

Moratorium on siting Emergency Shelters in Longview

Work Plan & Schedule

Background

On October 22, 2015 the City Council adopted Ordinance No. 3302 that implemented a six-month moratorium on the siting of emergency shelters within the City. The Council appointed a four member committee consisting of council and planning commission members to develop recommendations on the siting of emergency shelters. The committee met five times. The meetings included discussions with service providers and video-conferencing with State agency representatives. At their fifth meeting on April 13, 2016, the committee produced a draft recommendation. On April 14, the City Council adopted Ordinance No. 3318 extending the moratorium for 6 months.

On May 5, the Planning Commission held a workshop on the committee's proposal and then held a public hearing on it at their July 6 regular meeting. Following the public hearing, the Planning Commission passed a motion to recommend approval of the committee's proposal.

At their July 25 meeting, the City Council first considered the committee's proposal and decided to hold a workshop on matter. The City Council held their workshop on August 25. The Council then decided to hold a public hearing on the proposal.

On September 15, the City Council held a public hearing on a proposed ordinance that would adopt the committee's proposed zoning code amendments. Based upon the testimony offered at the public hearing, the Council decided to reconvene the committee and invite further participation from the community. This process is anticipated to extend beyond the current October 14, 2016 expiration date of the current moratorium.

Work Plan & Schedule

1. Between the present and December 15, the committee will hold a series of meetings. The number of meetings will be determined by the committee as they proceed. The first one or two meetings will be for gathering suggestions from shelter providers and other interested parties. The next one or two meetings will be for developing further recommendations. On or around December 15, the committee will produce a revised zoning code amendment proposal.

2. The Planning Commission shall consider the committee's proposal at their January 4, 2017 meeting. They will determine if they want to make any changes to the committee's proposal. If the Planning Commission determines that they are ready for a public hearing on the revised proposal, they will schedule a public hearing on the matter for their February regular meeting.
3. If the committee's proposal is substantially different than the original one, another State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) process will need to take place. This process will be completed before the Planning Commission hearing date in February.
4. At their regular February 1 meeting, the Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on the committee's proposal and any changes that the Planning Commission might have made to the proposal. Following the public hearing, the Planning Commission will consider a motion to recommend approval of the proposal.
5. At their February 23 meeting, the City Council will consider the committee's proposed zoning code amendments (and any amendments the Planning Commission may have made). The City Council will consider a motion to accept the recommendation and direct the City Attorney to prepare an ordinance for their review and approval.
6. On March 9, the City Council will consider a motion to adopt an ordinance amending the zoning code to address the siting of emergency shelters. If the ordinance is adopted, it will become effective on or around April 13, 2017.

Note: The second extension of the moratorium ends on April 15, 2017.

Date: October 4, 2016