



**Council
Communication**
Office of the City Manager

Date

July 28, 2008

Agenda Item No. 35A
Roll Call No. 08-
Communication No. 08-433
Submitted by: **Jeb E. Brewer, P.E.**
City Engineer

AGENDA HEADING:

Approval of purchase of Smart Cards and card vending units to upgrade existing parking meters

SYNOPSIS:

Recommend approval of the purchase of various items related to the upgrade of approximately 1,000 parking meters in the Central Business District (CBD) to accept a Parking Smart Card and also the purchase of three automated Parking Smart Card vending units to sell the parking meter Smart Card. The purchase would be from Park-O-Meter Incorporated, 200 South El Mira, Russellville, AR 72802, Amy Adkison, Regional Sales Manager (POM), as a sole source item, because this purchase will be a component add-on to our existing parking meters and would also be fully integrated with our existing parking meter software.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$72,972.69

Funding Source: 2008/09 Operating Budget, EN051, ENG100701, Parking Administration, Parking Operations.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The City of Des Moines has worked with the Downtown Community Alliance (DCA) for the past year to develop a method of adding parking time (or value) to a parking meter that does not require using just coins. This recommended method of adding parking time to a parking meter with a Smart Card (also called a Debit or Value Card) is the result of a previous pilot program test of the multi-space electronic parking meters. The Smart Card parking meter system has shown that it is a proven and reliable method of adding value to a parking meter in several larger cities in the United States and was chosen instead of the multi-space electronic system.

The Smart Card method of adding parking time requires the upgrading of approximately 1,000 existing parking meters in the CBD to accept a Smart Card. This would be at a cost of \$27 to \$38 per meter (depending on style and age of the parking meter). There would also be three vending locations for the Smart Cards: the lobby at City Hall; the administrative area of the 3rd & Court Municipal Parking Garage; and the 5th & Keo Municipal Parking Garage. These locations allow Internet connectivity and security. The three vending units would accept cash (bills) and MasterCard and Visa (both credit and debit).

The Smart Card itself would allow a citizen to put time on a parking meter up to the maximum limit of the meter (2, 3, 4 or 10 hours). When the customer returns to their vehicle, if there was any time left on the meter, the customer could reinsert the same Smart Card and have the remaining value for the time left on the meter refunded back to the Smart Card.

The total Smart Card system was presented to the DCA Parking Advisory Committee at their meeting held June 19, 2008 and received their recommendation for implementation.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S): NONE

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): DCA Parking Advisory Committee

Date: June 19, 2008

Roll Call Number: N/A

Action: Approval of Smart Card System for Implementation

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE

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