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ORDINANCE NO.: 2023-097

*Amending the 1998 Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, South Carolina, Chapter 24, Vehicles for Hire, Article IV, Wrecker and Towing Services, Section 24-215, Towing and storage charges*

BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Council this 19<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2023, that the 1998 Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, South Carolina, Chapter 24, Vehicles for Hire, Article IV, Wrecker and Towing Services, Section 24-215, Towing and storage charges is amended to read as follows:

**Sec. 24-215. - Towing and storage charges.**

In all cases in which a vehicle is towed at the direction of city personnel or without the prior authorization or consent of the owner or operator of the vehicle, the following shall apply:

(1) *Towing.* A maximum charge of \$195.00 beginning on the effective date of this ordinance for one year and then \$225.00 beginning on the 366<sup>th</sup> day following the effective date shall be made for the use of a wrecker when a vehicle is disabled as the result of an accident. A corresponding additional charge may be made if the automobile flipped over and must be righted or is on a bank or sloping terrain. If the vehicle is being towed for a parking violation or abandonment, a maximum charge of \$150.00 beginning on the effective date of this ordinance for one year and then \$175.00 beginning on the 366<sup>th</sup> day following the effective date shall be made for the use of the wrecker. If the owner of such vehicle appears before his vehicle is towed away and makes claim to his vehicle after the wrecker has been ordered to remove such vehicle, the vehicle may be released to the owner upon payment of \$75.00 beginning on the effective date of this ordinance for one year and then \$100.00 beginning on the 366<sup>th</sup> day following the effective date to the wrecker service, provided the owner shall satisfy all charges against the vehicle at police headquarters. A maximum charge of \$175.00 per hour shall be made for each heavy duty wrecker.

(2) *Storage.* Maximum storage charges on stored or impounded vehicles shall be \$35.00 per day;

(3) *Release of impounded vehicles.* No stored or impounded vehicle shall be released until proper evidence of ownership is exhibited and all towing and storage charges have been paid. The towing and storage charges shall be collected by the wrecker service as provided by law.

(4) *Posting of rates; additional charges.* All rates approved by the city shall be posted in a conspicuous place in each office of the wrecker service. All towing and storage charges will be itemized on an invoice or receipt when charges are paid. No charges other than towing and storage charges will be made on any vehicle without prior written approval from the owner or his agent.

(5) *Payment methods.* Every firm providing zone services shall accept major credit cards in addition to cash for towing and storage charges. There shall be no additional fee charged for the use of credit cards.


(Code 1979, § 2-4015; 2002-057, 3-5-03; Ord. No. 2011-058, 10-18-11)

Requested by:


Assistant City Manager Shealy

Mayor

Approved by:

  
City Manager

Approved as to form:

  
City Attorney

ATTEST:  
  
City Clerk

Introduced: 9/5/2023

Final Reading: 9/19/2023