

BOROUGH OF SOMERVILLE PARKING - Question and Answers

Why did the fees increase?

The Borough has conducted multiple studies over a period of years that assisted in the decision making process. The goal is to shift the burden of parking cost from the taxpayers and residents to the users of parking. Shortfalls in the parking revenue were previously supported by the taxpayers. The parking revenue will be reinvested into the parking lot maintenance and operations.

I am a merchant and park my car for 10 to 12 hours a day, where can I park which is less expensive?

Lot # 7 located on East High Street; between North Bridge Street and Grove Street it offers parking for fifty cents (\$0.50) per hour. Saturday and Sunday are free in Lot # 7

Why is Main Street more than the lots # 1, # 2, # 6?

Main Street meters are one dollar (\$1.00) per hour and have a two hour limit. Main Street is intended for shoppers that want to access the Main Street stores and need to go in and out quickly. The lots just behind Main Street offer an incentive for those that want longer term parking. Lots # 1, # 2 & # 6 are 75 cents (\$.075) per hour. Lot #7 is fifty cents (\$.050) per hour.

The lots have different charges and enforcement times can you explain that?

Lots # 1, # 2 & 6

Seventy five cents (\$.075) per hour and enforced Monday through Saturday.

Lot # 4

One dollar (\$1.00) per hour and enforced Monday through Saturday with a two hour time limit

Lot # 7

Fifty cents (\$.050) per hour and enforced Monday through Friday

How does increasing the enforcement time help?

During the heaviest use time, previously there was no charge after 5:00 p.m. on weekdays and on Saturdays. Again, this will shift the burden of cost to the users opposed to the taxpayers

I reside on Main Street what are my options?

The Borough recently purchased a lot on West High Street which is being made available via paid parking permits for residents and merchants. The parking committee is studying the lot and will be preparing to make improvements to the lot for access shortly.

I was not aware of the changes, were there any public meetings?

The Governing is Body is required to hold meetings in public and if ordinances are voted upon public comment period is required. In September of 2015, the Governing Body held two council meetings prior to adoption of the changes. In March of 2016, the Governing Body made changes to the ordinance in which two additional public comment periods was held.