

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

Public Safety Item

Meeting Date: September 11, 2025

Staff Contact: Curt Mansell, Chief of Police

Agenda Item: Review of Variance Requirements for Parking Ordinance 14-202(ai) &(aj).

Background:

- At the August 14, 2025 City Council Meeting, council adopted an updated new City Code for the City of Westwood, KS
- In the new code, overnight parking was changed from a two (2) hour time limit between the hours of 12am and 6am to an elimination of any overnight parking between the hours of 2am and 6am.
- The code currently retains the former language of (ai):

Notwithstanding the above, the city, through its designated personnel, shall have the authority to grant a parking permit to park a vehicle in contravention of the above restrictions for a period not to exceed 365 days, upon a showing of the applicant's necessity, and upon a determination that public safety will not be adversely affected by the granting of such permit. The permit shall state the person to whom it is issued, the location where parking is to be permitted, the vehicle to be parked, any conditions thereon in the public interest, and the duration of the permit.
- Prior to adoption, several constituents spoke during public comments expressing the desire to have exceptions in situations where someone might have physical hardship and/or overnight guests.
- Based on those comments and later council discussion, staff was given direction to provide recommendations for an acceptable variance to the ordinance.

Issues:

- Some homes may have insufficient or lack dedicated off-street parking, forcing residents to rely on limited street parking.
- Guests and visitors to Westwood may need temporary available parking outside the scope of the parking ordinance.
- Current code does not provide or address alternative solutions or variances.

Concerns:

- The current code language allows/ed for parking to be “permitted” for a period of time beyond what is signed and legal (i.e. up to two (2) hours between 12am-6am). Now that overnight parking is completely illegal between the hours of 2am and 6am, exceptions should not be permitted (i.e. be given a permit to not follow the law). Instead, hardships to non-compliance with the law should be verified and approved.

- Some could park too close to driveways, intersections, and in no-parking zones, creating visibility and safety hazards, emergency vehicle access is sometimes blocked.
- Vehicles parked for long periods of time on public streets could cause increased risk of vandalism or theft, reduced safety due to blocked sightlines and could lead to social degradation of neighborhoods.

Staff Recommendation:

It's beneficial to review existing ordinances for practicality. As a result of this review, it is staff recommendation adopt the modified Parking Ordinances, 14-202(ai) &(aj) which will allow for special circumstances meeting the criteria as outline in the proposed modifications.