

RAISE THE PARKING FEE?

6 attendees: chair, banker, elderly member, environmentalist, photographer, teacher

[Note that the numbers are a substitute for being recognized.]

1.	chair	There is continuing pressure on our parking spaces in the downtown areas of the Town of Dinodee. The staff has reviewed the matter carefully. As you know, our current rate is \$2 per hour. The staff recommends that the new fee be set at \$20 per hour. Does anyone care to make that motion?
2.	environmentalist	I move that the parking fee be set at \$20 per hour.
3.	photographer	Second!
4.	chair	Very well, it has been moved and seconded that the parking fee be set at \$20 per hour. We will now have discussion on the motion. Environmentalist, as the maker of the motion, you have the right to speak first.
5.	environmentalist	Well, I'm a believer in public transportation myself. I think that this increase will lessen congestion and also force more people to take buses or walk. It's a good idea for the environment and for our city.
6.	chair	Further discussion? The chair recognizes the Elderly Member.
7.	elderly member	<i>[speaking angrily]</i> I think this is a terrible idea! We've just learned that we have a \$10 million surplus! Why would we increase the parking fee and burden our residents this way?
8.	environmentalist	<i>[speaking passionately]</i> Do you know that the parking fees in most towns of the League are \$15 per hour? We are so far below the market that it's ridiculous.

9.	elderly member	Well, that's not a reason to go crazy and lay this burden on our residents. Many elderly dinosaurs are really feeling the pinch. Our current tough economic times have hit them hard.
10.	environmentalist	There's no point being an old softie and begging for sympathy for the down-and-out. If they had an ounce of gumption they would have saved up for their old age.
11.	elderly member	What a hard-hearted comment! Some day you might be OLD AND WRINKLED AND POOR yourself – have you no compassion?
12.	environmentalist	All I have to say about that is NONSENSE, APPLESAUCE AND BALDERDASH!
13.	banker	Point of Order!
14.	chair	State your point.
15.	banker	These members are monopolizing this discussion. Under Robert's Rules, no one can speak a second time until everyone who wishes to do so has spoken once.
16.	chair	The point is well taken. Members must speak in turn. Thank you, Banker. Further discussion?
17.	photographer	This is likely to put a crimp on the vitality of our business district. As a business owner myself, I'm really concerned about this. I speak against the motion.
18.	banker	I see those arguments, but I think we have to be prudent. I guess on balance I'm in favor of this proposal.
19.	chair	Honestly, I think that you dinosaurs are just living in the past. We ought to be preparing to have driverless cars, not raising the rates for our parking lots! You're just a bunch of HAS-BEENS!
20.	elderly member	Point of Order, Chair!

21.	chair	State your point.
22.	elderly member	That is an insulting remark. According to Robert's Rules of Order, all of us are obliged to speak with courtesy and respect, INCLUDING THE CHAIR!
23.	chair	<i>[mumbling]</i> Oh, uh, hmmm... the point is well taken. The chair apologizes for her remarks. Further discussion?
24.	banker	<i>[speaking angrily]</i> In my opinion, this council is CLUELESS! We have our heads stuck in the concrete. Given the way the stock market is trending, our surplus could just disappear. I hope everyone will agree to raise those rates.
25.	environmentalist	You know, I've heard better discussions in my daughter's kindergarten class! It's clear that we don't have the sharpest knives in the kitchen drawer here.
26.	elderly member	Point of Order!
27.	chair	State your point.
28.	elderly member	The members are insulting all of us by those remarks.
29.	chair	The chair will rule that the comments are indeed insulting. Members will kindly refrain from such improper statements.
30.	teacher	<i>[speaking intensely]</i> I have to say that I don't think all these rules are a good idea. They are keeping us from expressing our true opinion! You're an OUT-OF-DATE DINOSAUR yourself, Chair.
31.	chair	The chair will rule that the words "out-of-date dinosaur" are insulting and may not be used.
32.	teacher	APPEAL!
33.	environmentalist	Second!

34.	chair	Very well, the ruling of the chair has been appealed and seconded, so the members will decide. The chair has ruled that the words “out-of-date dinosaur” are insulting. All those who believe that this ruling should be sustained, say “aye.”
35.	chair, banker, elderly member, photographer	Aye!
36.	chair	All those who believe that the ruling should not be sustained, say “no.”
37.	teacher, environmentalist	No!
38.	chair	The “ayes” have it, the motion passes, and the ruling of the chair is sustained. Members may not use this term. Further discussion?
39.	photographer	If we do this, the residents are likely to come and throw eggs at our houses—or even worse! I’m dead against it.
40.	chair	Any further discussion? Hearing none, we’ll take the vote. All those in favor of raising the parking fee to \$20 per hour, say “aye.”
41.	chair, banker, teacher, environmentalist	Aye!
42.	chair	All those opposed, say “no.”
43.	elderly member, photographer	No!
44.	chair	The “ayes” have it, the motion passes, and we will raise the parking fee to \$20 per hour.
45.	elderly member	This is a BIG MISTAKE. We’re gonna be sorry we authorized this.
46.	chair	The member is reminded that once a decision has been made, no further discussion is in order. There being no further business, this meeting is adjourned.