

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

August 19, 1981

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PARKING METER  
REMOVAL  
AUTHORIZED

A presentation was made to the Council by C.L.I.C. Chairman, Walter Sanborn at which time Mr. Sanborn requested the removal of the parking meters in downtown Lodi. A lengthy discussion followed with questions being directed to Mr. Sanborn and to Staff.

On motion of Councilman Katnich, Pinkerton second, Council authorized the removal of the parking meters and directed that the parking meter heads be removed sometime before the 1981 Grape and Wine Festival.

MEMORANDUM, City of Lodi, Community Development Department

*file*  
8/19

*(2-483)*

TO: City Manager Graves  
FROM: Mamie Starr, Assistant Planner  
DATE: August 19, 1981  
RE: Parking Meters

The following information regarding the parking meters in downtown Lodi was obtained from City Finance, Public Works and Community Development Departments, and the City Clerk. It is presented in two sections: a summary; followed by detailed explanation and qualification.

SUMMARY DATA

- Cost to remove meters-----\$10- \$11 each
- Timing-----Heads only - immediately; posts -  
time available commencing in winter
- Enforcement/Time zones-----Adequate, pending  
further study
- Cost of more signs in lots-----\$1100
- Storage of meter heads----Temporary at the MSC
- Disposal of meter heads---Retain, sell, give away
- Safety considerations -----Posts must be capped or  
cut flush with sidewalk and grouted.  
Anything on posts except meter heads  
considered a hazard
- Balance in parking meter fund 7/31/81--\$32,100
- Amount of fund encumbered for repair parts-\$2,850
- Amount advanced by City 8/6/80 for bond redemption -  
\$25,000

DETAILED INFORMATION

Removal Alternatives and Costs

1. Cut off poles at sidewalk and grout holes. Work can be done by City Public Works personnel on time-available basis. Currently over-programmed, could begin in winter. Costs estimates from City Street Department:  
\$10/meter x 800 meters + = \$8,000+

2. Remove the head and install domed cap with spot weld, leaving post in ground. Work can be done within one week by Finance Department employee(s) and welding crew. Cost estimates:

$$\$2/\text{meter} \quad \times \quad 800 \text{ meters} \quad + \quad = \quad \$2,000+$$

3. It has been suggested that the posts be left on School Street until work under the Assessment District is done, and all other posts removed as soon as possible.

Immediate costs:

$$\begin{array}{r} \$2/\text{meter} \times 124 \text{ meters} + \text{ on School Street} = \$ 248 + \\ \$10/\text{meter} \times 676 \text{ meters} + \text{ remaining} = \$6,760 + \\ \hline \$6,908 + \end{array}$$

(It is presumed that the posts on School Street could be removed at no additional cost if sidewalk is to be replaced under the District; however, sidewalk work on all of School Street is not currently part of the description of work submitted with cost estimates by Quad Consultants)

Additional costs:

The estimated cost to remove the posts after the heads are removed is \$9/post.

4. Removal of heads immediately and posts later:  
 $\$2/\text{meter} + \$9/\text{meter} \quad \times \quad 800 \text{ meters} = \$8,800+$
5. Contract out the job - double the costs

### Safety Considerations

Once the heads are removed the posts must be capped to cover the sharp edge. Anything on the posts other than the meter heads, ie. informational signs is considered a safety hazard. The posts, without the heads, are considered somewhat of a hazard. If the poles are to be removed, they must be cut slightly below the sidewalk and the hole filled flush with the walk to prevent someone from tripping or cutting their feet, hands, etc.

### Timing

The City Street Department can not undertake removal of the meters until winter, and then on a time-available basis. It is estimated that the entire project, if done at one time, will take approximately 200 crew-hours.

The City Finance Department, under whose jurisdiction the meters fall, has personnel at the present time to remove the heads only. Public Works street crews may assist with welding. It is estimated that this will take approximately 30 hours.

Removal of the posts at a later date is estimated at approximately 200 crew-hours, also.

#### Time Zones, Signing and Enforcement

Most of the metered areas have one-hour time zones which are adequately signed at present. One additional sign per aisle in the parking lots is needed at an estimated cost of \$1100.

Current enforcement levels can continue with minor modifications after the removal of the meters. Enforcement costs are currently born by the General Fund.

#### Storage/Disposition of Meters

Temporary storage of the meter heads at MSC can be arranged. Long-term retention in case of future need somewhere in the City is not recommended as the Finance Director advises that they are worn beyond reasonable repair and are operationally antiquated.

A number of disposal alternatives have been suggested. All need further research.

1. Sell the meter heads in bulk lot to first interested party (UC Davis at one time inquired if we had any)
2. Sell bulk lot to the highest bidder or for scrap iron
3. Auction or sell outright in less than bulk lot quantity (not recommended because of administrative difficulties)

(Any revenues from above alternatives to be allocated by City Council)

4. Give individual meters to first come, first serve (again, administrative difficulties)
5. Donate lot to a group like CLIC or community center group for their disposal - presumably at some type of sale or auction. Revenues for use at group discretion.

#### Status of Parking Meter Fund

The bonds were redeemed in Fall, 1980 ; therefore, the meters are owned by the City through the Parking District. The balance in the fund as of July 31, 1981 was \$32,100 +. \$2,850 was encumbered for repair parts; however, the parts are scheduled for shipment September 30th. It is possible to cancel the orders if done immediately, ie. tomorrow.

On August 6, 1980, the City Council authorized, and initiated, redemption of the parking district bonds. In addition to the funds on reserve in the Parking Fund, the Council authorized an additional \$25,000 (approximately), which was the difference between the amount required and what was on reserve. Mr. Walter Sanborn, on behalf of the Central Lodi Improvement Committee stated that this amount would be returned to the City after the formation of the Assessment District and the sale of those bonds. It was also agreed at that time that the meters would remain in use until the formation of the District. Since that time, the meters have continued to provide income.

It is estimated that the meters bring in approximately \$3,000 per month with expenditures for parking lot maintenance (discussed below), maintenance personnel, and meter maintenance estimated at \$2,400 per month. The time rate on the meters (income) has not been changed since the meters were installed; however, the cost of personnel continues to increase, as would the cost of maintenance if done properly. Therefore, the monthly net income is steadily declining.

At the present time \$3,015 per year is expended on maintenance of the parking lots. If the meters are removed that cost must be assigned elsewhere. On-street maintenance, and signing is currently from the General Fund.

#### Status of the Meters

The meters are currently in very poor condition. They have not been adequately maintained in two years, pending possible removal. This has resulted in numerous citizen complaints and the need for a lump sum expenditure for minimum parts replacement. Furthermore, the mechanisms are old and worn, making it difficult to repair. Because of the pending removal situation, it has been difficult to retain qualified personnel for maintenance of the meters.

#### DECISIONS TO BE MADE AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Should the meters be removed - no recommendation  
IF TO BE REMOVED:
2. When should they be removed - recommend heads immediately and posts on time-available basis, with School Street last, pending district work
3. Time zones - recommend continue present zones, pending further study and CLIC recommendation
4. Enforcement - recommend continued enforcement program, pending further study

5. Signing in lots - recommend authorize additional signs as needed
6. What to do with the meters - recommend temporary storage and direct staff to investigate disposal alternatives with future report and recommendation to Council
7. Use of parking meter fund and determination of where to draw funds for meter removal - no recommendation; however, parking fund can be used for meter removal costs
8. Determination of where to draw funds for continued parking lot maintenance - no recommendation

BACKGROUND

CLIC is currently requesting the Council remove the parking meters on the basis that they have obtained 50% of the signatures that they need to form the Downtown Assessment District (60% is the necessary number). CLIC feels that it would be good public relations to have the meters removed at this time and that they are well down the road to fulfilling their part of the tacit commitment. It is the Committee's feeling that removal of the meters at this time will provide the needed impetus to get the remaining 10% signatures.



Mary Joan Starr, AICP  
Assistant Planner

cc: Jack Ronsko, Public Works Director  
Fred Wilson, Finance Director  
Walter Sanborn, CLIC Chairman