

**ORDINANCE 681-AC**  
**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEEDLES**  
**ADDING CHAPTER 8, ARTICLE IV TO THE NEEDLES MUNICIPAL CODE**  
**ESTABLISHING A CASH ROUNDING POLICY FOR CITY PAYMENTS**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Needles, California (“City”) is a municipal corporation duly organized under the constitution and laws of the State of California; and

**WHEREAS**, the City accepts cash payments for certain fees, charges, taxes, fines, penalties, assessments, utility charges, and other amounts owed to the City; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States Department of the Treasury has ceased production of one-cent coins (“pennies”), resulting in declining and inconsistent circulation of pennies; and

**WHEREAS**, with the reduced availability of pennies, City departments may be unable to reliably make exact change for cash transactions requiring one-cent coins; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council desires to maintain the acceptance of cash while ensuring fairness, administrative efficiency, and transparency in City financial operations; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council finds that establishing a uniform cash rounding policy and structuring payment totals in increments of five cents (\$0.05), where feasible, will reduce reliance on pennies and improve operational efficiency; and

**WHEREAS**, this ordinance does not alter the amount of any fee, tax, rate, charge, fine, penalty, assessment, or other amount adopted or imposed by the City, but instead establishes an administrative method for processing cash payments when exact change cannot be made.

**NOW THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEEDLES DOES HEREBY ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:**

**SECTION 1.** All the above recitals are true and correct and are incorporated herein by this reference.

**SECTION 2.** Chapter 8 of the Needles Municipal Code is hereby amended to add a new Article IV, entitled “Payment Processing and Cash Handling,” immediately following Section 8-19, as set forth in Exhibit “A” attached hereto and incorporated herein by this reference.

**SECTION 3.** Nothing in this Ordinance shall be construed to alter, amend, reduce, increase, waive, or otherwise modify any fee, tax, rate, charge, fine, penalty, assessment, or other amount adopted or imposed by the City.

**SECTION 4.** This action shall become final and effective thirty (30) days after this decision by the City Council as provided by the Needles Municipal Code.

**SECTION 5.** If any section or provision of this Ordinance is for any reason held to be invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining portions shall remain valid.

**SECTION 6.** The City authorizes City staff to take such other and additional actions as may be reasonably necessary to implement the purpose of this ordinance and implement the exhaustion of administrative remedies procedure adopted herein.

**SECTION 7.** The City Clerk shall certify the introduction and adoption of this Ordinance.

SIGNATURES ON FOLLOWING PAGE

**INTRODUCED AND READ** for the first time and ordered posted at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Needles, California, held on the 28<sup>th</sup> day of April 2026, by the following roll call vote:

AYES:  
NOES:  
ABSENT:  
ABSTAIN:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Janet Jernigan, Mayor

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Candace Clark, City Clerk

**PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED** at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Needles, California, held on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of May 2026, by the following roll call vote:

AYES:  
NOES:  
ABSENT:  
ABSTAIN:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Janet Jernigan, Mayor

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Candace Clark, City Clerk

Approved as to form: \_\_\_\_\_  
Lena Wade, Deputy City Attorney