
Meeting Date: May 5, 2025

Subject: Home Occupancies

Attachments: Draft TMC Chapter 17.54 Home Occupancies

Presented by: Andrew Hattori, CED Director

Approved for Agenda by: Dan Ford, City Manager

Background:

In late 2019 and early 2020 the City of Toppenish made efforts to create a section of code within TMC 17.56 related to Special Property Uses to allow home (business) occupations provided the proposed business operations met specific criteria. However, while this code was created, the provisions included within the code and its location conflict, and the code has not been adhered to or properly implemented.

The attached draft code was presented at the April 16, 2025 Planning Commission meeting for input on the proposal and any desired amendments. After the meeting staff has revised the code language found within this Agenda Bill. This will be presented again for public and Planning Commission input at the May 21, 2025 meeting.

Discussion:

Currently, there are no known home occupations that have been properly permitted in accordance to TMC 17.56, this is likely due to implementation issues, confusing code language, and a lack of provided education materials to the public. Staff now seeks to clarify these code requirements and provide a clear path forward that potential home occupations would follow to legally establish themselves within Toppenish.

A summary of proposed code modification follows:

- Repeal TMC section 17.56.050.
 - o TMC chapter 17.56 is for Special Property Uses that are heard by the Hearing Examiner, the intent of this code was to be administrative and should be removed entirely and placed elsewhere.
- Creation of TMC chapter 17.54.
 - o Creating a separate chapter for the home occupations provides ease when searching for this code/information and increased clarity to potential applicants.
- Remove conflicting language related to approvals and notices

It is staffs understanding that there is a considerable amount of home occupations that have been established within Toppenish both before the initial creation of TMC 17.56.050 and after. It is not the intent of staff to put existing business in a tough spot by this modification of code, in fact, it is to assist with bringing the businesses into conformance as easily and efficiently as

possible as they are all technically operating without following the established legal avenue to obtain an endorsement to operate in Toppenish.

Should this code amendment receive recommendation for approval, extensive education opportunities for this amendment shall be implemented, including but not limited to:

- Public building postings.
- Social media postings.
- Pamphlets and fliers.
- Open house events to assist existing and potential business owners.

Staff wishes to present the current status of this proposed amendment as we hope to bring this before Council with a recommendation within the coming month.

Fiscal Impact:

None.

Recommendation:

None.

Chapter 17.54

Home Occupations

Sections:

17.54.010 Purpose

17.54.020 Application

17.54.030 Administrative decision

17.54.040 Approval Criteria

17.54.050 Appeal

17.54.060 Revocation of license and appeal

17.54.010 Purpose

This chapter is established to provide a means to provide a means for the conduct of business to be permitted as an accessory to an established residence within a residential district. The purpose is to create an administrative framework to authorize such uses that do not pose a disruption to or conflict with the existing and planned residential environment.

17.54.020 Application

Applications for a home occupation shall be submitted to the City on forms provided by the Development Services department with a fee as required, that may be amended from time to time, contained with the City's fee schedule.

17.54.030 Administrative decision

~~Special Property~~Home occupation permits may be issued as defined in TMC 17.08.170, by the zoning administrator or ~~his/her~~ their designee, within the R1 and R2 residential districts only.

17.54.040 Approval criteria

Applications for a home occupation shall be approved following the review by the zoning administrator or their designee once the applicant has shown that their business conforms with all of the following criteria:

- A. There must be a residence on site, and the ~~proprietor of the home occupation business must reside in that residence~~ property owner must provide approval for the home occupation business.
- B. The home occupation must be of a service character or service-oriented only. Retail sales of goods are permissible only if incidental and directly pertaining to the service being offered.
- C. The home occupation shall be allowed in any attached portion of the dwelling unit or in a detached accessory building. All aspects of the conduct of a home occupation shall be confined, contained and conducted within the dwelling or within a completely enclosed accessory building.

D. The aggregate of all space within any or all buildings devoted to a home occupation shall not occupy more than the lesser of: (1) 500 square feet in floor area; or (2) ~~30~~³⁵ percent of the residence's floor area.

~~E. Only one accessory building, including detached garages, shall be allowed on the premises. One storage structure of 120 square feet or less shall be excluded from this provision.~~

F. The premises shall at all times be maintained as residential in appearance, cleanliness and quietness.

G. Where customers are served on the premises of the home occupation a minimum of one off-street parking space shall be provided in addition to any and all spaces required for the principal use as provided by this title.

H. Any home occupation which is objectionable due to unsightliness or an emission of odor, dust, smoke, noise, glare, heat, vibration or similar causes discernible on the outside of any building containing such home occupation shall be prohibited.

I. One unlighted sign not exceeding two square feet in area pertaining to the home occupation shall be permitted in lieu of, not in addition to, any name plate provided for in Chapters 17.28 and 17.32 TMC. Such sign shall not be located in the required front or side yards setback areas.

~~J. A home occupation special property use permit may contain such other conditions as the hearing examiner may deem necessary to preserve the district and to assure compatibility with permitted uses.~~

~~K. The city shall notify the adjacent property owners and applicant of its intent to approve or deny a home occupation special property use permit, together with any conditions. Notification shall be made by mail only. The notice shall include:~~

- ~~1. A description of the proposal and decision of the city, including any conditions of approval;~~
- ~~2. A place where further information may be obtained; and~~
- ~~3. A statement that the decision of the city will be final, unless an appeal requesting a public hearing is filed with the city clerk within 15 days of the date of the notice.~~

17.54.050 Appeal

Appeals of the zoning administrator's decision to the conditions of approval or the denial of a home occupation shall be submitted to the zoning administrator and reviewed by the Hearing Examiner in accordance with TMC 2.50.080. Appeals may only be filed by the applicant.

17.54.060 Revocation of license and appeal

A home occupation permit may be revoked by the zoning administrator if the zoning administrator find the home occupation no longer complies with the approval criteria set forth in 17.54.040 or the home occupation permit's approval criteria. The permit holder may file a written appeal to the revocation in accordance with TMC 17.54.050.