

MORRIS COUNTY

Dover parking gets an overhaul as council rewrites rules. Permits now required

[Gabrielle Kutsup](#) NorthJersey.com

Updated July 1, 2025, 9:06 a.m. ET

Looking to alleviate a parking crunch, [Dover](#) has adopted new rules requiring a permit for anyone who wants to keep their vehicle on the street overnight.

The Town Council on June 24 unanimously approved a parking ordinance that includes four different types of permits for various situations.

The system requires vehicle owners to obtain a permit if they park on-street from 8 p.m. to 8 a.m. The town will no longer allow vehicles with a GVWR, or gross vehicle weight rating, over 10,000 pounds in residential zones or on residential properties, according to Town Planner Alexander Dougherty. He presented the [parking ordinance](#) at the council meeting.

“We put 8 p.m. to 8 a.m. because a big concern was residents coming home [and they] cannot find parking. This is not a way to shuffle parking around,” Dougherty said. “We are trying to encourage the community to use their driveways.”

This change comes after complaints of excessive parking on the streets. During his presentation, Dougherty showed photos of trucks, RVs and trailers taking up residential spaces.

“As the mayor indicated, there was substantial public outcry and a need for parking within municipal lots,” he told the council, citing “residential neighborhood complaints of excessive vehicles, illegal parking practices and intrusion of commercial vehicles.”

In the downtown area, there is no on-street parking from 2 a.m. to 6 a.m. To park in this area overnight, you will need to have an overnight municipal lot permit.

What's in new Dover parking rules?

The ordinance establishes four categories of permits: on-street overnight residential parking (OORP), municipal lot overnight residential parking (MLORP), business employee parking (BEP) and visitor parking (V).

Each owner-occupied property with a driveway will receive one free overnight permit for on-street parking and two free permits for an owner-occupied property without a driveway.

That excludes rental properties, according to the ordinance. Any free permits will be granted after completing the parking permit application. These permits will be \$50 a year, and the cycle will start and end on Jan. 1 of each year.

More: [The Daily Record is 125 years old. Here's how we told Morris County's biggest stories](#)

The Municipal Lot Overnight Residential and Business Employee Parking permits will both cost \$300 per six-month permit cycle, running from Jan. 1 to June 30 and July 1 to Dec. 31, according to the ordinance.

Parking decals are non-transferable between vehicles and will need to be placed on the upper left of the driver's rear side.

Under the ordinance, a parking permit application will require the applicant's driver's license, a copy of registration, proof of insurance and the most recent utility bill, if needed.

Enforcement will be gradual

According to Mayor Dodd, the permit system is "going to take a year to roll out." At first, the town will hold back on issuing summons, he said.

“We’re not going to try to issue summons over the first year,” he said at the meeting. “What we’re trying to do is to get compliance.... I think it’s going to be a quality-of-life improvement throughout the community, and we’re going to do everything we possibly can to get compliance through this.”

For more information, see the parking ordinance, which is included online on [page 32 of the June 24 town council agenda](#) or the [Dover parking utility department’s Q&A](#) .