Date: June 20, 2011

To: Honorable Mayor and City Council

From: Melinda Anderson, Economic Development Director

Request:

Discussion regarding downtown parking management.

Time Estimate:

The staff presentation will be less than 10 minutes. While this item is not a public hearing, we have provided notification and expect interested people to be in attendance. The Council may wish to allow public comment.

Background:

Former BID members began discussion of parking management changes in 2009. The BID board held several public discussions during that time and developed a series of 9 changes for the Council to consider. In 2010 as the BID was in the process of disbanding, the parking management discussion was put on hold. Two months ago the Council asked staff to move forward on this issue. The City held a public forum on May 26 and created an online opinion survey which was posted on the City's website for 2 weeks for anyone to complete.

Below is an explanation of how public input on downtown parking was gathered as well as a sample of responses from both the opinion survey and the parking town hall meeting. This staff report includes just a smattering of those responses and the full reports are included as attachments.

Opinion Survey

Rebecca Mills Sojka and Melinda Anderson drafted a series of opinion survey questions which were forwarded to City staff for review and revision. Staff posted the survey on the City's website on May 23 and it closed at midnight on June 3. The survey was separated into two groups: 1) Downtown property owners, merchants, and employees; and 2) downtown customers. Each were asked questions specific to their group. The full survey results including comments are attached to this staff report. Below are selected responses to the survey.

270 survey responses were received. Sixty-seven (24.9%) identified themselves as a property owner, merchant, or employee. When asked if there should be a downtown parking management/maintenance program, 41 (64.1%) answered yes. When asked who should pay for downtown parking maintenance & management, 45 (85%) answered that the City (through property taxes) should pay for it. In addition, 44 (68.75%) either agree or somewhat agree that the parking meters are a detriment to attracting customers to their business.

Two hundred and two persons identified themselves as customers for this survey. When asked if paying to park at the meters affect their decision to come downtown, 86 (44.8%) responded 'yes'. The following

question asked 'why' and the responses are included with the survey results. When asked if there should be regulated parking, 111 (59.7%) answered 'no'.

There are several questions where respondents had the opportunity to add additional comment. All of those comments are included with the survey results.

Parking Town Hall

Greg Lanting, Vice-Mayor, facilitated a town hall discussion on May 26 from 7-9 pm at the Historic Ballroom. Travis Rothweiler and Mitch Humble answered questions asked by the participants. Rebecca Mills Sojka and Melinda Anderson took notes. Nineteen participants signed the log but there appeared to be 30 or more people in attendance. Most of the participants were downtown property or business owners. Greg explained the purpose of the meeting and encouraged all to provide their input and ask questions regarding downtown parking. The notes from the meeting are attached.

While there was agreement that parking availability is essential, there wasn't unanimous agreement as to how a parking system could or should be managed. Most of the questions and comments centered on the parking meters. There were comments that advocated taking them out permanently and taking them out as a trial. Another suggestion raised was to change some parking lots to customer parking only while changing other, more remote lots to leased parking only. Business owners stressed that it is customers who keep them in business and its customers that should be the focus of any parking discussion and decisions.

Approval Process:

This item is simply a report on the outcomes of the public meeting and the survey. No approval is requested.

Budget Impact:

For FY 2011, the Parking Department budgeted a total of $66,500. There are three separate income sources: parking meters, parking leases, and parking fines. Parking meter revenue was budgeted at $37,000 based on the FY 2010 data with parking leases and parking fines coming in 2nd and 3rd in amounts. Payroll costs were budgeted at $55,599, operations at $4,800, and capital improvements at $5,801.

Regulatory Impact:

This item is simply a report and discussion. However, following this discussion, staff will use the direction from Council and prepare recommendations for changes, if any, for future Council consideration.

Conclusion:

Staff recommends that the Council review the information provided, as well as public input, and provide input for staff to use in the preparation of program recommendations for future Council consideration.

Attachments:

1. May 2011 Parking Opinion Survey Results

2. May 26 Town Hall discussion notes

PAGE: QUESTION DIRECT

1. Are you a:

	Response Percent	Response Count
Property Owner/Business Owner/Employee	24.9%	67
Customer	**75.1%**	**202**
	answered question	**269**
	skipped question	**1**

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2. Describe your ownership:

	Response Percent	Response Count
Absentee downtown property owner	3.1%	2
Downtown business owner but not a property owner	28.1%	18
Downtown business and property owner	**42.2%**	**27**
Downtown business employee	26.6%	17
	answered question	**64**
	skipped question	**206**

PAGE: BUSINESS-PROPERTY OWNER/EMPLOYEE

3. Should there be a downtown parking management/maintenance program?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	**64.1%**	**41**
No	35.9%	23
	answered question	**64**
	skipped question	**206**

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4. I believe that downtown business owners should be responsible for enforcing and maintaining the downtown parking system.

	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	36.9%	24
No	**47.7%**	**31**
Unknown	15.4%	10
	answered question	**65**
	skipped question	**205**

PAGE: BUSINESS-PROPERTY OWNER/EMPLOYEE

5. If you answered "No" on Question 4, who should manage the downtown parking system?

	Response Percent	Response Count
City	**58.1%**	**25**
Parking management company	18.6%	8
Business owner organization	9.3%	4
Downtown property owners	14.0%	6
Other (please specify) Hide replies		6

1.	AND AAAT NO EXPENSE TO DOWN TOWN	Thu, Jun 2, 2011 11:49 AM
2.	No one, the downtown area is trying to rebuild meters and tickets keep people away	Fri, May 27, 2011 8:45 AM
3.	Business owners	Thu, May 26, 2011 4:09 PM
4.	A combination of the City and Downtown property owners.	Thu, May 26, 2011 1:54 PM
5.	There should not be a downtown parking system	Thu, May 26, 2011 1:38 PM
6.	Either the city should manage the parking downtown or hire a parking management company to do so.	Wed, May 25, 2011 9:15 AM

answered question	**43**
skipped question	**227**

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6. Who should pay for downtown parking maintenance and management?

answered question	**53**
skipped question	**217**

6. Who should pay for downtown parking maintenance and management?

	Response Percent	Response Count
City (taxpayers through property taxes)	**84.9%**	**45**
Customers	0.0%	0
Business owners	15.1%	8
Other (please specify) Hide replies		11

1. "parking maintenance and management" are two separate issues and should be addressed as such in this survey. — Thu, Jun 2, 2011 10:54 PM
2. I believe this should be a partnership between the city and the business owners...but certainly not the customers. The city owns the property...the city should maintain their own property just like the rest of us. I think the business owners could contribute the enforcement and some of the maintenance. — Wed, Jun 1, 2011 9:39 AM
3. DO THIS FOR A ONE YEAR TRIAL ...FIRST ANNOUNCE TO THE MAGIC VALLEY THAT PARKING ON MAIN STREET IS FREE FOR A ONE YEAR TRIAL. 1..Take a piece of 10 inch diameter PVC pipe and slide in over the meter and pipe..cap the top..about half way down run a bolt thru the pvc pipe and meter stand this will secure the meter for non-operation..and also facilitate a quick return if needed....Next make the spaces in front of each business exclusive to that building parcel...most business have 2-4 spaces at most ..now charge the biz owner a rate and let them decorate/paint/and put a sign with there company logo
stating "Reserved for Jensen Jewelry " (for example)
This would raise money for expenses..Most business are 9-5..if an unauthorized car is parked..the biz owner or employee could simply call 311 and dispath a tow truck..an example of revenue could be say $25 per space per year times 241 meters could raise an amount similar to the NET dollars that that the entire city parking generates...I believe Travis said the net take was approx $ 6,000..at the Ballroom meeting 5/27 pm.
By doing a test of this scale we could finally CONFIRM or Deny the efectivness of the meters and also have a means to generate revenune....It would be imperative to get the word out to shoppers ahead of time so the test is effective. — Sat, May 28, 2011 3:16 PM
4. What are the things that need to be maintained and managed if we remove the parking meters? — Fri, May 27, 2011 8:55 AM
5. A combination of all three — Thu, May 26, 2011 1:55 PM
6. It should be a combination of city, business and property owners. An LID on property owners could pay for part (the city has some responsibility also) of the on-going costs. — Thu, May 26, 2011 7:43 AM
7. Actually I think if we keep the meters and the leased parking it should pay for itself. — Wed, May 25, 2011 9:16 AM

25 responses per page

answered question	**53**
skipped question	**217**

6. Who should pay for downtown parking maintenance and management?

8.	I believe it should be a joint venture between both the city and business/property owners. I believe a special taxing district should be implemented in the Downtown area to help pay for parking. However, the City should also contribute a fair share because the decrepited economy of Downtown Twin Falls is a result of lack of foresight on behalf of the City of Twin Falls. The City allowed northward economic expansion while neglecting Downtown and the effects that big box stores would have on quaint shops like those typical in Downtowns.	Tue, May 24, 2011 8:01 AM
9.	downtown property owners	Tue, May 24, 2011 7:21 AM
10.	Maybe there could be a mix of the above. I need more info to answer this question.	Mon, May 23, 2011 3:07 PM
11.	Private Companies	Mon, May 23, 2011 2:59 PM

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answered question	**53**
skipped question	**217**

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7. I believe that parking meters are a detriment to attracting customers to my business.

	Response Percent	Response Count
Agree	**48.4%**	**31**
Somewhat agree	20.3%	13
Neutral	12.5%	8
Somewhat Disagree	7.8%	5
Disagree	10.9%	7
answered question		**64**
skipped question		**206**

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8. What time limit on the customer parking spaces in the downtown parking lot is adequate for your customers?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Unlimited time	28.1%	16
answered question		**57**
skipped question		**213**

8. What time limit on the customer parking spaces in the downtown parking lot is adequate for your customers?

2 hour time limit	22.8%	13
3 hour time limit (currently in existence)	**49.1%**	**28**
	Other (please specify) Hide replies	8

1.	1 hr	Fri, Jun 3, 2011 11:17 AM
2.	one hour time limit	Thu, Jun 2, 2011 2:36 PM
3.	but there are times when longer is needed. We offer all day classes and don't want our customers hassled with parking issues. A large percent of the ladies are older & will not attend if they have to park very far away.	Fri, May 27, 2011 8:57 AM
4.	4-6 hours	Thu, May 26, 2011 4:10 PM
5.	at least 4 hours. We do classes.	Thu, May 26, 2011 4:03 PM
6.	I'm out of the parking meter range at a church. The time needed varies from a few minutes to several hours.	Thu, May 26, 2011 3:47 PM
7.	30 minutes	Mon, May 23, 2011 3:22 PM
8.	30 minutes	Mon, May 23, 2011 3:20 PM

answered question	**57**
skipped question	**213**

PAGE: CONSUMER

9. How often do you come to downtown Twin Falls?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Daily	6.5%	13
1-3 times per week	34.7%	69
1-3 times per month	**41.7%**	**83**
1-3 times per year	14.1%	28
Never	3.0%	6
	answered question	**199**
	skipped question	**71**

PAGE: CONSUMER

10. What brings you downtown? (Check all that apply)

answered question	**185**
skipped question	**85**

10. What brings you downtown? (Check all that apply)

	Percent	Count
I work downtown	11.9%	22
I use professional services (attorney, accountant, title services, banking, etc.)	19.5%	36
I frequent retail shops	**69.7%**	**129**
I frequent dining/drinking establishments	48.6%	90
I frequent entertainment establishments	25.4%	47
I use consumer services (tanning, hair salon, shoe repair, ect.)	24.3%	45
I attend meetings or events	24.3%	45
Other (please specify) Hide replies		17

1.	I would frequent downtown if it were worth my time. Please help make downtown relevant again.	Fri, Jun 3, 2011 9:13 PM
2.	I participate in Friday Night Market	Fri, Jun 3, 2011 4:00 AM
3.	I drove through it once on the way to Washington	Sun, May 29, 2011 3:39 PM
4.	I will also be attending the new church down town. That will increase the number of times I am there.	Sat, May 28, 2011 1:33 PM
5.	Yoga classes	Fri, May 27, 2011 2:45 PM
6.	I love downtown Twin Falls.	Fri, May 27, 2011 2:43 PM
7.	I enjoy walking dowtown and window gazing~! Downtown is comfortable and not congested..	Thu, May 26, 2011 1:40 PM
8.	I enjoy going on main st.	Thu, May 26, 2011 12:42 PM
9.	We have our dance rehersals downtown.	Thu, May 26, 2011 7:53 AM
10.	I don't really frequent anyplace but when I go down town it's usually for event or to shop and I do like a lot of the eating establishments	Thu, May 26, 2011 6:26 AM
11.	I used too work down town and after I get off work, places would be closed. If you want people too come then roof the down and have no parking and vendors and interesting shops to be there. Its the business owners who don;t want to stay open after 5. I would love to shop there but there has to be good business to make it my worthwhile. I prefer shopping there instead of the mall because I live closer and wouldn't have to drive so far. Wal mark should came to this end of the world	Tue, May 24, 2011 1:48 PM
12.	Rudy's and Kelly's Mostly	Tue, May 24, 2011 10:05 AM
13.	I enjoy going downtow just for the peace and comfort~ I also enjoy taking walks up and down window shopping on days I may not have much to spend	Tue, May 24, 2011 9:03 AM

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answered question	**185**
skipped question	**85**

10. What brings you downtown? (Check all that apply)

14.	I came to the Friday night event and was disappointed that so many shops were closed. I'm new to the area and was looking forward to exploring downtown shopping opportunities after work.	Tue, May 24, 2011 7:19 AM
15.	I live by library	Mon, May 23, 2011 10:36 PM
16.	I do bookkeeping for a downtown business owner.	Mon, May 23, 2011 3:25 PM
17.	My spouse works downtown	Mon, May 23, 2011 3:03 PM

25 responses per page

answered question	**185**
skipped question	**85**

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11. I am able to find parking when I need it.

	Response Percent	Response Count
Agree	**34.9%**	**67**
Somewhat agree	34.4%	66
Neutral	10.9%	21
Somewhat disagree	15.6%	30
Disagree	4.2%	8
answered question		**192**
skipped question		**78**

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12. Does paying to park at the parking meters affect your decision to come downtown?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	44.8%	86
No	**55.2%**	**106**
answered question		**192**
skipped question		**78**

13. Why?

answered question	**98**
skipped question	**172**

Response

13. Why?

	Count
Hide replies	98

1.	I AM A LIFEONG RESIDENT OF TWIN FALLS. I AM A PERSON WITH A DISABILITY, WHO USES A WHEELCHAIR 100% OF THE TIME. YEARS AGO, A PARKING ATTENDANT TRIED TO TICKET ME FOR NOT PUTTING MONEY IN THE PARKING METER. I EXPLAINED THAT THE PARKING METER WAS NOT ACCESSIBLE TO / FOR ME TO PUT MONEY IN THE PARKING METER. THROUGH FIGHTING THE TICKET, AND TALKING TO THE POWERS THAT BE, PROCEDURE BECAME THAT IF THE VEHICLE DISPLAYED A VALID HANDICAPPED PLATES AND OR PLACARD, NO PAYMENT WOULD BE REQUIRED FOR ACCESSIBILITY/ SAFTEY REASONS. I HOPE THIS POLICY CONTINUES, AND IS WRITTEN IN CODE, AS IT IS PRACTICAL AND MAKES SENSE. OFTEN I CANNOT GET HANDICAPPED PARKING, AND MUST USE REGULAR, METERED SPACES.	Fri, Jun 3, 2011 9:33 PM
2.	the mall has free parking	Fri, Jun 3, 2011 9:19 PM
3.	The cost is very minimal. But I would pay more that what we do now if I had a need to go there. But I don't because there aren't many (if any) establishments that is intended to bring customers and to keep them there for a nice afternoon.	Fri, Jun 3, 2011 9:16 PM
4.	If I can't find a free place to park, I leave the area.	Fri, Jun 3, 2011 9:14 PM
5.	Why pay when I can go to any shopping center and park for free? Not many shops/stores of interest downtown anyway...	Fri, Jun 3, 2011 9:09 PM
6.	I can go to any place on blue lakes, and often get a closer parking spot for free.	Fri, Jun 3, 2011 9:08 PM
7.	The hassel of finding change, did I put enough for the time I'll be parked?	Fri, Jun 3, 2011 8:46 PM
8.	Why pay if you can park free with better parking sights	Fri, Jun 3, 2011 6:40 PM
9.	I think the focus on parking fees in unfortunate. I would look at the possibility of closing a few blocks of main street to traffic and converting the asphalt street and concrete walkways to aesthetically pleasing surfaces such as brick or cobblestone. Look to Boise and modern European cities as models of sane living -- pedestrians, bicyclists, mass-transit, sidewalk cafes, etc.	Fri, Jun 3, 2011 5:34 PM
10.	I use the free three hour parking areas recently established.	Fri, Jun 3, 2011 5:25 PM
11.	It's inexpensive and if there is a spot available I will use the metered parking instead of walking.	Fri, Jun 3, 2011 1:42 PM
12.	I have business to do downtown, therefore I have no choice.	Fri, Jun 3, 2011 12:00 PM
13.	I still frequent downtown, but paying for parking makes me angry each time I have to feed the meter.	Fri, Jun 3, 2011 10:36 AM

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answered question	**98**
skipped question	**172**

13. Why?

14.	it is annoying--since I usually use my debit card, I have to make a point to get coins. I can go to the mall and not have to worry about it.	Fri, Jun 3, 2011 7:47 AM
15.	the extra fine if I am late just adds to the cost of goods I bought.	Fri, Jun 3, 2011 6:34 AM
16.	If i'm going down town and it cost a quarter i will pay.	Fri, Jun 3, 2011 4:27 AM
17.	Because it's just a few quarters... big deal. If you live in a big city... you usually have to pay $5 to park and walk 3 blocks to your destination.	Thu, Jun 2, 2011 9:10 PM
18.	worrying about the meter running out, inspires me to shop less.	Thu, Jun 2, 2011 10:04 AM
19.	I dont believe that I should have to worry about putting money in a machine to go shopping downtown. I know it is only a quarter for an hour, but its a pain if I dont have any change. I also believe that it is a waste of the city's time and energy. I cant believe that the city is making "money" ticketing cars for expired parking meters. With the up keep of the machines and the pay to the gentleman that walks around to put tickets on cars. I believe tt is a waste of paper, ink, and time, where he could be doing something else that would mean something. Thank you!	Thu, Jun 2, 2011 9:01 AM
20.	I won't pay for parking unless absolutely necessary.	Tue, May 31, 2011 2:59 PM
21.	I think the question should be. How do you feel about paying for parking? The cost is not high enough to stop coming downtown. But, I find it a bit annoying. I have lived in large cities where the cost was $5 to $10 for all day. Twin Falls doesn't seem to justify that kind of rate unless we as consumers could see it going towards development.	Tue, May 31, 2011 2:37 PM
22.	I forgot the meter and got a warning once. Now I am afraid I will get a ticket. Paying nowhere else makes it awkward downtown to remember to pay. I park across the street and forget to go forward and pay. Make it voluntary and I know I would contribute.	Sun, May 29, 2011 2:42 AM
23.	Seriously? It is CRAZY cheap to park down town.	Sat, May 28, 2011 1:34 PM
24.	I don't have change in my truck all the time and it's a hassle to dig up change to park there.	Sat, May 28, 2011 6:58 AM
25.	I believe strongly, if we really want to encourage people to come down town and spend time. There does need to be free parking. If I have to walk back to my car to put money in, I will just leave instead of going through the stores. I like to shop down town, but I don't a lot because of the meters.	Fri, May 27, 2011 9:51 PM
26.	Because I live downtown.	Fri, May 27, 2011 7:43 PM
27.	I don't mind paying the fees they are at right now. I think .25 an hour is a good price. As long as the parking meter fees generate some income to help keep downtown sidewalks safe and greenery looking nice--it is a good thing. If the majority of the fees goes towards maintaining the machines, collecting fees and paying a parking custodian or whatever you call them--then I think it is kind of moot about collecting the fees. It is only a situation that just keeps folks from parking longer than	Fri, May 27, 2011 2:50 PM

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answered question	**98**
skipped question	**172**

13. Why?

	an hour if they don't have another quarter. I do think if people park downtown and get a ticket they ought not squabble about it. They know about the parking meters. It's not like they are invisable. I like parking downtown because of the ambiance of the area. Huge parking lots in malls are a huge eyesore.	
28.	It's just one more thing to have to worry about.	Fri, May 27, 2011 2:47 PM
29.	Because I usually come in the evening or on weekends. I probably shouldn't say anything, but Saturday parking isn't monitored for the meters, but I don't think it should be. Even in big cities, weekends are typically free, so why in a small town like Twin Falls, with a less than ok downtown, should there be metered parking on Saturdays? Seems silly to me.	Fri, May 27, 2011 12:01 PM
30.	I got used to paying for the parking when I worked in downtown Boise. The parking there is quite expensive, but the shops downtown also would validate your parking stubs so if you were a customer and not just loitering on the sidewalks, your parking could get paid for. I would always looked for one of those parking garages over a parking meter.	Thu, May 26, 2011 9:33 PM
31.	It is 2011 and I think that parking meters are old fashioned. I shouldn't have to pay to park my car considering I am spending money at businesses when I visit downtown.	Thu, May 26, 2011 9:23 PM
32.	Because I don't have to pay to park anyplace else.	Thu, May 26, 2011 7:49 PM
33.	It's been that way since I can remember. It's a habit, if you park down town put money in the meter.	Thu, May 26, 2011 3:52 PM
34.	Its only a little amount but I bet if you didn't have to pay you'd get more customers, especially ones that don't have change in their pockets.	Thu, May 26, 2011 3:46 PM
35.	I don't always have change and why should I pay for parking when Iam spending money at these places? Im really not in a parking spot all that long anyways.	Thu, May 26, 2011 3:31 PM
36.	I don't mind walking a couple of blocks if I have to.	Thu, May 26, 2011 3:08 PM
37.	Because nowadays people have more plastic in their pockets than change to put into parking meters.	Thu, May 26, 2011 12:47 PM
38.	I don't park in the metered spots. Years of coming downtown, I've learned where free marking is available.	Thu, May 26, 2011 12:43 PM
39.	I usually carry a bit of spare change, however being caught with only cards is a pain.	Thu, May 26, 2011 12:43 PM
40.	The mall does not charge, but if you did not, then all the employees would park in the spot. No win situation.	Thu, May 26, 2011 12:15 PM
41.	Even though it's fairly cheap, it's still a hassle. Plus, I'm a small town girl and parking meters freak me out. I always think I didn't do something right and I'm going to get a ticket anyway. Also, sometimes I just running in and out of a store and I don't spend more than 10 minutes there. It's just not worth it to figure that parking meter out for just 10 minutes.	Thu, May 26, 2011 11:25 AM

100 responses per page

answered question	**98**
skipped question	**172**

13. Why?

42.	When I am doing something like getting nails done, I don't want to try to remember if my time is going to run out, stop whatever, go out & put more money in the thing..Such a PAIN!!!	Thu, May 26, 2011 10:23 AM
43.	I dont like it but i like to think the money keeps downtown beautiful	Thu, May 26, 2011 8:22 AM
44.	yes, sometimes it is diffifult to find any parking places.	Thu, May 26, 2011 7:54 AM
45.	even if just till this recession is over there was no pay to go downtown, it would be nice. The Mall does not charge to park in their parking lot and the stores are what pays to keep it up and clean. It appears to me that downtown.. if they did the same, would have more business.	Thu, May 26, 2011 6:28 AM
46.	Downtown is close to where my husband works so we eat lunch together. sometimes if I have few places to go I pay for parking then walk but make sure I'm back in an hour.	Thu, May 26, 2011 5:55 AM
47.	Having to Pay the meters is sometimes a hassle. Finding the right change, knowing how long you have. During the weekends and after 6 is nice, I understand that the money is used to benefit that area and the city as a whole. The meters downtown keep the the vintage feel, and it isn't too much to ask from someone. There is also free parking in back, and most of the places have an entrance to their establishments in the back.	Thu, May 26, 2011 5:19 AM
48.	I usually park in the free area behind the businesses.	Thu, May 26, 2011 5:00 AM
49.	If I can't find a few coins, I will drive away.	Thu, May 26, 2011 4:52 AM
50.	Sometimes I don't know how long I am going to be, so I am not sure how much to put in the meter and a few times I have guessed wrong. Never gotten a ticket but I really don't want to end up with a parking ticket so I will usually park a couple blocks away from where I am going so that I don't have to pay for parking.	Thu, May 26, 2011 4:47 AM
51.	Even on Saturdays when I don't work, there are shops/dining establishments I frequent and so paying to park isn't a problem for me. I do have to remember to have change.	Wed, May 25, 2011 3:39 PM
52.	why pay to park? or have to walk a longer distance to avoid the fee, even if it is so small. where else in twin do you charge to park? nowhere.	Wed, May 25, 2011 1:57 PM
53.	I personally live close enough to bike downtown and always do (that being my main method of transportation, although I do own a car as well). However, if I had to drive I would avoid areas with meters and walk the rest of the way. If I didn't have time to walk to get to my destination I wouldn't bother going downtown.	Wed, May 25, 2011 11:34 AM
54.	I have to be here anyway.	Wed, May 25, 2011 8:39 AM
55.	I mostly walk downtown for events/function/dining etc.	Wed, May 25, 2011 6:57 AM
56.	I park where I don't have to pay	Tue, May 24, 2011 3:56 PM
57.	mainly because they are always filled with cars anyway. so i don't use them much. i use parking lots and, etc.	Tue, May 24, 2011 11:05 AM
58.	However, once I left because I didn't have change for the meter and tickets are annoying	Tue, May 24, 2011 10:19 AM

100 responses per page

answered question	**98**
skipped question	**172**

13. Why?

59.	I will pay, but I find it bothersome because I never carry change.	Tue, May 24, 2011 10:06 AM
60.	I use to not have a problem paying for parking until one day my time expired and I recieved a ticket on my window warning me that the meter reader had my license plate in their system and if I did not pay for my parking again I would be fined. When infact I had paid for my parking and my hour was up. I lost track of time shopping. Needless to say this upset me and my daily visits to downtown became less and less.	Tue, May 24, 2011 9:06 AM
61.	Why should I have to pay to park when I can shop somewhere else for free	Tue, May 24, 2011 8:12 AM
62.	I need to come downtown and don't have a choice to pay for parking	Tue, May 24, 2011 8:00 AM
63.	As a single mom on a fixed income that fluctuates any money I can save adds up for me. A nickel or dime may not seem like much but when you count those nickels and dimes and rely on those to add up and put gas in the car it is alot.	Tue, May 24, 2011 7:59 AM
64.	I can shop on the north side of TF ,have more choices and park for free	Tue, May 24, 2011 7:56 AM
65.	Its a hassle	Tue, May 24, 2011 7:33 AM
66.	I do not always have change for the meters, and I usually do not have enough time to park at an un-metered spot and walk to the business I am visiting.	Tue, May 24, 2011 7:22 AM
67.	My family needs all the money we can get, and even though it's only a little change, it adds up, especially since I usually have to put in more change than necessary because it's all I have.	Tue, May 24, 2011 6:20 AM
68.	Because I don't always have change to put in the meters.	Tue, May 24, 2011 6:19 AM
69.	old downtown needs the $. I don't see a problem with that at all!	Tue, May 24, 2011 6:19 AM
70.	I never have change or cash money, always use my card. I can go to walmart or wherever for free anyways, why waste what I do have?	Tue, May 24, 2011 6:19 AM
71.	Pain in the neck. Sometimes it is a quick in and out and now I have to find, pay, and then leave. Money in meter and time left and I leave, so you are welcome, whomever got the spot after me, consider it my gift to you today	Tue, May 24, 2011 5:23 AM
72.	I don't mind paying. I just have to make sure to have coins.	Tue, May 24, 2011 1:12 AM
73.	It doesn't necessarily keep me from coming downtown, because A) it's not that expensive, and B) there's usually plenty of free parking available if you're willing to walk a little bit. BUT, I do find it annoying and tiresome. In the end, it doesn't seem very customer-friendly ... instead of enticing people to come spend time downtown, you're hitting them with a fine. It's almost like saying, "We want you to come, but not really, so we're going to make it just a little bit difficult for you." Shouldn't it instead be, "We want to do everything we can to make your visit downtown as easy, pleasant and comfortable as	Mon, May 23, 2011 11:43 PM

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answered question	**98**
skipped question	**172**

13. Why?

	possible." ???	
74.	I can park at other establishments for free. My Daughter used to have a business downtown and received several tickets because she could not always drop what she was doing to go "feed the meter". They decided to relocate to a place that was not so inconvenient. They should have a pass for store owners and employees they could purchase for a monthly fee if they continue to charge to park.	Mon, May 23, 2011 10:04 PM
75.	I come for a specific reason, not to be entertained by window shopping or browsing. It's like an additional tax for shopping downtown.	Mon, May 23, 2011 9:25 PM
76.	The cost is minimal	Mon, May 23, 2011 9:20 PM
77.	At 25 cents per hour the parking rate is quite reasonable. If it was higher I would reconsider.	Mon, May 23, 2011 7:52 PM
78.	I don't generally carry change. And, in a place where the parking is free *everywhere else* in the city it doesn't make much sense to charge people to pay in the part of town we're encouraging people to visit more.	Mon, May 23, 2011 7:28 PM
79.	I shop at specific shops downtown for specific reasons. I will try to find a spot in the back where it is free, or walk from a place that has free parking. I think paying to park downtown is ridiculous as it is the only place in town that has pay parking and it is the only place in town struggling to keep things going.	Mon, May 23, 2011 6:32 PM
80.	I will not pay to shop	Mon, May 23, 2011 6:16 PM
81.	If I am in a shop and I know I'm coming close to the time alloted I will just leave instead of continuing to shop downtown. Its a hassle to put more money in so I leave.	Mon, May 23, 2011 6:05 PM
82.	I don't pay to park at Walmart, MV Mall, Kmart, etc.	Mon, May 23, 2011 5:43 PM
83.	It's not breaking my bank or anything, it's just a nuisance to remember to have change. I never use cash anymore.	Mon, May 23, 2011 5:15 PM
84.	it is a hassle. I do not pay at the mall or strip malls. The cost is not much, but a hassle to find change when I need it. Then if I run a little long shopping and get a warning or a ticket it totally sours my experience. (have never gotten a ticket, but have gotten 2 warnings)	Mon, May 23, 2011 5:01 PM
85.	Paying to park is a nuisance.	Mon, May 23, 2011 5:00 PM
86.	It's not that much, so it doesn't really bother me. However, it is a hassle, especially if I don't know how long I'm going to be (I hate paying for two hours when I only end up staying for 20 mins).	Mon, May 23, 2011 4:49 PM
87.	I'm already spending money to maintain the public roads and at the retail stores I visit.	Mon, May 23, 2011 4:16 PM
88.	I have had a few instances where I did not know how long I would be gone so I ended up getting a parking ticket for the time meter being expired. It's very frustrating to have to go back and put money in especially if I can't break away to do so.	Mon, May 23, 2011 3:59 PM
89.	Inconvenience	Mon, May 23, 2011 3:56 PM

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answered question	**98**
skipped question	**172**

13. Why?

90.	Why would I pay you to go out of my way to drive downtown to be your customer when I can simply drive to the mall, park for free, find more services, retail, etc. And here is the kicker: It is way more convenient. If you want me to shop downtown more often, lose the meters.	Mon, May 23, 2011 3:48 PM
91.	I get paid for my time.	Mon, May 23, 2011 3:26 PM
92.	no, not really. I would like to see the numbers though. I don't think they raise enough revenue to pay the lady who writes the tickets, upkeep, and actual meter replacement cost. At a time when trying to get the downtown going again, why do we need to have one more obstacle for patrons to jump over. I don't carry change. I wouldn't want not having a quarter, or risk getting a fine, to make someone go elsewhere. I don't think the lost revenue at a business should come down to wheather or not we have pocket change to park.	Mon, May 23, 2011 3:11 PM
93.	I usually have no change on me.	Mon, May 23, 2011 3:10 PM
94.	We live in Twin Falls Idaho. Not New York. Im not going to pay to park. Period. Thats all there is too it for me. When i do frequent down town, i still dont pay to park so your just making a criminal out of me with parking meters.	Mon, May 23, 2011 3:09 PM
95.	If I have change available, I'm OK with parking downtown, but if I don't have change on me, I don't go downtown because I don't want to get a ticket.	Mon, May 23, 2011 3:04 PM
96.	worth it	Mon, May 23, 2011 2:55 PM
97.	It's cheap	Mon, May 23, 2011 2:50 PM
98.	Because I don't always have change, and there are have been too many bad experiences of the meter "cops" issuing tickets for a few minutes out and being rude when policing the parking.	Mon, May 23, 2011 2:49 PM

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answered question	**98**
skipped question	**172**

PAGE: CONSUMER

14. Do you believe there should be regulated parking downtown?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	40.6%	76
No	**59.4%**	**111**
	answered question	**187**
	skipped question	**83**

PAGE: CONSUMER

15. If you answered yes, what is your opinion on who should pay for the regulated parking downtown?

	Response Percent	Response Count
The city (through property taxes) should pay for the parking system	26.5%	27
Downtown business owners or property owners should pay for the parking system	27.5%	28
Customers (by putting coins in the meters) should pay for the parking system	**46.1%**	**47**
Other (please specify) Hide replies		29

1.	MY OVERALL FEELING IS THE PARKING METERS SHOULD BE DONE AWAY WITH. THEY COST, ARE CONFUSING, AND JUST A HINDERANCE AND A HASSLE TO DOING BUSINESS DOWNTOWN.	Fri, Jun 3, 2011 9:38 PM
2.	By regulated I would like to see parking limited to 2 hours in a spot downtown. They do this in Boise is the areas a couple blocks outside the city center. That way you do not have a business person taking up a good customer parking space all day.	Fri, Jun 3, 2011 9:22 PM
3.	remove the parking meters and lease less desireable parking areas to local businesses or employees	Fri, Jun 3, 2011 9:16 PM
4.	These should be reimbursed or somehow validated by merchants	Fri, Jun 3, 2011 8:25 PM
5.	Who pays for it at the Mall - should be the same system	Fri, Jun 3, 2011 9:31 AM
6.	parking meters went out with hoop skirts get rid of them	Fri, Jun 3, 2011 6:48 AM
7.	All parking (and vehicle travel, for that matter) should be eliminated from Main Avenue!	Fri, Jun 3, 2011 4:02 AM
8.	The city wants us to go downtown. Help make it easier and more pleasant.	Sun, May 29, 2011 2:44 AM
9.	Remove the meters. Do the business owners at the malls pay the city or parking? the city should not make any money on the parking.	Sat, May 28, 2011 1:47 PM
10.	I think there should be a toll system to get a parking stub and you're only charged for the actual time you park. Merchants can validate parking to render your parking free. Thus encouraging downtown shopping	Thu, May 26, 2011 9:37 PM
11.	IF the city pays, then our taxes go up. If the business owners or property owners pay then their prices go up. those meters are not that expensive to park. But if the customers stop paying by meter then we will eventually pay more else where.	Thu, May 26, 2011 3:58 PM
12.	I recognize that coins in a machine will not cover all expenses, but that should be the first source. Followed by input from the city, and lastly, input from downtown business owner/operators.	Thu, May 26, 2011 12:45 PM
13.	any	Thu, May 26, 2011 12:44 PM

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answered question	**102**
skipped question	**168**

15. If you answered yes, what is your opinion on who should pay for the regulated parking downtown?

14.	I think there should be a parking garage built. Yes, I know people will whine about having to walk SOOOO far from the parking garage, but it would really help with parking. There are a few lots downtown that can be used. And I think the parking garage should be free but if parking on the street should cost.	Thu, May 26, 2011 11:28 AM
15.	I would be willing to pay for a "parking pass" for a specified time. By buying a yearly sticker or hang tag, I would be able to park where ever I wanted. This would increase the times I would visit downtown.	Thu, May 26, 2011 7:56 AM
16.	tax payers should not pay.....also tax payers should not maintain the landscaping downtown.....store owners should just like everywhere in Twin Falls.....this is crazy!!!	Thu, May 26, 2011 4:53 AM
17.	If they want to park close to stores, pay for it.	Wed, May 25, 2011 6:58 AM
18.	neither one	Tue, May 24, 2011 1:48 PM
19.	If there is going to be regulated parking I believe the busnesses should pay. The people who traffic downtown business's are there to help the owners succeed, and it would be a great courtesy. On the other hand I do not believe we should have to pay for parking, our community is not that big to have to squeeze more money out of consumers.	Tue, May 24, 2011 9:08 AM
20.	I don't allways remember to bring change. Maybe more pay lots	Tue, May 24, 2011 7:32 AM
21.	The cost is low enough that customers can pay to park, just let us know that the funds are being used to revitalize downtown. Let's bring in more fun!	Tue, May 24, 2011 7:21 AM
22.	No one should pay	Tue, May 24, 2011 7:02 AM
23.	(Poor design of this question ... once I clicked a box, I couldn't uncheck it.) I think the city AND downtown business/property owners should be for the free parking system and customers should pay for premium location meter parking. But the current setup of free vs reserved vs metered parking doesn't work. If the city government is serious about revitalizing downtown (and I think it *should* be; a sick downtown makes for a poor image of the city, which hurts tourism, relocations, etc.), then the city needs to continue operating and supporting downtown parking - even though they don't do the same thing for Blue Lakes businesses, etc. BUT, the downtown businesses shouldn't get it all for free. They need to contribute as well. The free parking is a mess in downtown Twin, but I believe the general gist is there. Free parking should be convenient and plentiful - but premium parking spots (i.e. - parking on the street right in front of a business) should be metered. UNFORTUNATELY, this scenario only works if the free	Tue, May 24, 2011 12:13 AM

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15. If you answered yes, what is your opinion on who should pay for the regulated parking downtown?

	parking is well planned, well maintained, easy to find, and plentiful. That is definitely not the case in Twin Falls. Until the free parking scenario is fixed, the metered parking should go away. Once the free parking is made better, the metered parking should come back.	
24.	I think metered parking for customers is fine but there should be a reasonable place for store owners to park or have a monthly or annual pass that they could purchase. There are not convenient or safe areas for many store owners or employees to park.	Mon, May 23, 2011 10:08 PM
25.	It doesn't matter to me who pays.	Mon, May 23, 2011 9:48 PM
26.	About half of the parking lots behind the stores should be free public parking instead of private leased	Mon, May 23, 2011 7:14 PM
27.	Private individuals should fund leased parking that is made available in a portion of downtown lots. The balance could be paid with metered parking - if it is cost effective - and if it is managed by a private entity (which would also manage the leased parking). The private entity would pay the city a portion of collected revenues in exchange for using city-owned lots for leased parking.	Mon, May 23, 2011 7:03 PM
28.	Who should pay for it? How about whomever thinks its needed! If the businesses want it, they can pay for it. If the city says its required, then the city can pay for it. If the city pays for it, i want to know how thinks its needed so i know how to vote in the future.	Mon, May 23, 2011 3:11 PM
29.	I don't understand what there is to pay for? I guess if there is a parking lot, then there is cost to repair and pick up litter. But if it is street parking, I don't know what costs are involved other than costs for upkeep of the parking meters and the meter maids.	Mon, May 23, 2011 3:07 PM

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PAGE: ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

16. Additional Comments/Suggestions:

	Response Count
Hide replies	76

1.	I AM AVALABLE TO CONSULT, WHATEVER THE FATE OF DOWNDOWN PARKING MAY BE FROM THIS LATEST EFFORT. HOPEFULLY, WE CAN DECIDE THIS ISSUE FOR YEARS TO COME. TED ROY (208)316-2390	Fri, Jun 3, 2011 9:47 PM

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16. Additional Comments/Suggestions:

2.	I would pay twice, three times what we have to pay if downtown were a place that was worth going to. How many antique or thrift stores do we need? How is a church going to bring a steady amount of customers on a SUNDAY when shops are closed? For the sake of our towns please help downtown become relevant once again. If no one acts now downtown will become obsolete once the economy turns around and pole line road becomes developed.	Fri, Jun 3, 2011 9:21 PM
3.	The meters are an annoyance, I try not to come downtown for any reason because parking is such a problem. If parking spaces that are leased had signs on each one, paid for by the lessee, visitors would know which ones were not available to park in. As it is, a sign as you enter the parking lot is not enough, no one has time to read several sentences when pulling into the lot. Simply place a sign in front of each parking space that is leased so we know whether it is available or not. Meters deter customers from coming to shop downtown.	Fri, Jun 3, 2011 9:18 PM
4.	When is anyone going to realize that every downtown area in every town in America is dying due to shopping centers being unregulated? If downtown was leveled and a super-shopping center was built in its place, it would still be unused due it location, pay parking and to the other super shopping centers circling the city that offer much more than downtown does. How many millions of taxpayer's money are we going to throw at a nation-wide problem? The businesses downtown are a joke. We are not a resort, so little junky shops will never pull people to the downtown area. Downtown is dying, so stop spending money and face facts...	Fri, Jun 3, 2011 9:16 PM
5.	There seems to be great effort to support the old downtown and make it a successful place for businesses to be. I expect to spend money at stores and restaurants, but not just to walk or window-shop. I don't like having to pay just to BE downtown	Fri, Jun 3, 2011 9:10 PM
6.	The problem, as I see it is to have sufficient parking to encourage patronage while at the same time restricting employees of downtown businesses from taking the spaces in front of(and directly behind) the businesses,	Fri, Jun 3, 2011 8:28 PM
7.	Remove the parking meters	Fri, Jun 3, 2011 5:38 PM
8.	There may have been a reason for the meters when they were first installed, but as the Twin Falls retail scene has changed, they have become a liability to those businesses adjacent to those meters. As the locus of retail activity has moved to the north, along with most of the city, goods and services are available elsewhere and offer free parking closer to home. To even the playing field, the meters should be removed. The income lost by their removal might be replaced by converting two or four blocks of Main to a pedestrian mall which will allow the adjacent businesses to move outdoors when appropriate, thereby expanding their ability to increase profits. Consider, Dunkins has two or three tables outdoors sometimes. With a pedestrian mall setting, they could have ten or twelve, potentially, increasing their taxable income. It seems to me that increased usage of the outdoor space will generate more income than a few	Fri, Jun 3, 2011 5:37 PM

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16. Additional Comments/Suggestions:

	parking meters. Additionally, you would no longer be saddled with the cost of maintaining the meters.	
9.	How much income will be lost if we don't haved metered parking??	Fri, Jun 3, 2011 1:44 PM
10.	Remove the parking meters	Fri, Jun 3, 2011 12:01 PM
11.	Feeding meters for the opportunity to come downtown and spend money feels like a slap in the face. In a time when we are struggling to bring people to a downtown area that, at the very least, is struggling, why on earth would we CHARGE people to park. Our downtown area has enough going against it. Get rid of the damned meters!	Fri, Jun 3, 2011 10:40 AM
12.	Twin Falls could easily build a parking garage that employees in down town businesses would have to pay to park. Parking meters are not what we should have for shoppers.	Fri, Jun 3, 2011 7:28 AM
13.	All parking (and vehicle travel, for that matter) should be eliminated from Main Avenue! Take out the parking meters, diagonal parking spaces, traffic lanes, etc. Any access for emergency vehicles may be an exception.	Fri, Jun 3, 2011 4:07 AM
14.	I am a business owner AND a consumer. While I have my non-retail business downtown, I do not shop downtown because I get better deals with no parking fees elsewhere in Twin Falls. I responded the last time with the same comments. Your response was to hire an employee to issue parking fines and then you were happy with the "revenue" that was generated from parking fees and fines. This was a poor management decision and we, the consumers, have voted with our pocketbooks. There are many empty buildings/ offices in the downtown area. I recommend you try something else or there will be more empty buildings.	Thu, Jun 2, 2011 10:54 PM
15.	i would like to see that if people are parked in front of my business and i call to have the vehicle towed it will be done!	Thu, Jun 2, 2011 2:37 PM
16.	i dont think that the business owners should have to pay to park in the lots. with out the business in downtown no one would have to worry about parking because no one would be parking downtown	Thu, Jun 2, 2011 2:26 PM
17.	Enforcing city law is the responsability of the city in every city that I have lived in. Switching this responsability to anyone else will only create more problems. ref BID defunct. Larry Pullan Annetiques etc.	Thu, Jun 2, 2011 2:05 PM
18.	as a property owner i already pay higher property taxes for property downtown of course the city should be responsible for parking the maintenence and the streets for gawd sakes thats what we pay for!!!	Thu, Jun 2, 2011 1:58 PM
19.	MAKE IT MANDATORY FOR THOSE ON MAIN STREET THAT ARE EMPLOYEES NOT TO PARK IN MAIN STREET PARKING PLACES AND IF THEY DOP PARK THERE HAVE A ONE HUNMDREDD DOLLAR FI9NE EACH TIME THAT THEY ARE THERE FOR OVER 10	Thu, Jun 2, 2011 11:51 AM

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16. Additional Comments/Suggestions:

	MINUTES	
20.	In my opinion, if you are going to make the customers of downtown pay to park then the revenue should be put back into refurbishing the downtown area. There are many "little" things that can be done to make downtown more attractive and functional such as fixing the sidewalks to make them safer, a more uniform planting of the flowers beds and trees and giving business owners an incentive to update or clean up their store fronts. I can't help but believe that by doing this you will attract not only more customers to downtown but also more business. And isn't that what this is really all about?	Thu, Jun 2, 2011 10:43 AM
21.	How about a trolley or shuttle that runs a loop thru the parking lots ? find an inexpensive trolley like you see at airports or Disneyland..lets merchants pay for signage...decorate the trolley in an Old Towne " theme.. ..Also ask the city (also on a trial basis) to open up the old Ameripride vacant lot near the post office for parking. Forget the darn paving for a bit..make this a park of "THE EXPERIMENT"..this would also help Mark Rivers and Co in an effort to get restarants etc..to the old Paris Blg..just for example.... I wish you lots of luck...i have an interest in the downtown...in the past 36 Months i have purchased, and upgraded 2 blighted and ugly buildings(Super 7 Motel and Old Town Lodge) and have got them cleaned up want to be part of the COMING OUT !!..i just put some old Bissbee Photos in my lobbys...i also allowed Art Hoag free acesss and parking for the recent art exhibit.. Eric Watte 208-731-5745 (New Leaf Properties llc)	Sat, May 28, 2011 3:40 PM
22.	I love the look of the parking meters and do not think that they should be taken out, but I also do not think that they should be active.	Fri, May 27, 2011 8:24 PM
23.	I feel the rates we pay to park downtown are low, compared to other cities. 25 cents an hour is not going to break us.	Fri, May 27, 2011 7:46 PM
24.	The trees are a nice idea but they are causing heaving and lifting of both sidewalk and pavement.	Fri, May 27, 2011 4:21 PM
25.	I really don't have a lot of complaints from customers about parking. There just seems to be a lot of confusion about where they can park. Although I know the lots have signs in them about what is leased vs what is not leased - they don't seem to attract the attention of the customers trying to park their cars. THey don't notice them. And especially in the winter, it's not obvious if there is snow on the ground which are the white lines vs the yellow lines. I think it would be great if we could designate customer vs leased parking by lot instead of by space in a lot. For example, the lots that back up to the businesses on main street should be customer parking - all the spaces should be for customers - then we could have signs (some sort of colored background sign to stand out) to indicate CUSTOMER PARKING ONLY IN THIS LOT. The leased spots and employee parking should be in the lots that are farther off Main	Fri, May 27, 2011 3:01 PM

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16. Additional Comments/Suggestions:

	Avenue. Then those lots could be marked as LEASED PARKING. There probably needs to be some customer parking off of Main since there are some of us who have businesses that are not on Main and still need a place for our customers to park. I am not sure about the meters - I can see where they could be a detriment to business but I also see the need to keep people moving in those spots. I am concerned that if they are removed, then employees/owners will park in those spaces and it won't increase the number of customer spots. I was at the meeting at the Ballroom and heard one person say that they would be willing to pay for a day pass for parking spots. That might be interesting. I also heard someone saying something about having numbered tags/spaces in the LEASED SPOTS so that everyone had a specific place to park. THat way, if I purchase a tag for my store, I could pass it around to my employees to use on their shift so that I don't have to buy 3 spots when 2 of them are only there for 2-3 4 hour shifts per week.	
26.	Thank you for this opportunity to participate in this issue. I hope several people will take part in this survey. I would have come to the meeting at the Ballroom Thursday evening; however, it was Business After Hours with the Chamber.	Fri, May 27, 2011 2:52 PM
27.	I don't mind putting money in the meters to park down town. It been that way since the 1970's. If people don't want to put money in the meters there is plenty of 'free' parking within walking distances.	Thu, May 26, 2011 4:03 PM
28.	Perhaps a parking garage of a 2-3 levels would be good for downtown.	Thu, May 26, 2011 3:47 PM
29.	We need more specialty shops! Not so many thrift shops..	Thu, May 26, 2011 3:47 PM
30.	parking should be free. I also think parking spots for pregnant mothers or children might be a nice idea. In other states there is designated parking stork parking so why don't we have any of those?	Thu, May 26, 2011 3:33 PM
31.	I believe that the citizens of Twin Falls want a safe, attractive, vibrant Downtown. A place to shop , socialize, find entertainment and dining and share in the history of their Community. Parking is key. Because the Downtown infrastructure - including parking, landscaping, water, lights, etc - is city owned that has to be some responsibility and participation by the City. The property owners, businesses and customers also have some responsibility to pay for the maintenance of the core. An LID, coupled with income from parking leases and possibly meters could be a starting point for discussion on how to collectively maintain the area. Tom Ashenbrener, Rudy's - A Cook's Paradise	Thu, May 26, 2011 2:00 PM
32.	The question of who should manage the parking lots becomes difficult because decades ago the City of Twin Falls took the initiative to purchase and own the property. Past city leaders directed the future of downtown parking in the 1970s ... even before the establishment of the defunct Business Improvement District. As such, I believe taxpayers -- all taxpayers within city limits -- are bound by the decisions of previous	Thu, May 26, 2011 1:48 PM

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16. Additional Comments/Suggestions:

	City Councils. Struggling downtown property owners also suffer because of decisions by past city leaders to neglect certain areas in favor of development along the canyon rim. The city as a whole assumes responsibility for such misdirection. Either give up on downtown altogether, or remind the good residents of Twin Falls that previous leaders indebted them somewhat to preserving the "soul" of the city. Scott Andrus Twin Falls	
33.	If you want to generate business in downtown get rid of the parking meters	Thu, May 26, 2011 1:39 PM
34.	There are some changes to the parking system that would be very beneficial to the downtown shopping core, though overall, I think it is a good system. Examples of these recommended changes would be: -Free parking on the weekends in any lot or space -Meters checked through 5pm (not 6pm) -Removing meters in areas they are not needed. Use details from the meter maid to know which ones are frequently used (ie needed) and maintain those. Remove the unnecessary meters (on off streets, or in areas where turnover is not a problem). -Painted 'Leased M-F' on leased spaces in all lots that are mixed use (customer/leased) Finally, there should be time taken to address the issue of employee parking. Leased lots need to be where this issue is addressed. I assume the system is presently first come first served? Perhaps dumping this system, in favor of equitable distribution based on employee count/needs. Ensure each business has adequate and appropriate parking options (in leased lots, or, if not, perhaps signing a statement saying why they do not need leased space(s) and commit they will not park in customer parking) relative to their employee count.	Thu, May 26, 2011 1:04 PM
35.	It is not good for our elderly to have to do all the walking & remembering to put money in. Most of our elderly can't afford much as it is. If you don't have to pay more would come..Including myself, instead of looking to free parking areas & using their serveices instead.	Thu, May 26, 2011 10:27 AM
36.	The parking "problem" is really a marketing opportunity. A local taxing district (LID) for a very limited number of mills per dollar value would provide an on-going basis of funding. But, the city has a shared responsibility for maintenance of streets and parking lots. A modest increase in the leasing fees of reserved parking is an additional option to consider. With these 3 funding sources (property owners, city, leasing fees) there would be no need for parking meters. Marketing the newly minted, consumer-friendly downtown, would be productive.	Thu, May 26, 2011 7:51 AM
37.	Downtown has already been on "life support" , stop furthering the demise by charging to park.	Thu, May 26, 2011 7:20 AM
38.	I do not mind to pay for parking as long as the money does back into downtown to keep it up..	Thu, May 26, 2011 5:58 AM
39.	The City should get out of downtown all together.....and store owners should clean up	Thu, May 26, 2011 4:59 AM

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16. Additional Comments/Suggestions:

	and maintain around there own business.....and take out the parking meters if the city is not involved. I am sure the city has a right of way down there but it does all over town.....who takes care of my right of way ???.....ME	
40.	We shouldn't have to pay to give a retailer money.	Thu, May 26, 2011 4:54 AM
41.	downtown is struggling as it is. get rid of the meters and let people park.	Wed, May 25, 2011 1:58 PM
42.	I feel that the meters keep people away from downtown. Why go visit a local shop downtown where you have to pay for parking if you can just go to a chain that offers free parking? Downtown is slowly starting to revitalize and if parking charges increase it will likely stop or further slow the revitalization of downtown.	Wed, May 25, 2011 11:37 AM
43.	Leased parking should be removed from some downtown lots that are on the 2nd Avenues. No leased parking in small lot behind the Paris / Hands On buildings. On other 2nd Ave lots leased parking should be only on last row bordering 2nd Ave. If parking meters are eliminated on Main Ave then business owners and employees while working must not park on Main Ave. Enforcement of this would be difficult but it is what needs to happen in order to remove meters and address our customers concerns. It is not about us, the businesses, it is about our customers.	Tue, May 24, 2011 3:25 PM
44.	go to seattle and look at their lay out down at wharf, it was amazing to find shops there	Tue, May 24, 2011 1:49 PM
45.	We have a local business owner close to us that thinks she is the parking police and talks to my customers rudely if they have parked in front of her business for more than an hour. Some of my classes are 2 1/2 hours in length so they would need to be parked longer than an hour. My belief is that the metered parking is public parking and if someone wants to pay for parking they should be able to park in front of any business whether or not they are shopping there. If someone wants to shop or patronize a business they will find a parking place somewhere even if they have to walk. I also have a volunteer that is handicapped so she parks in front of my business frequently. This certain "parking police" is mean to my volunteer when the only parking spot open is in front of her business. As far as I understand the parking code, the handicapped can park anywhere they need to park in the city for free. I do not want to have the business owners in charge of parking management because this sort of thing could escalate...and not be good for business. In fact, I have been searching for a different place to rent because of this issue.	Tue, May 24, 2011 12:23 PM
46.	eliminate parking meters, hire a person with a chalk stick, allow only 2 hours free parking and give them a ticket after 2 hours use.	Tue, May 24, 2011 11:09 AM
47.	I do not believe privatizing the parking lots is a viable option right now because the lots are not an attractive investment, and any privatization of lots could very potentially further restrict the amount of available parking spaces.	Tue, May 24, 2011 8:45 AM

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16. Additional Comments/Suggestions:

The lots are not an attractive investment because there are a lot of parking spaces available because Downtown is not an attractive place to visit. Since demand is incredibly low for parking spaces, sans the employees of Downtown, no investor is going to want to purchase the lots and try to lease them out, even for a couple of hours (e.g., Diamond Parking Management). Taking a step toward privatizing the lots could send a message to the community that Downtown parking will be even more reduced because people will have to pay for more spaces.

Another problem with privatizing the lots is that public space could be further taken away from the public and from property owners in the Downtown area whose property values are severely dependent on public parking. Downtown property owners and businesses become a part of Downtown with the understanding that the parking scheme, inherited from Twin Falls incorporation as a city, is a public use. To force an already struggling microeconomy, which was struggling before the macroeconomy went bust, would be an act of economic sabotage.

As for the parking meters, I think they prevent people from coming Downtown to a degree, but overall I think the sad state of Downtown does more to repel than paying $0.25 for an hour of parking. A quarter is cheap, and if Downtown had more interesting things to do I think people would be more than happy to pay a quarter an hour (maybe even more). Perhaps as a gesture of support, the City could suspend parking meters for a period of time to attract more people Downtown, but I think the effect of this would be marginal and would most likely result in employees and business owners parking in the metered areas.

As mentioned before, I believe the reason this discussion is even taking place is because Downtown Twin Falls is in a perpetual state of disrepair as a result of the City failing to support its downtown, cultural core as big companies moved out of Downtown and to the strip-malls north of town. By standing back and letting the 'free' market work its magic, it allowed Downtown to become what it is today (an no, I don't believe the 'free' market always does what is best for a community). If the City was actively involved in trying to make its core a viable economy, the meters would be a no-brainer (and there would be more of them out there), and the lots would probably be privatized because demand for parking spaces would be very high (yes, I assume City involvement would result in a better Downtown).

I believe the City has a responsibility to maintain the lots and meters for now, but the lots could be sold off once Downtown is viable again (probably not for 10-20 years). At the same time, the City is facing budget problems, so I don't think it's unfair to ask Downtown businesses and/or property owners to step up and pay for what they are benefiting from. The greater Twin Falls community

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16. Additional Comments/Suggestions:

	has voted with their feet by not coming Downtown, so to expect the greater community to bear all the costs right now is unfair, especially as the City struggles to pay the bills. The only problem with making Downtown share the burden, however, is that Downtown will be double-taxed (on top of the URA tax). Of course taxing an ailing economy never really helps the economy. Perhaps URA funds should be allocated to the parking situation? Maybe in conjunction with a new taxing district? I don't have all the answers, but for anyone to think this complicated, nuanced matter can be solved with a silver bullet is a bit naive. Thanks for listening to me.	
48.	I think the City should maintain and continue to manage all of the downtown parking including the out lots (parking lots behind the downtown businesses that the City owns and lease's). The current downtown parking on Main Street is very nostalgic and fits perfectly aesthetically with the downtown look.	Tue, May 24, 2011 8:16 AM
49.	Downtown business/property owners should be responsible for the cost of providing and maintaining parking as they would in any other part of the City. I don't believe the City has a responsibility to subsidize downtown businesses by providing and maintaining parking at the taxpayer's expense. If downtown businesses are not viable without public subsidies they should fail as they would anywhere else.	Tue, May 24, 2011 7:48 AM
50.	Lose the parking meters... its outdated, doesn't draw a large amount of money anyway, and its an annoyance...	Tue, May 24, 2011 7:10 AM
51.	I go to school downtown, and i think its a real hastle to all the students who start school or go to school there to have to worry about parking, and moving their cars. And the parking permits what a pain in the behind, to have to worry about. just open up the parking so that us as students and others as customers dont have to worry!	Tue, May 24, 2011 6:24 AM
52.	The business owners should NOT have to pay to keep up the parking. Don't penalize them for choosing to have their business downtown. Business owners on Blue Lakes or anywhere else in town are not penalized like this. This needs to be the city's responsibility, just like it is everywhere else in town.	Tue, May 24, 2011 6:22 AM
53.	The parking should be like Boise where you get the first hour free to encourage people to visit downtown and look around/shop.	Tue, May 24, 2011 6:20 AM
54.	Implement a first 30 to 90 minutes free parking meter program on some of the meters!!! This will give me time to do my shopping and it will take care of shop owners concerns of employees taking up prime parking spots.	Tue, May 24, 2011 5:38 AM
55.	I understand that downtown Twin supposedly has plenty of parking available, and even free parking at that. But the reality is that it's all wrong, for a number of reasons.	Tue, May 24, 2011 12:23 AM

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16. Additional Comments/Suggestions:

1) If you don't know your way around downtown, the free parking is extremely difficult to find.

2) The distinction between free spaces and reserved spaces is not clear enough, leading to major confusion and concern when trying to park downtown. Clearer signs, more signs, better line paintings (and colors), "Reserved" being painted within each spot, etc. - all are needed to make it less frustrating.

3) The free downtown parking is too scattered and, again, there isn't enough good signage to make it easy to find - either to find the lots while driving around downtown, or to find the actual free spaces once you're in a lot. If you're just visiting downtown for the first time or are new to town, good luck even knowing that there's free parking available.

4) The current locations of most of the free parking (on the 2nd Aves) makes me feel like a second class citizen - like I'm being forced to park on the ass-end of the building, sneaking in through rear store entrances and down alleys ... assuming those paths are even available and I'm not forced to hike all the way around the long end of the building just to come back to the business I'm trying to reach in the center of the block.

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The best small- to mid-sized city downtown parking I've ever seen was in Petaluma, CA. A large, multi-story (4-5 stories, I think) parking garage was located right in downtown. The main retail/commercial part of downtown Petaluma is about the same size as the core of downtown Twin Falls. This parking garage was in downtown, right next to the core, but not IN the core, i.e. - it was convenient, but not taking up prime real estate. One half of the garage consisted of free parking for customers visiting downtown. The other half of the garage was controlled by automated gates and held reserved spaces for downtown employees and residents. Except for on parade days, I never experienced a lack of free parking in the garage. I don't know how the reserved spaces were financed, but I assume the businesses and residents paid a fee. (That being said, I could see the reserved spaces being offered for free to businesses and residents for the first couple years to help provide an incentive to attract people and companies to move downtown.)

The best part of the parking garage was that it was within a one to two block walk of every part of downtown, and you never had to sneak through an alley or go a long way out of your way to circle around a continuous block of buildings just to get to your destination. Walking through downtown Petaluma was pleasant! It didn't feel like I was walking through a neglected and forgotten part of the city. Instead, it felt like I was walking through the *heart* of the city, with nice landscaping, interesting stores, plenty of eateries, and lots of activity. All of that meant that I didn't mind walking a couple blocks to my destination, because it was an *interesting* walk.

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16. Additional Comments/Suggestions:

Walking through parts of downtown Twin can be like walking through a wasteland, a ghost town.

In addition to the free parking garage, there were a few smaller private (free) parking lots operated by individual businesses, and there were metered spots on the street as well (premium locations, in case you didn't want to walk the 1-2 blocks between the garage and your destination), and there was a smaller metered lot on the other end of downtown as well. The meters were more expensive in Petaluma than they are in Twin, but that was actually a good thing, because it was a bigger incentive to use the free garage.

The biggest differences between the free parking garage in Petaluma and the free parking lots in Twin Falls are ...

1) There was only one free parking garage to go to (not including the few small store-owned lots, which never had more than a dozen or so spaces). Compared this to Twin Falls, where the free parking is scattered around in various lots, hidden behind commercial buildings, and, at a busy enough time of day, you can waste time driving from one lot to the next looking for a free space - or, more specifically, an un-reserved space.

2) Continuing the discussion of reserved spaces - The parking garage in Petaluma had clearly defined free areas and paid areas. You could not even get into the paid/reserved areas on each floor if you didn't have a passcard. There was no chance that a customer/visitor to downtown could accidentally park in a reserved spot (and thereby couldn't receive a ticket or get their car towed). Compare that to the meager and confusing signage and colored lines in the Twin Falls parking lots. The Twin Falls lots do a very poor job of defining free spaces verse reserved spaces.

3) The parking garage was prominent and easy to find (partially because of its height), with excellent signage ALL OVER downtown directing traffic to "Free parking". If you're new to Twin Falls or just visiting, finding free parking in downtown Twin is almost impossible. It's like being on a quest to discover some secret society where you have to be taught how to read between the lines to find the treasure.

4) The parking garage was NICE. It was well lit, in good shape with smooth pavement and concrete, had elevators, and was surrounding by nice landscaping. The free parking lots in Twin Falls feel like their an unwanted burden on whoever is maintaining them. They look shabby and uninviting.

56.	Downtown TF needs to eliminate all barriers to people coming downtown. If there was competition for parking places, then perhaps parking places have a value. Until the downtown is a serious competitor to the mall, no parking fees. Besides painting lines, what exactly are the costs incurred?	Mon, May 23, 2011 9:27 PM
57.	Why not close off main street two blocks east and the block west and make it a pedestrian mall, cobbling the	Mon, May 23, 2011 9:23 PM

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16. Additional Comments/Suggestions:

	streets, installing occasional benches for us older folks to sit on when we need to take a rest from walking, no parking on the main streets, they can park in parking lots	
58.	There is just not enough parking for people to visit downtown..Most of the 'parking lots' are for business employees and you can not park there during certain hours. I don't mind the meters. I grew up with meters and they are just kinda cool.	Mon, May 23, 2011 8:10 PM
59.	Get rid of parking meters! We should not be charged to do business downtown. I can stay north of Addison and never get charged or cited while making a purchase.	Mon, May 23, 2011 7:38 PM
60.	Business needs to stop employees from taking the available spots	Mon, May 23, 2011 6:18 PM
61.	Please get rid of the Meters they are an old concept to a modern flow of clients and interfear with local business!	Mon, May 23, 2011 5:24 PM
62.	Copycat Boise's 8th Street Marketplace. Didn't it revitalize their downtown?	Mon, May 23, 2011 5:17 PM
63.	Tear down vacant buildings for more parking.	Mon, May 23, 2011 5:02 PM
64.	Another thing that would make downtown more shopper friendly is to clean it up! It used to be a neat, clean and friendly area to shop at years past. Now it is appears run down and in some areas really creepy; not at all the friendly and lively area I remember as a youth (only 20 years ago) where my friends and I enjoyed walking and window shopping.	Mon, May 23, 2011 4:18 PM
65.	Parking meters should be retrofitted to accept debit cards.	Mon, May 23, 2011 4:12 PM
66.	I do not agree with the three-hour parking limit in the lots.	Mon, May 23, 2011 3:27 PM
67.	I guess I don't understand why anybody has to pay for parking. There are places to park and parking lots, what is there to pay for?????????	Mon, May 23, 2011 3:25 PM
68.	If the parking is owned by the City, is it not the city's Responsibility, how come the city can not maintain the parking thru the city budget?	Mon, May 23, 2011 3:22 PM
69.	I believe business owners should pay for the parking. I do not agree that customers should be given tickets for not placing a dime or quarter in the meters. As a loyal customer to downtown business's, I do my part in assisting business's to profit. Even though I do not mind placing my complimentary financial assistance in the meters I was not appreciative the one time I forgot to pay for my parking because I had a ticket left on my car informing me I would be fined if I failed to park and not pay again. Since that time, I have frequented downtown less because my shopping experience was ruined.	Mon, May 23, 2011 3:19 PM
70.	This survey is design to get a particular response. Very poor job! Why didn't you first ask if the city should be involved in parking? The starting place is clearly a mission statement. A list of guiding principles.	Mon, May 23, 2011 3:15 PM

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16. Additional Comments/Suggestions:

71.	Im glad the city is seeking feedback in ways such as this. I think this issue is pretty lame though. Parking meters are not needed in down town Twin Falls Idaho!	Mon, May 23, 2011 3:12 PM
72.	I usually only go downtown on Sundays after church to eat. Very rarely do I shop there.	Mon, May 23, 2011 3:11 PM
73.	It is not the customer parking that is a hinderance but the employee parking costs!!!	Mon, May 23, 2011 3:04 PM
74.	I believe private enterprise needs to step up and provide parking. This could work in conjunction with the city of TF owning some lots as well	Mon, May 23, 2011 3:02 PM
75.	Meters are pointless when no one follows them.....waste of time	Mon, May 23, 2011 2:58 PM
76.	Bad call putting the church downtown. We need more businesses.	Mon, May 23, 2011 2:56 PM

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Downtown Parking Forum Notes

May 26, 2011

7:05 pm – Greg Lanting welcomed everyone. Travis and Rebecca talked about the opinion survey and encouraged everyone to take it (discussion on this throughout the evening and staff handed out slips with the URL on it).

Mitch Humble started the forum by talking about the current parking situation. He then took questions. Questions from business owners/merchants included:

- How much revenue the meters (& fines) bring in (answer: $37,500 in meter revenue was budgeted for this year) and what expenses that money is applied to? (personnel for parking enforcement & meter maintenance).
- How the leased spaces are determined, who gets the spaces? (answer: first come first served, automatic renewal available to current lease holders).
- Which method (meters or leased spaces) provides more income? Which meters are collecting more revenue/are in higher demand? How were meter location chosen? No one has that info, though meter locations have not changed since at least 2008)
- Does the city have records for how successful the parking operation was when it was ran by Earl Faulkner? Yes
- Is Main Street maintenance the city's responsibility? Is it treated like any other street? Who should fix the pot holes where parking spaces are? (answer: staff will check)
- What is the URA money for? Could it be used for parking lot maintenance and capital costs if meters are not used? Mitch said yes.
- If meters were done away with, who would pay for the $37,000? Would it fall on business owners or general taxpayers?
- Is the city going to sell the parking lots? Would the city sell lots to a parking management company? Greg Lanting said everything is on the table. His mind is wide open on downtown parking.
- Has there been an audit or study of downtown parking to determine the need? (CSI students & a professor did an informal study 2 years ago) Can the city post the results of their survey online? Yes.
- What maintenance needs done on the parking lots? (very little, the street department keeps an eye on them) How do the downtown streets, metered parking spaces get maintained? Travis said staff would check as to how metered spaces are maintained. Greg Lanting said the sidewalks are the owners' responsibility.
- Does the City budget for downtown parking lot maintenance? Travis said no and said parking revenues are declining. For FY 2012 revenues are not expected to cover expenditures. He mentioned the $6,000 for snow removal specifically. The city's general budget covers all city streets. Downtown parking needs to get resolved – specifically with community input – that's the ultimate goal of the Council. Council is not obligated to subsidize downtown parking. Several options to consider including subsidize, make payroll changes, no enforcement. Tonight

is fact finding and it will be up to the mayor if the council will hear more conversation on this topic.

Comments:

- Clark Parish, business owner/customer/employee, World Radio Link: My fear is that 1) the city will sell the parking lots and 2) a private management company will come in to manage parking. I would like to see the ideas for downtown parking that were developed by the Land Group for the BID. Perhaps we can use those ideas. In researching other cities' parking management, I found several good ideas: 1) the meter gives the first 15-30 minutes for free 2) Have a committee create guiding principles (e.g., the goal behind regulating parking, business owners & customers needs, etc.) which would help the city council and staff make appropriate decisions regarding policy. It needs to be decided whether enforced parking is to raise revenues or to facilitate a fragile downtown economy, to assist downtown in its revitalization, and help the businesses.
- Doug Ash, business owner, Scrappers & Stampers: My customers come in for longer periods of time (3 or more hours) to shop or participate in scrapping events. They hate the meters. Would like all parking to be open and no regulation.
- Sarah Taylor, merchant, The Ballroom: Is fearful of one group's opinion dominating parking policy. The city taking action based on one opinion might be detrimental to downtown's future. Would like to see a professional's opinion/study and would like the majority opinion to be followed.
- Christa, business owner, Christa's Dress Shop: Can see the benefit of both sides (having meters & not having meters). One of the three parking spaces in front of her business does not have a meter and a man who works next door parks there all day. I see the need to move people along, but at the same time, my customers are brides. Buying a wedding dress is an emotional purchase so getting a $5 ticket after shopping for a wedding dress for 3 hours, can ruin a bride's experience at our store and can cause them to go somewhere else. Losing a sale is a substantial financial loss for our business.
- Allison, employee, Scrappers & Stampers: What about people who are paying the meters? Why is there a 2 hour time limit for them if they are paying the meter?
- Jessica Schmidt, employee & customer, D & L Hair Academy: Our situation is unique because our students are paying the academy for training, so they are our customers. The 3 hour time limit per space negatively affects them. Some hair treatments can take longer than 3 hours and we constantly have girls running out to the meters for customers and fellow students. Students refer to meter enforcer as the parking Nazi. We have so many students (20+) that are required to be there all day (8-5 p.m.) that finding parking is extremely difficult. They need to know where parking is available to them. I can see both perspectives and want everyone to be happy/satisfied.

- Liyah Babayan – that's your industry. Ask your students to carpool. If meters are removed, who pays the cost of that? Think long term. Leave meters there but cover them for a specified time. Enforce a parking time limit. Perhaps take off bags again when the economy picks up.
- Tony Prater, business owner, Jensen Ringmakers: We are all here for the same reasons: the customer, our business, and ourselves. How does parking affect our customers? If customers aren't happy, our business is not happy. When we think about parking, are we willing to walk a block for our customers' convenience? I had the opportunity to purchase a private parking lot. I did that for our customers, to open up more parking for everyone. It is difficult to tell which spaces are leased and which are for customers. The signs need to be more clear and easy-to-read. Community needs to be informed, need more communication to people about downtown parking options. The parking lots behind storefronts need to be for customers only—they should not be leased parking. Leased parking lots need to be the furthest away. Owners and employees need to be willing to walk a block for their customers. I have let employees go for parking in customer spaces. Each business owner needs to enforce proper parking among their employees.
- Liyah Babyan, business owner, Oh La La: I agree with what Mr. Prater said. I don't see a need to pay lots of money for a professional survey or study. We business owners are the professionals on this issue. I and many other merchants provide a bowl of coins for my customers to feed the meters. For my clients, it's not the coins that are the issue, it's the potential of getting a fine/ticket. Even though it's not a huge fine, it's the emotional impact of getting a ticket. We shouldn't make people pay for parking in this economy. I support not using the meters, but leaving them there, in case, in the future, business picks up and we need them.
- Sarah Taylor: It's hard to tell which space is which. When there is snow on the ground, it's impossible to see whether the lines are yellow or white. We need to communicate parking information to customers and employees. Knowledge and information would help people know where to park, which parking lot is available to customers and employees/merchants. An idea for revenue would be to have businesses sponsor a meter bag that says "parking compliments of _____" It would be good advertizing and also raise money to cover parking costs.
- Tom Ashenbrener, business owner, Rudy's A Cook's Paradise: This is exactly what we need—more open dialogue about the issues (of downtown). I would like to see the results of the consumer survey when it is complete. My fear is that the city will abandon downtown in its time of need. Customers want to park conveniently and quickly. We downtown businesses are fragile. Don't abandon us. My hope is that as we roll along, we will gain strength. We are unified in our desire to please our customers. Downtown belongs to the entire community. Pride in our downtown is important. There might be a time in the future when an LID is or meters are appropriate. I want to see the meters gone, but we still need some type of parking enforcement. Farmers Market started 3 weeks ago. It's still weak but customers love it! Downtown is not <u>our</u> downtown, it's the <u>community's</u> downtown. Locals show it off to their visitors.
- Tom High, business owner, Benoit Law Firm: My customers are different from other consumers. Clients come and go, but some of my business involves 4-5 lawyers from out of town and takes 2-3 days. I would like the city to have a mechanism available where I could purchase spaces for

them for these days. I would pay a premium for that. The meter cost gets passed on to my customers and I don't like that.

- Jim Loggerman (Wageman), business owner & downtown resident, Native Skin Tanning: I am definitely in favor of getting rid of the meters. I see them as a predatory animal scaring my customers away. My customers are typically there for 10-15 minutes. Why should they get a ticket in that amount of time? Does the city take into consideration how many employees a business has before letting them locate downtown? I love the D&L students because they frequent my business, but there are too many of them and not enough parking spaces for the customers.
- Ivan McClimans (Clemens??), customer: I was born & raised in Twin Falls. Downtown worked real well without the meters. People do not like the meters.
- Ken Fitzgerald, property owner, The Paris building: That's the problem: students are taking the white spaces (customer parking). I have 8 tenants in my building. I am not from here, but have visited my whole life. I have visited downtown areas all over the country—that's usually where the good food and entertainment is. I am trying to get high-end restaurants, like the ones in Boise, into my building, but it is impossible due to parking, meters aside. During an average lunch hour, 75-125 people would need a place to park. The parking lots behind the buildings need to be for customers only. We need to have separate lots for owners and employees. Let's not be shortsighted, let's think long-term. That's what we need to revitalize downtown. We need parking rules and regulations to come from the top (city council & staff) because people have not been cooperative. Among business owners, everyone has a different opinion.
- Earl Mitchell, business owner, SL Start: I work a few blocks from Main Street. I have 20 employees that say they don't want to hassle with the meters during lunch. They will spend a dollar in gas to go somewhere on Blue Lakes instead of paying a quarter at the meter. But perception is reality.
- Doug Ash: Make meters voluntary. If people want to donate to the improvement of downtown, they can. We used to have gumball machines instead of meters—they raised a lot of money and were fun for kids.
- Liyah Babyan: I like the gumball machine idea. Of course there is the cost of gumballs, but it could be a unique fun feature for downtown. It will also entertain children for a few minutes while their parents shop.
- Eric Watte, business owner, 2 Downtown Motels: My locations have on-site parking so I don't have a problem, but I hear complaints about the meters. Why don't we have a trial period of no meter usage? Draw a line in the sand and say "as of October 1st, no meters for one year," see what happens , then come back and make a decision? We could cover them with PVC pipe and business owners can decorate them or write "Free parking for Rudy's customers." I would be willing to pay $5 per space for snow removal. If all of the business owners chipped in, Travis would have his $6,000 for snow removal.
- Clark Parish: Does anyone remember what happened when the chamber had free parking for a while? (audience response: no, no one knew it was free, not enough education)

- Tom Ashenbrener – Every business is different. Employees started parking at the meters. We must have enforcement. I like Woody, he is my friend (referring to Woody's enforcement work that keeps meters available for his customers)
- Tom, Benoit Law: Every business has a different situation. Customers want free parking, but we need some sort of enforcement.

Greg closed the meeting at 9 pm thanking all who came and that the Council would be visiting this subject again in the near future.