



City of Tualatin

## CITY OF TUALATIN Staff Report

**TO:** Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
**THROUGH:** Sherilyn Lombos, City Manager  
**FROM:** Bill Steele, Chief of Police  
**DATE:** November 23, 2020

---

**SUBJECT:**

Consideration of **Ordinance No. 1448-20** Relating to Alarm Systems; amending Tualatin Municipal Code Chapter 6-6; and Creating New Provisions

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends Council consider the amendments to the Tualatin Municipal Code relating to alarm systems.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

Tualatin Municipal Code (TMC) 6-06 was established in 1989 to create a set of rules regulating the use of alarms in homes and businesses. Since its implementation, TMC 6-06 has only been modified once, in 2004, adding language relating to false alarms and fines. Its purpose is to encourage alarm users and alarm businesses to assume increased responsibility to prevent unnecessary police response, establish fees and charges, and provide guidelines for the enforcement of violations.

There is currently no language in the existing ordinance to establish late fees for failing to pay on time or failing to obtain a permit. This gives no incentive to alarm users to follow the ordinance, obtain a permit in a timely manner, and keep the permit current. We know that there are many alarm users within the City that do not have a permit; however there is no incentive for the alarm companies to provide user information to the City under the current ordinance. The City currently sends paper alarm permits to permit holders, creating unnecessary printing and mailing costs. Lastly, under the current ordinance language, the City does not have an option for pre-authorization of a protective sweep of the business or residence.

The proposed amendments to TMC 6-06 would eliminate paper permits, establish fees for late payments and failure to obtain a permit, give the alarm holder the option to give pre-authorization for a protective sweep of the business or residence, and require the alarm companies to periodically provide a list of Tualatin alarm users.

---

**ATTACHMENTS:**

TMC 6-06 Amendment Presentation  
TMC 6-06 Draft