

ORDINANCE 26-_____

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BILLINGS,
PROVIDING THAT THE BILLINGS, MONTANA CITY
CODE (BMCC) BE AMENDED BY REVISING SECTIONS
24-441 THROUGH 24-443.1, 24-445, 24-1004, 24-24-1007,
24-1008, AND 24-1011**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BILLINGS THAT:

Section 1. That Section 24-441 through 24-443.1, 24-445, 24-1004, 24-1007, 24-1008, and 24-1011 of the Billings, Montana City Code (BMCC) is amended and renumbered so that such section shall read as follows:

DIVISION 3. ACCESSIBLE PARKING FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Sec. 24-441. Purpose.

The purpose of this division is to provide and allow accessible parking privileges for persons with disabilities and to effect certain provisions of MCA Title 49, Chapter 4, Part 3 (section 49-4-301 et seq.).

(Ord. No. 84-4571, § 1, 2-27-84)

Sec. 24-442. Definitions.

For purposes of this division, the following terms have the meanings provided below:

- (a) Disability parking authorization means:
- (1) A disability parking permit, disability parking placard, disability license plate, or any other permit, placard, plate, or authorization issued under Montana law as authorizing the use of accessible parking spaces;
 - (2) A disability parking permit, disability parking placard, disability license plate, or any other permit, placard, plate, or authorization issued by another jurisdiction that authorizes the use of accessible parking spaces similar to those issued under Montana law.

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- (b) “Accessible parking space” means a parking space designated for use by a vehicle displaying a disability parking authorization, whether located on public property or on private property available for public use.
 - (c) “Access aisle” means the striped or otherwise designated area adjacent to an accessible parking space that is reserved to provide access to or from a vehicle lawfully parked in the accessible parking space.
 - (d) “Person with a disability” or “disability” means a person who has a disability that limits or impairs the person’s mobility and who meets the eligibility criteria for a disability parking authorization.
 - (e) “Vehicle” means any device or conveyance propelled in whole or in part by motor power and used for transporting persons or property, regardless of the number of wheels or physical configuration, including but not limited to automobiles, trucks, buses, motorcycles, and vehicles powered by gasoline, diesel, electricity, hydrogen, or other sources of power.

(Ord. No. 84-4571, § 2, 2-27-84; Ord. No. 88-4758, § 2, 4-18-88; Ord. No. 93-4944, § 1, 11-15-93)

Sec. 24-443. Accessible parking; extent of privileges; prohibited parking.

- (a) The disability parking authorization, when lawfully displayed or affixed as required by Montana law, entitles a person to park a motor vehicle in accessible parking spaces whether on public property or on private property available for public use, when the person for whom the disability parking authorization was issued is using the parking space to enter or exit the vehicle
- (b) A vehicle may not stop, stand, or park in an accessible parking space unless:
 - (1) The vehicle is lawfully displaying a valid disability parking authorization, and the accessible parking space is being used by the person for whom the disability parking authorization was issued to enter or exit the vehicle; or
 - (2) The vehicle is being used to transport a person with a disability and is temporarily stopping, standing, or parking in the accessible parking space only for the purpose of loading or unloading the person with a disability.
- (c) A vehicle may not stop, stand, or park in an access aisle, regardless of whether the vehicle is lawfully displaying a disability parking authorization.
- (d) Vehicles lawfully displaying a disability parking authorization are exempt from any time limitations imposed upon parking in public places along public streets, except in areas where:
 - (1) Stopping, standing or parking of all vehicles is prohibited;
 - (2) Only special vehicles may be parked; or

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- (3) Parking is not allowed during specific periods of the day in order to accommodate heavy traffic.

In addition, as a local parking management policy intended to encourage off-street parking and preserve on-street parking availability, the City may exempt vehicles lawfully displaying a disability parking authorization from parking charges and fees imposed for parking in designated accessible parking spaces in city-owned or city-operated public on-street timed parking spaces, excluding ten (10) minute and loading zone spaces, public parking lots and public parking garages, unless otherwise posted for security, operational, or facility-management reasons.

- (e) Notice of penalty for violation of this division is not required at the site of an accessible parking space.

(Ord. No. 84-4571, § 3, 2-27-84; Ord. No. 85-4630, § 1, 3-18-85; Ord. No. 93-4944, § 2, 11-15-93; Ord. No. 99-5092, § 1, 7-12-99)

Sec. 24-443.1. Requirements for handicapped parking spaces.

- (a) Accessible parking spaces shall be provided, designed, constructed, and located as required by applicable federal and state law.
- (b) Each required accessible parking space shall be identified and signed as required by applicable federal and state law, including the signage requirements of MCA § 49-4-302(6)(a).
- (c) Required accessible parking spaces shall be maintained as required by applicable federal and state law, including the requirements of MCA § 49-4-302(6)(b).

(Ord. No. 93-4944, § 3, 11-15-93)

Sec. 24-445. Penalty.

A violation of the provisions in division 3 – accessible parking for persons with disabilities is designated as a municipal infraction. Alleged violations shall be enforced under and subject to the penalties and procedures as provided in article 24-1000.

(Ord. No. 93-4944, § 4, 11-15-93; Ord. No. 02-5232, § 9, 12-9-02; Ord. No. 10-5501, § 1, 1-11-10)

Sec. 24-1004. Parking violation—Procedure generally.

(a) *Violation for improperly parked vehicle.*

- (1) Whenever any motor vehicle, unattached trailer, or unattached camper, with or without a driver, is found parked or stopped in violation of any of the restrictions imposed by ordinance of this city or by state law, the vehicle may be cited for the appropriate parking violation. The citation shall be in a

form authorized by the city. The city employee issuing the citation shall note the vehicle's license plate or vehicle identification number and any other information concerning the vehicle that will identify it and, if the driver is not present, shall serve the citation by placing same on the vehicle, by serving the citation on the owner/operator of the vehicle in person, or by serving the citation by regular mail on the registered owner at the registered owner's address as shown on the records of the motor vehicle division of the owner's state of residence.

- (2) The registered owner of a vehicle at the time the violation occurred shall be liable for all fines, fees and penalties related to the specific violation.
 - (3) The registered owner at the time a vehicle is found to be in violation of any provisions of this article shall remain liable for all violations despite having subsequently sold, transferred, or otherwise conveyed the vehicle.
 - (4) A citation issued for a violation of BMCC 24-443, or for violation of Montana law regarding accessible parking spaces or access aisles, shall be voided if, within three (3) business days after the date the citation is issued, the person cited presents to the parking division a disability parking permit, disability parking placard, disability license plate, qualifying disabled veteran license plate, or other authorization recognized under applicable law that was issued to that person before the violation occurred and was valid at the time of the violation.
- (b) *Citations.* Employees under the supervision of the parking manager, as well as code enforcement personnel, college campus police, airport police and those under the supervision of the chief of police are authorized to provide enforcement of parking regulations and issue related citations for parking violations as set forth in the BMCC or violations of MCA tit. 61 (Motor Vehicles) and MCA 49-4-302 (Disability Parking Permits). Employees under the supervision of the parking manager and under the supervision of the chief of police are authorized to immobilize and/or impound a vehicle in accordance with this section.
- (1) The form of the citation shall be designated by the city, but shall contain in substance the following information:
 - a. A statement that the citation represents a determination that a violation of this article or other parking prohibition has been committed by the owner or user of the vehicle and that the determination shall be final unless contested as provided by this article;
 - b. A statement that failure to pay a violation may result in immobilization and/or impoundment of the vehicle for which the owner may be liable for penalties and fees, including towing, handling and storage costs;
 - c. A statement of the specific provision of this article violated and for which the citation was issued;

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- d. A statement of the monetary penalty established for the parking violation, including that the violation may subject the owner to additional administrative fees if not paid within twelve (12) calendar days of the date of issuance of the citation; and
 - e. Information advising the owner of the vehicle that they must admit the violation and pay the associated penalty or deny the violation and request an appeal pursuant to subsection (d).
- (2) The citation represents a determination that a violation has been committed, and such determination shall be final unless contested as provided herein.
 - (3) Nothing herein shall be deemed to invalidate any previous notice or citation issued by the city regarding a violation under this article or other parking prohibition.
 - (4) The original citation must be filed with the parking division and may be disposed of only by official action of the city or by payment of a fine to the finance department or parking division.
- (c) *Response to citation required.*
- (1) Any person who receives a citation for a violation of this article shall respond to such citation as provided herein within twelve (12) calendar days of the date of the issuance of the citation, by either paying the penalty set forth in the citation or requesting an administrative appeal pursuant to subsection (d) of this section. If the person receiving the citation fails within twelve (12) calendar days to either pay the penalty or to request an administrative appeal, said failure shall result in the assessment of an administrative fee as established by resolution which shall be in addition to the penalty.
 - (2) If the owner of a vehicle cited for a parking violation has not responded to the citation within twelve (12) calendar days as provided in subsection (c)(1) of this section, the city shall send a written notice of the citation no more than sixty (60) calendar days from the date of issuance of the citation by regular mail to the last known address of the registered owner of the vehicle. Such notice shall state that if the owner of the vehicle does not respond to the written notice within thirty (30) days from the date of issuance of the notice of the citation by either paying the penalty and possible administrative fee or by requesting in writing an administrative appeal pursuant to these procedures, the owner shall be deemed to have waived the owner's right to an administrative appeal and the determination that a violation was committed shall be considered final. Any person who fails to request an administrative appeal or pay the fine described in this subsection shall be deemed to have refused to pay the fine levied by the citation and shall authorize the city to proceed to collect the fine and all possible administrative fees in any manner available to the city.

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- (3) All payments made by a person regarding a citation issued under this article shall be paid only to the finance department or parking division.
- (d) *Administrative appeal of parking citation.* Any person cited for a violation of this article may contest the determination that a violation occurred by submitting to the city a notice of administrative appeal of the parking citation within the time parameters set forth in subsection (c) of this section. The notice of appeal must contain a written statement detailing the appellant's argument that the citation was issued in error and may include photographs, or any other information the appellant wishes to rely upon. Parking division manager ("administrative reviewer") shall review the information submitted and, within twenty (20) calendar days of receipt of the notice of appeal, the city shall inform the appellant via regular mail or other communication approved by the appellant, whether the citation is affirmed, modified, or dismissed. If the citing officer's decision is affirmed or modified, the petitioner shall have twelve (12) calendar days from the date of official communication of the administrative reviewer's decision to pay the penalty. Failure to pay within the twelve (12) calendar day period shall result in the assessment of an administrative fee as established by resolution which shall be in addition to the penalty and shall authorize the city to proceed to collect the fine and all administrative fees in any manner available to the city.
- (e) *Rehearing and judicial review.*
- (1) The city administrator or a designee shall be responsible for review of an administrative reviewer's decision. In no event shall the administrative reviewer whose decision is being reviewed be the designee.
 - (2) A request for review of a decision of an administrative reviewer shall be submitted to the city administrator or designee within twelve (12) calendar days of the administrative reviewer's determination. This written request may include a request for a hearing. Upon receipt of such request, the city administrator or designee will schedule a time and place for hearing within twenty-one (21) calendar days of receipt of the request and will provide written notice of the date and time to the appellant. The city administrator or designee shall have the power to review the facts and the law in order to affirm, reverse, or modify any original decision for error of fact or law.
 - (3) Procedure. The hearing shall afford a reasonable opportunity for appellant(s) to demonstrate by the statements of witnesses and other evidence that the citation was invalid or unjustified. The city administrator or designee shall establish the necessary rules and regulations regarding the conduct of such hearings.
 - (4) Appearance of officer. The officer or other person authorized by the city who issued the citation shall not be required to appear at the hearing unless the city administrator or a designee determines that the officer's presence is required. The city administrator or a designee may grant one postponement if the officer is not available at the time of the hearing.

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- (5) Determination. At the conclusion of the hearing, the city administrator or a designee shall immediately render a decision, either finding the appellant liable and assessing a fine in the appropriate amount as authorized by the BMCC or declaring the violation unproven.
 - (6) Failure to appear. Failure of the appellant to appear at a hearing when required to appear shall constitute an admission of the parking violation and shall subject the person charged with the violation to the appropriate fines and costs assessed by the city acting through the city administrator or a designee and shall authorize the city to proceed to collect the fine and all administrative fees in any manner available to the city.
 - (7) The decision of the city administrator or a designee shall be the final decision by the city and the appropriate fines and costs assessed by the city acting through the city administrator or designee shall be due immediately. Any person aggrieved by a decision may file a petition for judicial review in the Billings Municipal Court. An appeal must be brought within thirty (30) calendar days from the date of the decision of the city administrator or a designee, and shall be confined to review of the record and questions of law.

(Code 1967, § 11.80.050; Ord. No. 88-4758, § 13, 4-18-88; Ord. No. 93-4945, § 1, 4-26-93; Ord. No. 24-5890, § 4, 8-26-24)

Sec. 24-1007. Authorization to tow or use vehicle immobilizer.

In addition to, or as an alternative to towing, the city administrator or designee is authorized to use a vehicle immobilizer ("boot") to immobilize any vehicle that is parked in a city parking space or along any right-of-way within the city limits and that has any number of unpaid parking tickets totaling two hundred dollars (\$200.00) or more.

(Ord. No. 91-4883, § 3, 8-5-91; Ord. No. 93-4945, § 2, 4-26-93; Ord. No. 04-5270, § 1, 4-12-04; Ord. No. 06-5385, § 1, 9-11-06)

Sec. 24-1008. Procedure for vehicle immobilization.

If the city administrator or designee chooses to immobilize a vehicle with a boot as allowed by section 24-1007, then the city administrator or designee shall conspicuously affix to such vehicle a notice in writing notifying the owner, driver or person in charge of such vehicle that such vehicle has unpaid parking tickets totaling two hundred dollars (\$200.00) or more and will be immobilized in forty-eight (48) hours. After forty-eight (48) hours the city administrator or designee shall conspicuously affix to such vehicle a notice in writing notifying the owner, driver or person in charge of such vehicle: that such vehicle has been immobilized by the city for violation of one or more provisions of this chapter; that release from such immobilization may be obtained at a designated place; that unless arrangements are made for the release of such vehicle within forty-eight (48) hours the vehicle will be impounded and towed as provided in section 24-

1009; and that removing or attempting to remove the immobilization device from the vehicle, or removing or attempting to move the vehicle from the place at which the immobilization device was affixed to the vehicle before a release is obtained is unlawful.

It shall be a misdemeanor punishable as provided in section 1-110 for any person to remove or attempt to remove any immobilization device or to move any immobilized vehicle from the place at which the immobilization device was affixed to the vehicle before a release is obtained from the city administrator or designee. An immobilized vehicle shall not be released by the city until a fee of one-hundred dollars (\$100.00) for the immobilization is paid, together with payment of all outstanding parking fines, or posting of bond as allowed by subsection 24-1009.5(b).

If the vehicle has remained immobilized for a period of forty-eight (48) hours and a release has not been obtained, then the city administrator or designee shall have the vehicle impounded and towed as provided in section 24-1009.

(Ord. No. 91-4883, § 5, 8-5-91; Ord. No. 04-5270, § 1, 4-12-04; Ord. No. 06-5385, § 2, 9-11-06)

Editor's note(s)—Ord. No. 91-4883, § 4, adopted Aug. 5, 1991, repealed former § 24-1008, relative to official neglect in fine disposition, and § 5 of said Ord. No. 91-4883 enacted a new § 24-1008 to read as herein set out. The provisions of former § 24-1008 derived from Code 1967, § 11.80.100; Ord. No. 88-4758, § 17, adopted April 18, 1988.

Sec. 24-1011. Penalty for violations.

- (a) Except as provided in subsection (b), the city administrator or designee shall establish a bond schedule for parking violations subject to the maximum penalties established in section 1-110 and section 18-1304.
- (b) The penalty for each violation of division 3 – accessible parking for persons with disabilities shall be a fine of \$250.00.

(Code 1967, § 11.80.120; Ord. No. 87-4731, 4-20-87; Ord. No. 91-4883, § 11, 8-5-91; Ord. No. 02-5232, § 17, 12-9-02; Ord. No. 06-5385, § 4, 9-11-06; Ord. No. 10-5501, § 1, 1-11-10)

Section ____. **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This ordinance shall be effective thirty (30) days after second reading and final adoption as provided by law.

Section ____. **REPEALER.** All resolutions, ordinances, and sections of the City Code inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed.

Section ____. **SEVERABILITY**. If any provision of this ordinance or the application thereof to any person or circumstances is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect the other provisions of this ordinance which may be given effect without the invalid provisions or application, and, to this end, the provisions of this ordinance are declared to be severable.

PASSED by the City Council on first reading the _____ day of _____, 2026.

PASSED, ADOPTED and APPROVED on second reading this _____ day of _____, 2026.

CITY OF BILLINGS

BY: _____
Mike Nelson, Mayor

Attest:

BY: _____
Denise R. Bohlman, City Clerk