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Staff Report

SS ITEM 4

To: Lemoore City Council
From: Judy Holwell, Redevelopment Project Manager
Date: February 23, 2011
Subject: Downtown 2-hour Parking Signs

Discussion

At a prior City Council meeting, staff was asked to research the 2-hour parking restriction in downtown. Staff identified two signs downtown with this restriction, which also include the message, "No Parking 2 a.m. to 6 a.m." (pictures attached).

According to Chief Laws, parking downtown is enforced on a complaint basis. Approximately ten years ago, there was an issue between two business owners. One owner would park all day in front of the other business's storefront. Complaints were received on a regular basis. Since that time, complaints are rarely received.

Staff placed this item on the agenda of Downtown Merchants Advisory Committee meeting. The meeting was held January 26, 2011. Five members and two guests were present. A discussion ensued regarding parking in the downtown area and whether or not they feel a problem exists. All members and guests indicated that some vehicles do remain parked in the spaces longer than two hours, but that it had not created a problem for any of them. In fact, the consensus was just the opposite. They do not want their clients and/or customers to be inconvenience by having to move their vehicles if they are in the middle of shopping, getting their hair done, or getting a manicure and/or pedicure.

The committee unanimously advises that the existing signs be left in place so that overnight parking does not occur, but they do not want the 2-hour parking restriction to be enforced on a regular basis. In this economy, the last thing they want to do is scare off customers. They indicated that if at some point parking becomes a problem, it would be a good thing because that would mean all the spaces were full. When that occurs, enforcement would be encouraged.

Budget Impact

None.

Recommendation

Information only.