

Mayor & Council

The City owns and operates electric charging stations in Centennial Park. The installation was funded with residual and uncommitted funds from a grant. The cost of installation approximated \$16,000. The city assigned a user cost of \$2.00 per hour for the charging of electric vehicles. There are two charging stations, each capable of charging one golf cart and one electric vehicle. A total of four parking spaces are dedicated to this operation.

The payment for charging is managed through a contract with a private company, Charge Point. The company collects fees through a credit card process, tracks usage, and includes the location of the charging stations in their published literature. Charge Point assesses the City an annual fee of \$510 in addition to collecting approximately 10% of the consumers user fee.

The City operates the charging stations at an economic loss. Even at a rate of \$2.00 per hour, which is higher than some other area stations, the annual revenue does not cover the cost of the service agreement with Charge Point and other maintenance and service costs.. It has been suggested that the City should reduce the charging rate, as the current rate discourages usage. Maintaining the same contractual relationship with Charge Point and reducing the user rate would widen the gap between operating cost and supporting revenue. If the goal is to provide this charging station service to the public at a cost that offsets the city's operational expenses then reducing the user rate is not a solution.

If the primary goal of installing the electric charging stations is to encourage the use of alternative energy sources to fuel vehicles then the charging rate will need to be reduced. As a policy, some other communities offer electric vehicle charging stations to the public at a reduced fee or at no cost to the user.

The Venice charging stations have generated less than \$500 in revenue while the Charge Point collection fee alone exceeds that revenue total. Since the credit card-based user fee collection requires a third party contract the only way to eliminate that cost is to eliminate that service. Eliminating the user fee collection service will save the City \$510 annually. The total electric consumption cost to the City for the charging stations can be estimated only at this time as the service line is not independently monitored but connected to the Centennial Park service line.

To encourage the use of the charging stations, the following policy is recommended:

- Cancel the contract with Charge Point, thereby eliminating the annual collection and process cost of \$510
- Provide the charging station service at no cost to the user
- Establish a parking time limit at the charging stations of five (5) hours per user. This parking limit is consistent with the general parking restrictions in Centennial Park. Place appropriate signage at the site to alert users to the time limit. Enforce the parking restrictions consistent with general parking enforcement in Centennial Park
- Track the electricity consumption for Centennial park. If necessary, examine the cost of installing a separate consumption measuring device for the charging stations
- Monitor the maintenance, repairs and other costs related to the charging station operation to determine the appropriate allocation of funds for the next fiscal year. At year end, if necessary use Reserve funds to offset the expenses incurred by the City for FY14
- Monitor the use of the charging stations to determine if the current allocation of four parking spaces can be reduced without obstructing or discouraging use of the system. If appropriate, reallocate unused spaces for other general parking needs