**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING CERTAIN PARKING**

**MATTERS STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS**

**WHEREAS**, the community undertook a yearlong study to examine parking management, pricing, and transportation in the greater downtown area known as “Parking Matters”; and

**WHEREAS**, the Parking Matters study process solicited public feedback in the form of a project advisory committee, online surveys, drop-in sessions, and community presentations; and

**WHEREAS**, the Parking Matters study resulted in a number of recommendations to be implemented in 2017/2018, which were designed to address parking management and transportation issues; and

**WHEREAS**, certain aspects of the Parking Matters study are ready for a phase 1 implementation; and

**WHEREAS**, subsequent phases of the study may be implemented upon future approval by the City Council.

**NOW**, **THEREFORE**, be it resolved by the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Savannah that the following Parking Matters recommendations are hereby adopted:

1. On-street implementation shall be limited to areas beginning on the south side of Liberty Street, from the east side of Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard, to the Savannah River in the north, and west from East Broad Street, which area may be expanded at a later date.

2. Designation of a parking area for persons employed in the downtown portion of the City, to include:

a. Designation of a surface parking lot in reasonable proximity to downtown, which may also be used by City vehicles;

b. Consideration be given to use of the Tybee Depot gravel surface parking lot (or some other suitable space) until adequate parking garages are constructed, with installation of the following improvements:

i. Perimeter fencing;

ii. Security cameras;

iii. Regular service by shuttles to and from downtown;

iv. Key-card entry to afford access to downtown employees, City vehicles and others as from time-to-time may be identified by the Mayor and Aldermen; and

v. A shelter structure within the perimeter for trolley patrons.

3. Smart parking meters will be installed, which will accommodate cash, change, credit cards, pay by smartphone, and parking applications to direct drivers to vacant spaces. Meter charges will apply Monday through Saturday between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. Such meters will also be programmable to accommodate special events.

4. All downtown parking fees will be assessed at the rate of $2 per hour. Citations issued for failure-to-pay violations may provide for cost escalation in excess of the foregoing hourly rate.

5. Parking garages will not be over sold. Long-term patrons will be assigned to occupy higher floors. “SMART” signage will be installed and will accurately display vacancies by location.

6. Downtown shuttle routes will be restructured to provide for dependable routes and timely service. Persons with parking passes may ride the shuttles free of charge.

7. Some parking spaces will be reserved for residents in residential areas impacted by hotels and/or short term vacation rentals.

Be it further resolved that the City Manager will seek City Council approval for all contracts and ordinance changes required for implementation of the plan and, additionally, that all other changes and future expansions will be brought to the public’s attention before introduction of resolutions to implement other parking matters study recommendations.

**Approved this 11th day of May, 2017.**

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Eddie DeLoach, Mayor

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Clerk of Council