking management systems. Of those five, up to three will be called in for an interview. While reviewing the proposals, here are some of the items we feel must be included in their offerings:
 - Easy usability for all
 - Ability to accept credit cards
 - Safe and secure collection of all funds deposited on-site and via mobile app
 - Reduced cost long term parking options for residents and employees
 - Alert system for users whose parking time is expiring and ability to load funds for more time

We need your input:

- Mayor Noble will be presenting to each of the business associations in the coming months
- Council members will be asked to organize ward meetings to discuss the issue with residents
- An online survey will soon be launched to gather input regarding long term parking options

What are the next steps?:

- Review of parking proposals (Now)
- Interview with top 3 finalists (By December 1st)
- Selection of vendor (By December 15th)
- Meeting with business associations (By January 1st)
- Meeting with residents (Ongoing)
- Increase of on-street parking fees from \$0.50/hour to \$1.00/hour (January 1st)
- Installation of parking lot kiosks (April 1st)