

ORDINANCE NO. 25-014

AN ORDINANCE amending Chapter 5.02 of the Camas Municipal Code to update the model Business License Ordinance as required by RCW Chapter 35.90, effective January 1, 2026.

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Camas desires to better understand which businesses are operating within the City; and

WHEREAS, the 2017 State Legislature passed Engrossed House Bill (EHB) 2005, requiring all cities with business licenses to administer their business license through the state's Business Licensing System (BLS); and

WHEREAS, EHB 2005, now codified as RCW Chapter 35.90, requires Washington Cities and Towns with business licenses to create a model business license ordinance with a minimum threshold and a definition of "engaging in business"; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Revenue and City staff have reviewed the business licensing process and procedures set forth in Title 5 of the Camas Municipal Code (CMC); and

WHEREAS, City staff recommends amending Title 5 CMC to add the process and procedures to obtain business licenses through a combined license application and renewal process and, to have that application process directed through the Department of Revenue Business Licensing System; and

WHEREAS, the City Council reasonably believes the adoption of this Ordinance, with an effective date of January 1, 2026, is in furtherance of the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the City;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CAMAS AS FOLLOWS:

Section I

Section **5.02.070** of the Camas Municipal Code is hereby amended as follows, effective January 1, 2026:

**5.02.070 - Exception—Applicability of provisions.**

Some or all the requirements of this chapter shall not be applicable as described below:

- A. Nonprofit organizations, as recognized being tax-exempt by the federal government under USC 26 § 501(c), are exempted from the city business license fee but are required to register as a business with the director or designee. Provided, such nonprofits, when designated as religious, educational, charitable, or fraternal in nature, as described in USC 26 § 501(c)3, and solely performing their respective religious, educational, charitable or fraternal activities, without any actual business conducted, are fully exempt from the licensing requirements of this chapter.
- B. For purposes of the license required by this chapter, any person or business whose annual value of products, gross proceeds of sales, or gross income of the business in the city is equal to or less than \$4,000.00 and who does not maintain a place of business within the city, must submit a business license registration to the director or designee as provided in this chapter, but are exempt from the city business license fee. The threshold does not apply to regulatory or occupational license requirements or activities that require a specialized permit.

The threshold amount will be adjusted every forty-eight months on January 1, by an amount equal to the increase in the Consumer Price Index (“CPI”) for “West Urban, All Urban Consumers” (CPI-U) for each 12-month period ending on June 30 as published by the United States Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics or successor agency. To calculate this adjustment, the current rate will be multiplied by one plus the cumulative four-year (forty-eight month) CPI increase using each 12-month period ending on June 30 of each prior year, and rounded to the nearest \$100.00. However, if any of the annual CPI increases are more than five (5) percent, a five (5) percent increase will be used in computing the annual basis and if any of the annual CPI decreased during the forty-eight-month period, a zero (0) percent increase will be used in computing the annual basis.

## Section II

This ordinance shall take force and be in effect January 1, 2026, following its publication according to law.

PASSED BY the Council and APPROVED by the Mayor this 18th day of August, 2025.

SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk

APPROVED as to form:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Attorney