



# STAFF REPORT

AGENDA ITEM NO: 9f

MEETING DATE: May 19, 2025

**To:** Honorable Mayor and City Council

**Date:** May 19, 2025

**From:** Robert Boll, Interim Police Chief – (650) 777-4177

**Subject** Adoption of a Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Negotiate and Execute an Agreement to Purchase MacKay Meters to Replace Existing IPS Meters; Upgrade the Existing VenTek Kiosk Machines; and Appropriate \$790,100 from the Parking Enterprise Fund for the Purchase and Upgrade

---

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends that the City Council adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to negotiate and execute an agreement to replace the existing IPS parking meters with MacKay meters; upgrade the existing VenTek Kiosk Machines, to accept “Tap to Pay” and other forms of payment; and appropriate \$790,100 from the Parking Enterprise Fund for the purchase and upgrade.

## **BACKGROUND**

The City of Burlingame currently utilizes IPS parking meters for on-street parking management. These meters are facing several critical issues that necessitate a comprehensive replacement strategy. Key problems with the current IPS infrastructure include:

- **End-of-life:** The existing meters are aging, leading to frequent repairs and the need for constant replacements, indicating the infrastructure is nearing the end of its useful life.
- **Design flaws:** The meters suffer from underpowered and unreliable battery life, and the display is often difficult to read in both bright sunlight and winter conditions.
- **High maintenance costs:** The City incurs significant expenses due to expensive battery replacements, frequent repairs, and high service fees associated with the IPS system.
- **Vendor issues:** IPS is reportedly experiencing financial instability, providing poor customer support and long repair turnaround times.
- **Out-of-date infrastructure:** The aging meter vaults that house the current system also require significant and ongoing maintenance.

To address these issues, staff evaluated two primary options for replacing the existing parking meter infrastructure: MacKay meters and VenTek kiosk machines.

## **DISCUSSION**

MackKay meters offer several compelling advantages over VenTek kiosk machines. Their lower monthly fees and minimal repair costs promise significant long-term savings. The robust design and rechargeable batteries align with Burlingame's sustainability goals by reducing the City's carbon footprint. Furthermore, MackKay meters support modern payment options, including credit cards, mobile apps, and tap-to-pay functionality (Apple Pay and Google Wallet), enhancing user convenience. A key advantage is the potential to increase efficiency by deploying single meters capable of servicing two parking spots, thereby reducing the overall number of meters required city-wide. MackKay is also an established company with a good track record and reliable customer service. The implementation of MackKay meters is also anticipated to be a relatively quick transition with minimal disruption.

The primary cost associated with MackKay meters is the initial investment (\$751,446.39) required to purchase and install the new meters and potentially updated vaults. Preliminary projections indicate significant cost savings over a three-year period compared to the continued maintenance and replacement of the current IPS meters. The City will save approximately \$114,000.00 in fees in the first year and every year thereafter.

The existing VenTek kiosk machines, found in four City parking lots, will be upgraded to enable "Tap to Pay" and other forms of payment.

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

The replacement of the current IPS parking meters will involve an initial capital investment for the purchase and installation of the new meters and any necessary vault modifications. However, the projected significant cost savings over the medium to long term, primarily due to lower monthly fees and reduced maintenance expenses associated with MackKay meters, are expected to offset this initial investment. The City will save approximately \$114,000.00 in fees in the first year and every year thereafter. Staff is requesting Council approval for a budget appropriation of \$790,100 from the Parking Enterprise Fund to cover the new MackKay meters and upgrade the existing VenTek kiosk machines.

Exhibits:

- Resolution
- Quote for MackKay Meters
- Quote for VenTek Kiosk Machines Upgrades