

Mayor and Council Communication

DATE: 02/14/23

M&C FILE NUMBER: M&C 23-0086

LOG NAME: 21LW BOAT RAMP FEES

SUBJECT

(CD 7 / Future CD 7) Adopt Ordinance Amending Sections 18-4, 10-16, 10-19, and 10-22 of the Code of the City of Fort Worth, Texas (2015), As Amended, to Revise the Boat Ramp Use Fees for the Boat Ramps at Arrow S Park and Casino Beach Park and to Impose a Civil Penalty Not Exceeding \$200 for Failure to Pay a Boat Ramp Use Fee, Authorize an Agreement with ParkMobile, LLC for the Collection of Boat Ramp Use Fees, and Provide for an Increase of the Boat Ramp Use Fees Beginning in Fiscal Year 2025

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Adopt the attached ordinance amending sections 18-4, 10-16, 10-19, and 10-22 of the Code of the City of Fort Worth, Texas (2015), as amended, to revise the boat ramp use fees for the boat ramps at Arrow S Park and Casino Beach Park;
2. Impose a civil penalty not exceeding \$200 for failure to pay a boat ramp use fee;
3. Authorize an agreement with ParkMobile, LLC for the collection of boat ramp use fees; and
4. Provide for an increase of the boat ramp use fees beginning in Fiscal Year 2025.

DISCUSSION:

Currently, Lake Worth boat ramp use fees are collected from boat owners and operators by Najavo Burgers, a convenience store centrally located between the Arrow S Park and Casino Beach Park boat ramps. The current fees are multi-tiered based on whether the boat ramp permit is for a resident, non-resident, or watercraft dealer, and the length of time that boaters use the lake. The fees are used to support the Lake Patrol and administrative services and the installation, maintenance, and operation of boat ramps and marker buoys at Lake Worth. Under the existing ordinance, fees vary from \$5.00 to \$90.00.

In the fall of 2021, the Property Management Department staff conducted a rate fee study in order to review and consider a revision to the current fees. Based on the study, Property Management Department recommends implementing a revised boat ramp use fee at the City-owned facilities at Arrow S Park and Casino Beach Park.

The proposed boat ramp use fee would provide options for an annual use permit as well as a weekly and daily use permit. No fee increases will be made for the non-Fort Worth residents, residents, or weekly use permit. A daily use fee of \$2.00 will be added for resident or non-resident users. An annual watercraft dealers permit will continue to be \$90.00. Per the study, the fees are well below similar fees currently being charged at other North Texas lakes and the last fee increase was in March 2011. Staff proposes that the fees be increased beginning in Fiscal Year 2025 (October 1, 2024) to \$30 for a resident annual permit, \$40 for a non-resident annual permit, \$10 for a weekly permit, \$5 for a daily permit, and \$100 for an annual watercraft dealer permit.

The following charts demonstrate the current and proposed new fees:

CURRENT LAKE USE FEES:

Resident	\$15.00
Non-Resident	\$20.00
Watercraft Dealer	\$90.00
Temporary (Weekly)	\$5.00

PROPOSED BOAT RAMP USE FEES TO BEGIN IMMEDIATELY:

Annual Resident Permit	\$15.00
Annual Non-Resident Permit	\$20.00
Annual Watercraft Dealer	\$90.00
Weekly Boat Ramp	\$5.00
Daily Fee	\$2.00

PROPOSED BOAT RAMP USE FEES EFFECTIVE FY 2025

Annual Resident Pass	\$30.00
Annual Non-Resident Pass	\$40.00
Annual Watercraft Dealer	\$100.00
Weekly Boat Ramp	\$10.00
Daily Fee	\$5.00

Property Management also recommends outsourcing the collection of the fees through an electronic system managed by ParkMobile, LLC. Currently, Navajo Burgers on Navajo Trail is the only location offering boat ramp stickers. Under their current agreement, they retain one dollar of the fee from each sticker sold and pre-purchase inventory from the City of Fort Worth.

Property Management sorts the requested stickers, delivers them to the location, collects the payment, and deposits the funds in the general fund's account. If Navajo Burgers runs out or fails to pre-purchase boat ramp stickers, the general public has no alternative option to purchase these stickers. The general public is also limited in purchasing these stickers by the convenience store's hours of operation. Outsourcing this function to an electronic system would reduce the overall costs of printing these stickers and improve customer service by ensuring boaters are able to access the ramps earlier and eliminate the possibility that these permits are unavailable due to a lack of inventory control by Navajo Burgers. The electronic system would establish better time management for Property Management by automating the cash flow process to a monthly deposit, minus minimal service fees, and provide a summary of the activity. The electronic system will also streamline the record-keeping process by automating it to eliminate paper storage. This new automated system would allow the Marshals the ability to search for payment similar to pay-to-park systems throughout the downtown area.

Other than the service fees, there are no costs to the City for implementing this electronic system, and it has been determined that ParkMobile, LLC will be able to develop and install the QR code signage within a week of authorization.

The property is located in COUNCIL DISTRICT 7 AND FUTURE COUNCIL DISTRICT 7.

A Form 1295 is not required because: This M&C does not request approval of a contract with a business entity.

FISCAL INFORMATION / CERTIFICATION:

The Director of Finance certifies that upon approval of the above recommendations and execution of agreements, funds will be deposited into the General Fund. The Property Management Department (and Financial Management Services) is responsible for the collection and deposit of funds due the City.

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