

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF WAIVER OF PARKING REGULATIONS FOR CURBSIDE SERVICE AT THE AMES PUBLIC LIBRARY

BACKGROUND:

The Library initiated the first step in re-opening on May 19, 2020, by offering curbside pick-up service for books and other materials that had been held since the City building closure in March. Customers reserved a pick-up time and Library staff bagged and tagged the materials and placed them on a table outside for customers to pick up.

In order to safely facilitate the pick-up, the Library requested to reserve three parking spots (70.C, 71.C, and 72.C) on Douglas Avenue in front of the Library. Municipal Code Section 18.5(5) authorizes the City Manager to designate any parking spaces adjacent City buildings as “visitor” spaces. The request was granted, and signage was displayed designating the 3 spots for curbside pick-up from May 19 through July 1.

The Library re-opened the lobby area on July 1 and expanded the hours open to the public. The Library expects the need for curb-side pickup to continue through at least October 4. Because the total length of time these parking spaces would be unavailable for normal metered parking is expected to be several months, staff is requesting the City Council’s confirmation that the use of these spaces for curb-side pickup is acceptable.

The three parking spaces would be used for curbside pickup from July 1 through October 4 on the following days and times:

- 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday
- 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday
- 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sunday

Staff estimates the closure of these spaces will result in a loss of \$310.50 to the Parking Fund.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve the suspension of parking meter regulations for 3 designated spots on Douglas Avenue in front of the Library from July 1 to October 4, 2020 on the days and times outlined above.
2. Do not approve the request.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

The Library continues receiving a favorable response from the public as it phases in its re-opening plans and maintain a safe, customer-friendly approach to providing services.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, thereby approving the extension of waiving parking meter fees for the time frame outlined above.