

11/18/2024 (Date of First Reading)  
12/02/2024 (Date of Public Hearing)

ORDINANCE NO. M-4479

AN ORDINANCE relating to parking taxes; adding a new chapter 5.07 to VMC; enacting new sections VMC 5.07.010, 5.07.020, 5.07.030, 5.07.040, 5.07.050, 5.07.060; and providing for severability and an effective date.

WHEREAS, the City of Vancouver is a first class charter city authorized by RCW 82.80.030 to fix and impose a parking tax on all persons engaged in a commercial parking business within its jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, as reflected in SR 242-24, Staff recommends that the City Council adopt a commercial parking tax as provided in RCW 82.80.030 to fund the City's transportation plan; and;

WHEREAS, as reflected in SR 242-24, Staff recommends that the City Council a similar tax on on-street parking to better promote equity in terms of on-street versus off-street parking;

**NOW, THEREFORE,**

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF VANCOUVER:**

Section 1. A new chapter is created in Title 5 VMC, to be codified as chapter 5.07 VMC, which shall be entitled "Parking Tax".

Section 2. A new section is enacted and added to chapter 5.07 VMC, to be codified at VMC 5.07.010, and shall read as follows:

**5.07.010 Definitions**

For the purposes of this chapter, the following definitions shall apply:

- A. “City” shall mean City of Vancouver, Washington.
- B. “Commercial parking business” means the ownership, lease, operation, or management of a commercial parking lot in which fees are charged for the act or privilege of parking motor vehicles.
- C. “Commercial parking lot” means a covered or uncovered area located off street with a stall used for the purpose of parking motor vehicles for a fee. The term “commercial parking lot” includes all publicly owned parking lots.
- D. “Parking tax” means the commercial parking tax imposed by this chapter, except the term does not include the On Street Parking Tax.

Section 3. A new section is enacted and added to chapter 5.07 VMC, to be codified at VMC 5.07.020, and shall read as follows:

**5.07.020 Parking tax imposed**

- A. A parking tax of \$0.15 per transaction is imposed on every person for the act or privilege of parking a motor vehicle in a commercial parking lot within the City operated by a commercial parking business. The privilege of parking includes the right to park, whether or not the right is exercised.
- B. A parking tax of \$0.20 per transaction is imposed on every person for the act or privilege of parking a motor vehicle in an on-street parking spot within the City. The privilege of parking includes the right to park, whether or not the right is exercised.
- C. Beginning January 1, 2027, and every year after that, the parking tax provided for herein shall increase by \$0.02 annually.

Section 4. A new section is enacted and added to chapter 5.07 VMC, to be codified at VMC 5.07.030, and shall read as follows:

**5.07.030 Tax in Addition to other license fees or taxes**

The tax levied hereunder shall be in addition to any license fee or tax imposed or levied under any law, statute, or ordinance, whether imposed or levied by the City, State, or other governmental entity or political subdivision. The tax levied herein, when applicable to on street or City of Vancouver owned off street parking, shall be in addition to the parking fees provided in chapter 19.11 VMC.

Section 5. A new section is enacted and added to chapter 5.07 VMC, to be codified at VMC 5.07.040, and shall read as follows:

**5.07.040 Fund created – Use of funds**

All revenues, assessments, and other charges generated and collected as local option transportation taxes shall be placed into the Street Initiative Fund 103 and shall be used by the City for transportation projects within the City of Vancouver Comprehensive Transportation Plan, in accordance with RCW 82.80.070, and for administering the tax, including activities of the City in keeping and tracking records, financial reports and other documents, reviewing filings and compiling reports by commercial parking businesses, and other activities involved in collection and enforcement of the tax

Section 6. A new section is enacted and added to chapter 5.07 VMC, to be codified at VMC 5.07.050, and shall read as follows:

**5.07.050 Taxes collected by business operators.**

The operators of the commercial parking businesses shall collect taxes imposed herein. The operators of the commercial parking businesses shall remit to the City the local option transportation taxes collected on or before the last day of the month following the month during which the taxes were collected, accompanied by a report of all parking transactions. The City shall be authorized to review and inspect financial records involving activities of businesses that are taxable by this tax at least quarterly each year.

Section 7. A new section is enacted and added to chapter 5.07 VMC, to be codified at VMC 5.07.060, and shall read as follows:

**5.07.060 Exempt Vehicles.**

The following are exempt from the parking tax:

- A. Parking by a person in a stall reserved exclusively for that person for 30 days or longer.
- B. Parking of a motor vehicle owned or controlled by a natural person in a stall provided with that person's residence.
- C. Parking of vehicles under federal government contracts that are exempt from the retail sales tax.

Section 8. Severability. If any section, sentence, clause or phrase of this ordinance should be held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect the validity or constitutionality of any other section, sentence, clause or phrase of this ordinance.

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Section 9. Effective date. This ordinance shall become effective January 1, 2026.

DATE OF FINAL PASSAGE at a Regular Meeting of the Vancouver City Council:

December 2, 2024, 2024.

SIGNED this 2nd day of December, 2024.

DocuSigned by:  
*Anne McEnerny-Ogle*  
0C89D9089EC5424...  
Anne McEnerny-Ogle, Mayor

Attest:

DocuSigned by:  
*Natasha Ramras*  
493E940414AE4BD...  
Natasha Ramras, City Clerk

Approved as to form:

DocuSigned by:  
*Jonathan Young*  
9A7DC2E31F094A2...  
Jonathan Young, City Attorney

SUMMARY

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AN ORDINANCE relating to parking taxes; adding a new chapter 5.07 to VMC; enacting new sections VMC 5.07.010, 5.07.020, 5.07.030, 5.07.040, 5.07.050, 5.07.060; and providing for severability and an effective date.

The full text of this ordinance will be mailed upon request. Contact Raelyn McJilton, Records Officer at 487-8711, or via [www.cityofvancouver.us](http://www.cityofvancouver.us) (Go to City Government and Public Records).