



## Staff Report – Public Hearing for Ordinance

September 6, 2022 Council Regular Meeting

Public Hearing for Ordinance No. 20-014 Unlawful Camping and Storage of Personal Property

Presenter: Shawn MacPherson, City Attorney

Time Estimate: 45 minutes

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**INTRODUCTION/PURPOSE/SUMMARY:** The Ordinance as proposed was part of a larger discussion relating to individuals experiencing homelessness in our community as initiated by the Mayor and Council several months ago.

This discussion was facilitated by the formation of a Council subcommittee which met on multiple occasions and their input is reflected in the final terms of this Ordinance as well as that of several staff members to ensure a collaborative presentation. The resulting draft was reviewed at the July 18, 2022, and the August 14, 2022 Camas City Council Workshop meetings.

The proposed Ordinance adopts a new Chapter 12.34 of the Camas Municipal Code (CMC) entitled 'Unlawful Camping and Storage of Personal Property on Public Property.' The CMC, under Section 12.32.090, has a general prohibition of camping in any park which will be repealed by this more specific Ordinance.

The Ordinance is intended to comply with applicable Federal Court rulings associated with use of public property. The findings of the Ordinance provide a good overview of the challenges associated with these issues which present competing public interests, sensitivity to those who find themselves experiencing homelessness, and law enforcement limitations given Federal court mandates.

**RECOMMENDATION:** The Subcommittee and City Attorney recommends Council take public testimony, adopt Ordinance No. 22-014 as presented, and publish according to law.