Drafted by	David Kersley, Senior Business Analyst
Sponsored by/Referred by	William Heim, Police Chief
Introduced on	September 28, 2015
Advertised on	October 5, 2015

BILL NO. 54-2015

AN ORDINANCE

AMENDING § 576-826 and -827 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF READING MODIFYING ALLOWABLE TOWING SERVICE CHARGES AND RELATED PROVISIONS

The Council of the City of Reading hereby ordains as follows:

Section One: Sections § 576-826 and 827 of the City Code are amended as specified in Exhibit A hereof.

Section Two: This ordinance shall be effective ten (10) days after its adoption and approval by the Mayor, or repassage by City Council over the Mayor's veto, in accordance with Section 219 of the City of Reading Home Rule Charter, or as set forth in Section 221 of the City of Reading Home Rule Charter.

Adopted Oct 12, 2015

President of Council

Attest:

City Clerk

I, LINDA A. KELLEHER, City Clerk of the City of Reading, Pa., do hereby certify, that the foregoing Ordinance is a true and correct copy of the original Ordinance passed by the Council of the City of Reading, on the 12 day of Oct A. D. 20 15, Witness my hand and seal of the said City this 14 day of Oct A. D. 20 15

CITY CLERK

Submitted to Mayor:
Date: 10/13/15
Received by the Mayor's Office:
Date: 10/13/15
Approved by Mayor:
Date: 10/14/15
Vetoed by Mayor:
Date:
Over-ridden by Council:
Date:

EXHIBIT A

§ 576-826. Towing service charges. [Amended 1-13-2003 by Ord. No. 2-2003; 2-10-2003 by Ord. No. 5-2003]

A. Towing twenty-four hour service

Type of Service	Day Charge	Night Charge
Basic service		
Municipal Administrative Fee	***$65***	***$65***
Service call[2]	~~$35~~ ***$46***	$45 ***$59***
Illegal parking tow fee[2]	~~$55~~ ***$72***	~~$65~~ ***$85***
Accident tow (first hour)[2]	~~$70~~ ***$91***	~~$80~~ ***$104***
Snow emergency tow fee[2]	~~$75~~ ***$98***	~~$80~~ ***$104***
Additional charges		
Accident tow (past first hour, Per quarter hour)	$10	$10
Open locked vehicle	~~$10~~ ***$13***	~~10~~ ***$13***
Dropping hooked-up vehicle + service call charge	$15[3]	$15[3]
Dolly tows	~~$45~~ ***$56***	~~$55~~ ***$72***
Rollback tows (see note)	$125 flat	$125 flat
Storage (regular tow) illegal only	$15 per day w/ 8-hour grace period	
Storage (accident tow & all others)	$30 per day w/ 8-hour grace period	
Disconnect fee (drive shaft)	~~$10~~ ***$13***	$10 ***$13***
Winching from curb	~~$15~~ ***$20***	~~$15~~ ***$20***
Winching: recovery, per truck		
First 30 minutes	***$65 + service charge***	***$65 + service charge***
Additional time	***$35 up to each ½ hr***	***$35 up to each ½ hr***
Vehicles >11,000 GVW	***300% surcharge***	***300% surcharge***
45 ton truck[4]	~~$150~~ ***$195***	~~$175~~ ***$228***
Specialized equipment	$25 per hour extra if needed	
Release fee after hours and Legal holidays	~~$40~~ ***$59***	~~$40~~ ***$59***
~~Gate fee~~	~~$5~~	~~$5~~
Disposal of debris	Price shall be determined by degree of hazardous waste	
Mileage charge for vehicle delivery beyond contractor discharge yard	$3 per mile	$5 per mile

§ 576-827. Towing zones.

In order to provide for the immediate removal of those vehicles interrupting the proper and orderly flow of traffic and thereby constituting an emergency situation, City of Reading shall be divided into zones, the number of zones not to exceed two, the boundaries which shall be determined by statistical analysis of the volume of vehicles towed by the Police Department with the exception of abandoned motor vehicle tows. Authorized towing contractors for each zone will be determined through the competitive bid process.

NOTES:

[1] Lower fee charged 7:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m., Monday through Friday; higher fee charged at all other times.
[2] Eight-hour grace period from the time of the tow, in calendar days.
[3] Dropping hooked-up vehicle. This fee may be charged to the owner or operator of any illegally parked vehicle, or any vehicle ordered towed by a member of the Reading Police Department, if a tow truck is attached in any way to a vehicle, or a substantial effort has been initiated to tow the vehicle and the owner or operator arrives at the scene to claim same prior to its removal. All charges will be paid to driver before vehicle is released to owner.
[4] Forty-five-ton truck, or such designation as may be determined for towing vehicles capable of towing a vehicle that may have a maximum weight rating as allowed by Vehicle Laws of Pennsylvania (75 Pa.C.S.A., as may be amended).

B. Labor. Labor charges at a maximum of ~~$40~~ ***$52*** per man per hour, or fraction thereof, may be charged for services rendered over and above the first man hour of service, when required, computed from the time of arrival at the scene. Utilization of additional personnel, and the assignment of the ~~$40~~ ***$52*** per hour extra fee (if needed). All hourly charges for equipment and/ or labor shall be completely documented. A copy of all documentation shall be submitted to the Traffic Enforcement Unit of the Police Department along with the Police copy of the tow receipt.

C. Storage. There shall be no charge for the first eight hours of storage. Thereafter, a storage charge may commence at the rate of $15 for each additional 24 hours of storage or fraction thereof, and for vehicles involved in traffic stops and/or accidents, $30 is charged for each additional 24 hours of storage or fraction thereof.

D. Rate review and adjustment. City Council may review and adjust the rates set forth in this section as deemed appropriate or necessary ***but not more frequently than once per calendar year.***. ~~Such review and rate reconsideration shall be conducted not more than once each year, beginning no sooner than Spring 2004. The rate review shall begin in January and any adjustments must enacted no later than May of each year.~~

~~**E. Administrative fee.** The City shall impose an administrative fee of $10 which shall be paid by each vehicle owner or their agent at the time when they retrieve their vehicle from the tow contractor. A vehicle shall not be released without payment of the administrative fee. The towing contractor shall remit collected administrative fees to the City of Reading on the 15th day of the month for the preceding month or, if the 15th day is a weekend or holiday, on the first business day thereafter.~~