

ORDINANCE NO. [2025-2-3E]

AN ORDINANCE TO REGULATE AND ENFORCE DOWNTOWN PARKING IN THE CITY OF HAMILTON

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Hamilton, Alabama, recognizes the need to regulate downtown parking to ensure the accessibility and availability of parking spaces for businesses, visitors, and residents; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has received complaints regarding vehicles remaining parked in designated downtown parking areas for extended periods of time, including overnight and for multiple days, which negatively impacts local businesses and downtown operations; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds it necessary to adopt reasonable restrictions and enforcement measures to maintain proper use of downtown parking spaces and ensure the safety and convenience of the community;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HAMILTON, ALABAMA:

SECTION 1: PURPOSE

This ordinance establishes regulations and enforcement measures for parking in downtown Hamilton to ensure spaces are available for intended purposes and to address improper use of parking areas.

SECTION 2: REGULATIONS

1. Time-Limited Parking:

- In areas designated with 30-minute parking signs, vehicles shall not be parked for a period exceeding 30 minutes.

2. Overnight Parking:

- Vehicles shall not be parked in any downtown parking space for a continuous period exceeding 24 hours, except as provided in Section 2.3.

3. Exception for Residents:

- Individuals with established residency in the downtown area may park overnight near their residence without penalty. Proof of residency, such as a valid driver's license, lease agreement, or utility bill, may be required if a complaint or inquiry arises.

4. Special Circumstances:

- At the request of the Chief of Police or their designee, vehicles must be removed from downtown parking spaces under circumstances deemed necessary, including but not limited to downtown events, festivals, maintenance, or emergencies.

5. Abandoned Vehicles:

- Vehicles left in violation of this ordinance or determined to be abandoned may be towed at the owner's expense.

6. Prohibition on Unauthorized Signage or Restrictions

- No person, business, or entity may restrict parking or add signage to any city-owned parking areas without proper authorization from the City of Hamilton.

SECTION 3: ENFORCEMENT**1. Authority:**

- The Hamilton Police Department, City of Hamilton Compliance Officers, and any other Municipal Court Authority are hereby authorized to enforce this ordinance.

2. Citations:

- Violators of this ordinance shall be issued citations with the following fee schedule:
 - First Offense: \$25
 - Second Offense: \$50
 - Third and Subsequent Offenses: \$100

3. Towing:

- Vehicles that fail to comply with this ordinance may be towed at the owner's expense. Towing fees shall include but are not limited to towing charges, impound fees, and any other associated costs.

SECTION 4: APPEALS

1. Individuals wishing to appeal a citation may do so through the Hamilton Municipal Court in accordance with established procedures.

SECTION 5: EFFECTIVE DATE

This ordinance shall become effective immediately upon its adoption and publication as required by law.

SECTION 6: SEVERABILITY

If any section or provision of this ordinance is found to be unconstitutional or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity shall not affect the remaining provisions of this ordinance, which shall remain in full force and effect.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED this the 3rd day of February, 2025

CITY OF HAMILTON

By: Bob Page
Bob Page Mayor

ATTEST: Angela Owen
Angela Owen, City Clerk

