



Board Meeting Agenda Abstract

Tuesday, April 21, 2026

Location:

Agenda Item

Town Code Amendment - Parking Violation Fee Increase - Part 7, Chapter 3: Parking Regulations - (Matthews) - Item 10.A

Item Explanation

The purpose of this agenda item is to consider amending Part 7, Chapter 3 of the Town Code of Ordinances pertaining to Parking Regulations, in order to increase penalties for parking violations and to standardize penalties and payment time frames across all violations.

Staff Comments

Part 7, Chapter 3 of the Town Code of Ordinances, which regulates parking violations and associated penalties, was last amended in 1989. The current fee for all general parking violations is \$5.00, with a 48-hour payment window. An exception is made for parking in a fire lane, where the penalty is \$25.00 and provides 72 hours to pay and also parking in municipal parking lots, where the penalty is \$10.00 and provides 10 days to pay.

Under North Carolina General Statute 14-4(b), the Town may impose penalties of up to \$50.00 for general parking violations. Additionally, North Carolina General Statute 20-37.6 allows for specific penalties relating to handicap parking violations.

The proposed amendment will increase the fee for all general parking violations to \$30.00 and extend the payment period to 5 business days. For handicap parking violations, the proposal increases the penalty to \$100.00, with a five business day payment window. These changes will both update and standardize the fee structure and payment deadlines, aligning them with those of surrounding municipalities and ensuring consistency across all types of parking violations. This update brings the violation amount to a reasonable level and modernizes language to reflect dollar value and business process changes since the parking ordinance was adopted in the 1970s.

This update to the Town Code of Ordinances is an overdue adjustment that reflects best practices and improves enforceability, while discouraging illegal parking through a meaningful penalty. For these reasons, management and staff recommend approval.

In addition to the recommended Town Code Amendment addressing parking violation penalties, management and staff are introducing a draft ordinance that would establish no parking on school days between the hours of 6:30 AM and 3:30 PM within North Lakes.

Establishing no parking zones during school hours is commonly used by municipalities across Wake County to address unwanted student parking and carpool drop-off in neighborhoods adjacent to high schools. Examples of some form of this can be found in Apex, Holly Springs, Wake Forest, and Raleigh.

Town Management, Police, and Public Works Department leadership recently visited neighborhoods adjacent to Holly Springs High School and found that the no parking ordinance implemented by Holly Springs has been effective in deterring parking during school days and hours, while making it available for resident and public use at all other times. This ordinance was implemented following community meetings which demonstrated a strong neighborhood consensus in support of enacting an ordinance for the entire area of the neighborhood which means sacrificing the convenience of on street parking to gain the benefit of eliminating school parking and drop-off traffic. Since student parking complaints have been received and observed on multiple blocks of Long Lake Drive, Catherine Lake Court, and Fontana Lake Drive, and establishment of no parking zones on those streets is likely to push student parking to adjacent streets, application of an ordinance for the entirety of North Lakes, from the large lake dam to Old Honeycutt Road is proposed.

While management and staff do not recommend adoption of this ordinance tonight, it is being presented for feedback from the Town Board and the North Lakes community. Management's recommendation is to seek broad community consensus prior to implementing this type of policy change that materially impacts the use of streets by residents of a neighborhood. However, we are seeking Town Board concurrence with management and staff leading community engagement to assess neighborhood consensus and inform your policy consideration, specifically by holding a community meeting.

Fiscal Note

Yes

While the proposed text amendment does increase the civil penalty for most parking violations from \$5 to \$30, historically the number of citations issued has not made this penalty a significant revenue stream. The purpose of the penalty is to encourage compliance, not to generate revenue.

Recommendation

MOTION TO: Amend Part 7, Chapter 3 of the Town Code of Ordinances: Parking Regulations as presented and recommended.

ATTACHMENTS

[TCA Parking Violation Fee Increase.docx](#)

[DRAFT-Proposed-NorthLakesNoParkingOrdinance.docx](#)

[2026 North Lakes No Parking Ordinance Map.pdf](#)