

**ORDINANCE**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KNOXVILLE TO AMEND CHAPTER 17, ARTICLE II, DIVISION 4 OF THE KNOXVILLE CITY CODE RELATING TO THE OPERATING PROCEDURES OF THE VEHICLE IMPOUNDMENT LOT.

ORDINANCE NO: O-24-2024

REQUESTED BY: Fleet Services Dept.

PREPARED BY: Law Department

APPROVED ON 1<sup>ST</sup>

READING: 2-20-2024

APPROVED ON 2<sup>ND</sup>

READING: 3-5-2024

APPROVED AS AN EMERGENCY

MEASURE: \_\_\_\_\_

MINUTE BOOK: 88 PAGE \_\_\_\_\_

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Fleet Services (“Fleet Services”) operates and maintains the City’s vehicle impoundment lot located at 3407 Vice Mayor Jack Sharp Road (“impound lot”); and

**WHEREAS**, the impound lot secures, safeguards, accounts for, and either releases or prepares for auction all impounded vehicles which are impounded for a variety of causes, including abandonment, wrecks, code violations, parking enforcement, and as the result of drug seizures or otherwise in relation to crime; and

**WHEREAS**, by ordinance, impounded vehicles are subject to certain fees; and

**WHEREAS**, by ordinance, these fees are intended to offset the cost of impoundment, including the cost of maintaining the impoundment lot; and

**WHEREAS**, the amounts of these fees are presently set by ordinance; and

**WHEREAS**, the amounts of these fees have not been updated since 2001; and

**WHEREAS**, the cost of operating and maintaining the impound lot has increased since 2001; and

**WHEREAS**, lately, these fees have not provided sufficient revenue for the impound lot to break even most years; and

**WHEREAS**, to prevent this problem from continuing and likely worsening over time, this Ordinance authorizes the Director of Fleet Services to set the basis for calculating the impoundment fee for each fiscal year commensurate with the costs of towing and storing vehicles, providing notice, and operating and maintaining the impound lot.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KNOXVILLE:**

**SECTION 1:** Chapter 17, Article II, Division 4, Section 17-97 of the Knoxville City Code is amended by deleting the section and substituting instead:

**Sec. 17-97. Impoundment lot rules and regulations.**

The director of fleet services shall establish, by rules and regulations, the procedures for the operation of the impoundment lot and the basis of calculating and methods of collecting the impoundment fee.

**SECTION 2:** Chapter 17, Article II, Division 4, Section 17-100 of the Knoxville City Code is amended by deleting the section and substituting instead:

**Sec. 17-100. Impoundment fee.**

To offset the cost of impoundment, including the costs of operating and maintaining the impoundment lot, all vehicles impounded as provided in this division, including, but not limited to, cars, motorcycles, trucks, tractors, trailers, and semi-trailers, shall be subject to an impoundment fee. The basis for calculating

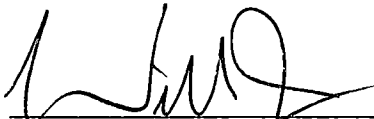
the fee shall be fixed on July 1 of each year by the director of fleet services and shall be commensurate with the costs of towing and storing vehicles, providing notice, and operating and maintaining the impoundment lot. All fees collected under the provisions of this section shall inure exclusively to the use and benefit of the department of fleet services for operations and maintenance associated with impoundment related activities. The excess of revenues less operating and maintenance costs may be transferred to the general fund for general operations.

**SECTION 3:** Chapter 17, Article II, Division 4, Section 17-101 of the Knoxville City Code is amended by deleting “administrative fee, actual costs of towing, any storage fees” wherever it appears and substituting instead “impoundment fee”; and by deleting “fees, costs,” wherever it appears and substituting instead “fee”.

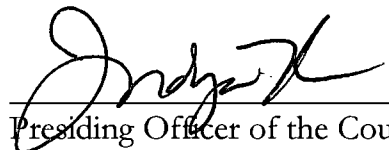
**SECTION 4:** Chapter 17, Article II, Division 4, Section 17-102(c) of the Knoxville City Code is amended by deleting “administrative fee, actual costs of towing, any storage fees,” and substituting instead “impoundment fee”.

**SECTION 5:** Chapter 17, Article II, Division 4, Section 17-103 of the Knoxville City Code is amended by deleting “administrative fee, actual costs of towing, any storage fees,” and substituting instead “impoundment fee”.

**SECTION 6:** This Ordinance shall take effect on July 1, 2024, the welfare of the City requiring it.



Recorder

  
Presiding Officer of the Council