



# CITY OF EL PASO DE ROBLES

## *"The Pass of the Oaks"*

### **Parking Ad Hoc Committee Meeting Outline**

### **Monday, August 28, 2023, at 2:00 PM**

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**Location: Library/Conference Center Council Chamber**  
**1000 Spring Street, Paso Robles**

Ad hoc committees consist of 1 or 2 members of the City Council who are appointed by the City Council to perform specific tasks, usually working with staff or representatives from local organizations. An ad hoc committee functions for a limited period of time, reporting back to the full Council periodically during the duration of the committee or at its termination.

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**Committee Members:** Councilmember Bausch and Councilmember Gregory

**City Staff Liaison:** Donna King, Parking Coordinator

1. Committee Member Introductions
2. General Public Comments
3. Financial Reporting/Trolley Costs Overview – Ryan Cornell, Administrative Services Director
4. Parking Ad Hoc Summary Review – Damian Nord, Police Chief
  - a. Termination of Paid Parking Program
  - b. Increase Annual Senior Parking Permits
  - c. Free Parking Days
  - d. Timed Parking
  - e. Parking Fund Debt Cancellation
  - f. Signage and Outreach
  - g. Summary Recommendations for City Council Review/Next Steps
5. Adjournment



# CITY OF EL PASO DE ROBLES

## *"The Pass of the Oaks"*

### Parking Ad Hoc Committee

### SUMMARY NOTES for August 28, 2023

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**Committee Members:** Councilmember Bausch (present) and Councilmember Gregory (present)

**City Staff Liaison:** Donna King, Parking Coordinator

1. Introductions

Staff – Donna King, Damian Nord, Ryan Cornell, Ty Lewis  
Councilmembers – Bausch, Gregory  
Community Stakeholders selected by committee members: Jeff Carr, Jeanne Serge, Katelyn Smith, Larry Warner, Joeli Yaguda  
Main Street Association– John Roush  
Chamber of Commerce – Gina Fitzpatrick  
Wine Country Alliance – absent  
Travel Paso – absent

2. Public comment names – Rochelle Carter, Jan Hop, Mary Uebersax, Dale Gustin, Jeffry Wiesinger, Sharon, Linda Colwell

3. Financial Reporting/Trolley Costs Overview

Ryan Cornell provided a brief overview of the monthly costs for the parking program and approximate costs for the existing trolley programs in Avila Beach and Morro Bay.

4. Parking Ad Hoc Summary Review

Chief Nord presented a summary of options presented to date and asked for consensus from the Committee members.

- a. Termination of the paid parking program – no consensus
- b. Increase number of senior parking permits – consensus to increase annual senior permits
- c. Offer free parking on Tuesdays and Wednesdays – consensus to offer free parking on both days
- d. Timed parking – consensus for a future study and additional discussion
- e. Parking fund debt cancellation – no consensus on debt cancellation
- f. Signage and outreach – consensus for improved signage and outreach
- g. Summary recommendations – Chief Nord will prepare a summary of recommendations to present to City Council.

5. Adjournment

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# CITY OF EL PASO DE ROBLES

## *"The Pass of the Oaks"*

### Parking Ad Hoc Committee Public Comments

**Monday, August 28, 2023, at 2:00 PM**

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**Location: Library/Conference Center Council Chamber  
1000 Spring Street, Paso Robles**

Questions/Comments from members of the public prior to meeting:

**From:** Jeff Carr  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 26, 2023 7:03 AM  
**To:**  
**Subject:** Re: Monday, 8/28 Parking Ad Hoc Committee Outline

**[EXTERNAL EMAIL]**

Thank you for providing this outline.

In response, I would again protest this latest Ad Hoc Committee outline--or agenda. Again, I find it is not compliant with the council approved directive for the committee. In addition: item 3 is ambiguous, and I don't consider the 'summary review' section (4) to be a reasonable representation of events.

My advice to Ad Hoc Committee members---Council Member Gregory and Council Member Bausch---is to go back and review the original council approved directive for this Ad Hoc. Then adjust Monday's agenda to address the objectives and the questions posed by that directive.

As this is the last of the 4 meetings scheduled for this Ad Hoc Committee, this is the final opportunity to meet your responsibilities for the Ad Hoc as defined by the Mayor and City Council.

I encourage all committee members to watch and listen, again or for the first time, the downtown parking item from the June 6, 2023 council meeting. It's why we are all here. The meeting includes important public comments and discussion by the Mayor and Council. Similar public comments have been provided during these Ad Hoc Committee meetings.

This would be item: R. Discussion Items - 1. 90 Day Review of the Downtown On-Street Parking Program. You can find it here:

<https://pub-pasorobles.escribemeetings.com/Meeting.aspx?Id=56a7e2c1-fb35-41d3-bf65-0849311dda64&Agenda=Agenda&lang=English&Item=37&Tab=attachments>

Thank you. Have a great weekend, and see you on Monday.

Jeff Carr

**From:** Shelley B  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 27, 2023 5:24 PM  
**To:** City Clerk <cityclerk@prcity.com>  
**Subject:** Parking

**[EXTERNAL EMAIL]**

I vote NO to continue the paid Parking. It's a continuous debt to Us Taxpayers.

From: Ray Quezada  
Sent: Sunday, August 27, 2023 9:48 PM  
To: City Clerk <cityclerk@prcity.com>  
Subject: Charged parking

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

I am still boycotting Downtown merchants until this parking tax is abolished.  
HRQ

**From:** Linda Midkiff  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 27, 2023 10:27 PM  
**To:** City Clerk <cityclerk@prcity.com>  
**Subject:** Downtown Parking

**[EXTERNAL EMAIL]**

I have been fortunate enough to obtain a senior parking permit for the last two years, so I have not had an issue with parking downtown.

That being said, I have yet to hear any positive comments about the parking regulations. People feel the parking enforcement is overzealous, and many hate trying to find a kiosk or finding that the app isn't working.

More importantly, the City has been losing money on this endeavor since its inception. The City's answer seems to be to eliminate any free parking and raise the rates. This plan follows the previous changes of expanding the hours of enforcement, expanding the territory of enforcement, and raising both the parking fees and the fines. And still the City is losing money. So they want to make the situation even worse for the patrons of downtown by yet again increasing rates and completely eliminating free parking.

It's time for the City to admit failure and abandon this fiasco! It is not financially neutral, and it is unlikely that it ever will be. The citizenry hate it, and many simply avoid the downtown area entirely as a result. Is this really what the City wants?

My recommendation: Stop throwing good money after bad and eliminate paid parking entirely. Build the parking structure that should have been done 20 years ago. It's not going to get any less expensive to do it in the future, and the City has already wasted exorbitant amounts of time and money by refusing to undertake the project sooner.

**From:** jea **Sent:** Monday, August 28, 2023 10:04 AM  
**To:** City Clerk <cityclerk@prcity.com>  
**Subject:** Parking Ad Hoc Meeting

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Please include the attached comments into the Public Record for this committee to consider.  
Please acknowledge receipt.  
Thank you,  
Jan Albin

*Our late Mayor Steve Martin said it himself – “This program was a mistake”.*

For 5 years, there has been more controversy and division about this one problem than there has been on any really crucial City issue such as the homeless.

This ONE segment of our community – the downtown businesses in the core – has taken our time, our focus and our money to fix THEIR problem.

Council should have gathered the business owners together and said NO. This is not a City problem. It’s between you and your employees. You fix it.

But that didn’t happen, and here we are.

We have a community divided, and a substantial amount of them who refuse to patronize their own downtown because of this parking program.

Call that what you will, but that’s the reality.

As long as we have this program, it will be necessary for the City to increase the Parking Budget, spend thousands more on the consultant, software, hardware and personnel to manage the program.

The fact is; that over and above the \$1M Interfund loan made by the General Fund 5 years ago to start this program...a program they promised would be cost neutral in 3 years, then, when it wasn’t, was changed to 5 years... this loan still has a BALANCE OWNING OF \$600k.

To consider taking more money from the General Fund (**my pocket**) to keep this mess going is irresponsible.

There are only two choices.

- 1) Increase the fees and expand the pay-to-park perimeters until the program reaches the black.
- 2) Pull the plug and move on.

I vote for #2. Anything else is unacceptable.

My solution for the downtown parking debacle has always been; you either handle your business and your employees as a responsible, respectful of others adult or find a corner and sell ice cream from a cart.

Jan Albin



**From:** Del Chausse  
**Sent:** Monday, August 28, 2023 11:51 AM  
**To:** City Clerk <[cityclerk@prcity.com](mailto:cityclerk@prcity.com)>  
**Subject:** parking ad hoc committee

**[EXTERNAL EMAIL]**

Hello~

My name is Del Chausse, 1809 Mesa Road, Paso Robles.

I attended the first ad hoc meeting and came away with feeling that the city council was not interested in anything but the status quo. This may be an error on my part but the closing comment by the council member on the committee gave me that impression.

1. I feel the present parking situation was poorly conceived and poorly executed.
2. I would like to have seen the goals and objectives that were followed in developing the present parking rules and regulations.
3. I looked at the spread sheet provided at the first meeting and was appalled by the various costs of administering the parking program.
4. I feel that a half-time parking enforcement officer could do the job by selectively targeting different areas every day. Any loss of revenue could not possibly match the administrative costs.
5. It pains me to write this but if those folks who created the present parking situation were my financial advisors I would now be living under the bridge.

Sincerely,  
Del Chausse

From: Four Sisters Ranch  
Sent: Monday, August 28, 2023 1:15 PM  
To: City Clerk <[cityclerk@prcity.com](mailto:cityclerk@prcity.com)>  
Subject: Parking proposal plan B

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Dear Committee for parking plans,

We are locals from outside the city limits and really object to the parking meters.

We are discouraged these last few years from coming in to support the businesses because of parking fees and limits on free allowed time to park. I know we speak for other locals outside the city limits who used to frequent the businesses, movies, restaurants and smaller businesses and truly think you are defeating the full profits for these businesses and the tax basis/ sales taxes by allowing parking meters.

Instead: re try voluntary cooperation from each business with a questionnaire they must complete outlining the actions they are each taking to re direct the parking of their employees- offering them perhaps free but preferred designated parking streets if they each have a sticker on their cars. Get a community consensus to do this cooperatively to open up CUSTOMER PARKING SPOTS at the businesses.

For the debilitated: walking to insert money and then to businesses if handicapped is too much of a physical challenge. Let those with placards continue to have open parking options.

Cheers, Serena

Serena Friedman, M.D.