

memorandum

DATE: October 12, 2023
TO: Mayor Kelly Garrett and Lathrup Village City Council
FROM: Jill Bahm & Eric Pietsch, Giffels Webster
SUBJECT: Zoning Amendment – Self-Service Laundromat Facilities

At the August 15th, 2023 meeting, the Planning Commission held a public hearing to consider public comment regarding the proposed ordinance text amendment to add self-service laundromat facilities as a principal permitted use in the MX -Mixed Use zoning district. No members of the public were present to add comments to the record. The Planning Commission moved to recommend approval of the proposed text amendment and forward to City Council for adoption, subject to clarification of the parking requirement to read as follows: One (1) parking space for every four (4) laundry machines. This standard is reflected in the updated text amendment attached to this memo.

The remainder of this memo is provided as background.

Previous Discussion

Over the course of two regular meetings, the Planning Commission discussed self-service laundry facilities, issues to be considered and draft ordinance language. Research included area zoning codes as well as those outside the region. Locally, while laundry facilities are commonly listed as a principal permitted use, standards were limited. Outside the region, however, we were able to identify a few standards that seemed to address some of the concerns of the Planning Commission with respect to the type of services - focusing on the laundromat being more of a personal service than an industrial use.

Introduction

What prompted this amendment?

A developer intends to renovate the interior and exterior of a multi-tenant commercial facility with one of the tenant lease spaces proposed to be a laundromat facility. The zoning ordinance does not identify laundromats as a principal permitted use or special land use in any of the zoning districts, so the Planning Commission was asked to consider if laundromats may be considered under a similar use contained in the ordinance or if an amendment to provide specific direction and standards for laundromat uses should be pursued.

Current Ordinance

The ordinance does not include any provisions for laundromat facilities.

Recommendation

See attached proposed ordinance language.

Amend Article 2, Definitions, to add Self-Service Laundromat as a defined term.

Section 2.2. **Self-Service Laundromat.** Commercial establishments offering self-pay and self-operated washing machines and dryers for public use. Excludes commercial laundries, dry cleaning plants, and other similar heavy commercial/industrial uses.

Amend Article 3, Zoning Districts, to add Self-Service Laundromat as a principal permitted use in the MX -Mixed Use Zoning District.

Section 3.1.9.B.xv. Self-Service Laundromat

Amend Article 4, Use Standards, to add a new standard:

Section 4.20 Self-Service Laundromat

1. Service shall be rendered directly to customers who shall bring in and take away the articles to be cleaned.
2. The entire cleaning and drying process shall be carried on within completely enclosed solvent cleaning units.
3. All solvents used in the cleaning process and the vapors therefrom shall be nonexplosive and nonflammable.

Amend Article 5, Site Development Standards, to add a new off-street parking standard:

Section 5.13.13.C. Business and Commercial Uses

- xv. One (1) parking space for every four (4) laundry machines.