



REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Title: Request for Council Action – Ordinance No. 2 for 2025 – Adopting Camping Regulations

Preferred Agenda: April 22, 2025

Submitted By: Blair Larsen, City Attorney

Reviewed By: Cecily Hope Pretty, Deputy City Manager

Type of Action: Resolution ☐ Motion ☒ Roll Call ☐ Other ☐

Relevant Code/Policy: ORS §195.500

Towards Council Goal: Desirable Community

Attachments: Ordinance Bill No. 2 for 2025 – Camping Regulations

Purpose of this RCA:

The purpose of this RCA is to request approval and first reading of a proposed ordinance regulating camping within the City.

Background/Context:

ORS §195.500 requires municipalities to “develop a policy that recognizes the social nature of the problem of homeless individuals camping on public property.” Ever since the opening of the Family Assistance and Resource Center Group (FAC) facility on 24th Avenue, the City has maintained an area next to the Police Station where those who have been excluded from or refuse to utilize the FAC site may camp at night. The Police Department strictly enforces specific permitted hours of camping and conduct at this site. Anyone camping on public property anywhere else in the City who has nowhere else to go is directed to this site.

However, this policy, while it satisfies the spirit of ORS §195.500, does not satisfy the letter of the law, and properly adopted ordinance is necessary.

The attached draft ordinance is intended to bring the City into compliance with State law, while continuing the same operating procedures that are currently in place at the Police Station.

This ordinance was first introduced at the March 11, 2025 meeting, but was tabled pending additional review by the City’s insurer, City/County Insurance Services (CIS). The City Attorney met with Mr. Aaron Hisel, the attorney retained by CIS to work on such issues. Mr. Hisel reviewed the proposed ordinance and recommended some small modifications. Those changes are reflected in the revised draft ordinance.

The Challenge/Problem:

How does the City address the realities of homelessness while complying with State law?

Issues and Financial Impacts:

This ordinance involves no financial impact to the City.

Elements of a Stable Solution:

A stable solution includes an ordinance that complies with ORS §195.500.

Options:

1. *Do Nothing* – If the Council chooses to do nothing, then camping will continue as at the Police Station, but the City will not be in compliance with State law.
2. *Move to conduct a first reading of the proposed ordinance as presented* – If the voting is unanimous, a second reading, by title only, may take place during the same meeting.
3. *Move to conduct a first reading of the proposed ordinance with changes* – The Council may make changes to the proposed ordinance. If the voting is unanimous, a second reading, by title only, may take place during the same meeting.
4. *Direct staff to research other ways to accomplish the same goals.*

Recommendation:

Staff recommends option 2: *Move to conduct a first reading of the proposed ordinance as presented.*