



ParkMobile Project

December 13, 2024

We would like to take a moment to share some important background information regarding the Village’s paid parking system, which I believe is essential for both the Village Council and the community to understand.

The decision to implement paid parking was made by the Village Council to address the financial challenges of maintaining our parking facilities, in accordance with the PILOP ordinance. The Village PILOP ordinance would charge new or expanding businesses \$10,500 for each parking spot they did not have according to the permitted parking calculation. The Romeo Downtown Development Authority (DDA) asked for this fee to be eliminated as there were several businesses who could not open or expand because the fee was too high. It's important to note that this ordinance remains in effect, allowing the Village Council to adjust parking fees as needed. Until this ordinance is reconsidered, there will continue to be a need for alternative solutions to our parking maintenance situation.

After much discussion the Village Council decided to have a joint meeting with the DDA to discuss possible solutions to raise funds in a different way. Up for discussion were raising Village taxes, raising taxes in the DDA district, adding a parking lot fee to business owners, looking into paid parking options downtown and leaving the PILOP fee at \$10,500. Previous parking studies had also been discussed. The main conclusion being the lack of enforcement and employees parking in prime customer locations. This gave the illusion that we didn’t have enough parking downtown. After several studies from engineering firms and analysis, it was determined that without enforcement there would continue to be a perceived lack of parking issue.

We sincerely encourage the Village Council to explore options for managing our parking lots using the taxes collected, as this could eliminate the need for both the PILOP and the paid parking system. Additionally, the DDA has graciously allocated funds to assist with snow removal costs at the village’s request, something that had not been done in previous years, and the DDA has authorized assisting the Village with engineering costs and a plan to improve the parking lots. While the DDA is more than willing to provide this assistance, it is vital to recognize that their role was not intended to compensate for the Village’s limitations in providing certain services.

DDAs were established by Michigan legislation in 1975 with the mission of preventing deterioration in business districts, encouraging historic preservation, and promoting economic growth. They have several methods for raising funds, including tax increment financing and grants, all aimed at enhancing our downtown area.

Ultimately, the goal of the DDA is to ensure the economic health and vitality of our beloved downtown. I hope we can work together to find sustainable solutions that benefit both the community and our local businesses.

Andrea St. Laurent
Chairperson

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