

Council OKs reduced fees for two parking lots

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It's official — parking permits for the lots at the Pebble House and the north end of the north slip marina in Port Washington will cost \$10 a month, with those taking out the permits receiving a \$5 Main Street certificate to be used at downtown businesses.

With no discussion, aldermen on Tuesday approved a resolution reducing the permit fee for these two lots.

In the north slip lot, permits are only allowed in the south row of parking. The north row is designated for two-hour parking.

The permits, which currently cost \$15, will be effective from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays.

The permit fee for overnight parking will remain \$15, officials said.

The reduced fees are seen by city officials as a way to accommodate downtown workers while increasing business in the central shopping district.

Although the new parking fees were first discussed publicly when Franklin Energy announced its plans to move downtown, officials had been contemplating changes to the daytime parking permits before that time, officials said.

The two affected lots are the only ones where daytime parking permits are required. The city also has two other public lots where permits are not needed, one behind Associated Bank and the other just east of the Senior Center.

The changes in permit fees should have little impact on revenue, officials said, because more people are expected to purchase them at the reduced price.

The city makes about \$3,000 annually from the parking permits.