



CITY OF OTHELLO PLANNING COMMISSION

Regular Meeting 500 E. Main St. May 18, 2026 6:00 PM

1. Call to Order - Roll Call
 - a. Excused Absences
2. Public Input
3. Approval of April 20, 2026 Minutes p.3
4. Comprehensive Plan Update - Public Engagement p.6
5. State Law Updates - New Housing in Existing Buildings; Childcare Locations, Family Burial Grounds - Discussion p.7

Next Regular Meeting is Monday, June 15, 2026 at 6:00 PM

*For those who would like to attend remotely, see virtual instructions on the next page.
Remote attendees will be in "listen only" mode unless prior arrangements have been made.*

Webinar Link for Planning Commission Stream

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84188552465?pwd=J7XZ2evkdvnPEC2uuoiBSD7lZb8Isc.1>

Phone one-tap:

+12532158782,,84188552465#,,,,*817720959# US (Tacoma)
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Join via audio:

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
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City of Othello
Planning Commission Meeting
April 20, 2026
Zuleica Morfin

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Rob Simmons called the meeting to order at 6:01pm.

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Chair Rob Simmons, Ruth Sawyer, Donald Burks, MD, Jose Garza, Maria Martinez, Chad Robbins

Excused: Daniela Voorhies (vacation)

Staff: Community Development Director Anne Henning, Building and Planning Secretary Zuleica Morfin

Remote: Consultant Aren Murcar (SCJ Alliance), Council member Kelli Camp

Attendees: Council member Chris Dorow, Council member Alma Carmona, Bob Carlson, Genna Dorow, Gregg Fultz (Othello School District)

PUBLIC INPUT

None

MINUTES APPROVAL

March 16, 2026, minutes approved M/S Garza/Burks

Wahitis Short Plat- Deferrals, Deviations, & Waivers- Recommendation

Othello School District (OSD) started the process to plat the Wahitis Elementary site in 2011, in conjunction with building the school. Through various staff changes at the city and OSD, and several platting attempts derailed by Covid and delays at USBR, the plat has never been finalized. In March, OSD submitted a new application to finish the plat. Deferrals, deviations, and waivers for street and utility improvements associated with platting were granted in the past but have expired. OMC 16.40 sets up the process for deferring or waiving street and utility improvements and deviating from the improvement standards. This process includes a recommendation from the Planning Commission.

Request

Deviation: Allow 38' street width for the constructed portion of Scootney Street from 14th Avenue to where the right-of-way abuts the south property line of the plat.

Commissioners had no objections to this deviation.

Deviation: Allow the existing stormwater infrastructure for Scootney Street instead of requiring it to be rebuilt to City standard. The current stormwater infrastructure has worked for 15 years. The School District's letter stated Othello has allowed similar infrastructure to be built since the school was constructed. City Engineering/Public Works has not identified any concerns currently.

Commissioners agreed to accept this deviation with language that allows the City to require changes later if there is a problem.

Deferrals: Complete the Scootney Street improvements to the East property line (pavement, curb, gutter, sidewalk, and turnaround at the end).

- OSD requests to defer these improvements until development to the East of Wahitis Elementary School would necessitate the improvements.
- Upon passing of a bond, OSD would construct the district's portion of Scootney Street to approximately 65' for the eastern property line. Leaving a deadhead turn around and the rest of the improvements for development east of Wahitis Elementary School.

Commissioners agreed to accept this deferral until the City determines the improvements must be completed. At that time, OSD must provide a time line to complete the improvements

Deferral: Street improvements for Cemetery Road (pavement, curb, gutter, sidewalk, storm water).

- OSD requests to defer these improvements until the vacant land along Cemetery Road is developed and/or Scootney Elementary School has a major remodeling project.

Commissioners agreed to accept this deferral as proposed.

Waiver: Sanitary sewer in Scootney Street. OSD is requesting a waiver as sewer is not needed, because the property to the East can be served by the future sewer on Columbia Street. Adding sewer would also require reconstruction of the existing Scootney Street.

Commissioners agreed to accept this wavier.

Sewer and water mains in Cemetery Road. OSD requests to waive these improvements. They may not be needed for future development.

Commissioners felt like a deferral would better fit this request instead of a waiver.

Motion to recommend waivers, deferrals and deviations as discussed. M/S Burks/Sawyer

Comprehensive Plan Update - Community Survey

The survey flyer with link and QR code was included in the packet.

Comprehensive Plan Update - Vision 2047

The packet included a memo from SCJ Alliance which presented a draft vision framework for the Othello Comprehensive Plan, informed by the Planning Commission's February 2026 visioning workshop. The hope for the discussion tonight was to refine a shared vision for Othello's future, starting from what was heard at the February workshop, discuss key tensions and tradeoffs, and then work through the Alternative Vision Directions table row by row to land on updates to the vision statement. The draft in the packet was not meant to be final. The goal was to provide clear direction so the vision can be refined and brought forward for broader community input.

Three alternatives were presented:

1. Base Line Vision: Othello remains a welcoming and close-knit community where diverse cultures, traditions, and generations of families shape the city's identity. As the city grows, it preserves its friendly atmosphere, strong sense of belonging, and rural heritage.

2. Growth & Opportunity, Character & Livability: Othello continues to be a welcoming and inclusive community while evolving into a growing regional center. New residents, businesses, and industries reshape the community while maintaining a shared sense of identity.
3. Community Character & Livability Focus: Othello preserves its identity as a welcoming, close-knit, and culturally rich rural community, where relationships, traditions, and a strong sense of belonging remain the foundation of daily life.

Commissioners were ok with the base line vision but would like to see Growth & Opportunity, Character & Livability separated. The consultant Aren Murcar suggested an exercise where they have the statements down the middle of a board and have character & livability on one side, growth and opportunity on the other. The baseline would be down the middle. Commissioners liked this instead of being the ones that chose the version that would be going out to the public. Council member Kelli Camp suggested a QR code to try and gather more feedback that way.

Commissioners discussed the differences between a Comprehensive Plan Vision vs a Vision Statement in a Strategic Plan, and the need for better communication such as with the school district and health care.

Meeting Topic Schedule- Informational, Volunteers Needed

The packet included the likely schedule for the upcoming meetings and Comprehensive Plan events. Volunteers would be appreciated at the May 2 event at Lions Park to talk to the community about the Comprehensive Plan Update.

New State Legislation

Ms. Henning informed commissioners that new state legislation adopted this year allows family burial grounds on private property unless the City prohibits or regulates it. The Commission asked to have regulations prohibiting it brought for their review.

Commissioners also would like to discuss again at the next available meeting the RCWs allowing housing in existing buildings no matter what zone they were in and allowing childcare in all locations.

Vendors in Parks

Commissioners discussed that there have been a lot of vendors at City parks, which may be contrary to city code.

Electric Scooters

Commissioners had concerns about electric scooters, bikes, and mini motorcycles, speeding on streets and sidewalks.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:59pm. Next meeting is Monday May 18, 2026.

_____ Date: _____
 Rob Simmons, Chair

_____ Date: _____
 Zuleica Morfin, Building and Planning Secretary

TO: Planning Commission

FROM: Anne Henning, Community Development Director

MEETING: May 18, 2026

SUBJECT: Comprehensive Plan Update – Public Engagement

Here are dates and potential topics for upcoming Planning Commission meetings and public engagement events:

Date	Event	Likely Topic
Mar 31	Staff action	Survey was mailed with utility bills
Apr 3	Staff action	City notifications of online survey (social media & OthelloGo)
May 2	Little League Opening Day/ Cinco de Mayo	Public engagement: Advertise/collect surveys, attempted to get feedback on draft vision
May 8	Social media “boost”	Attempt to get the survey link in the social media feed of Othello area residents
May 18	PC mtg	Discuss engagement
June 15	PC mtg	If not needed for a Comprehensive Plan topic: Housing in existing buildings; childcare
July 4	4 th of July Celebration	Public engagement? Possibly interactive boards, maps (Land Capacity Analysis, Land Use), policies
July 20	PC mtg, also possible open house before or during the meeting	Public Workshop: Future Land Use Map
Aug 17	PC mtg	TBD
Sept 21	PC mtg	TBD
Oct 19	PC mtg	Public Workshop: Review findings/direction
Nov 16	PC mtg	TBD
Dec 5	Miracle on Main Street	Public engagement? Draft Plan rollout/feedback
Dec 21	PC mtg	TBD

Planning Commission meeting dates without a topic yet will be filled in with Comprehensive Plan discussions if needed, or with other topics as they arise.

The May 2 event took a lot of planning and consultant time to develop materials and a lot of staff time to put on the event, but didn’t seem to achieve much. Should we put effort into having a table at the July 4 event?

See the [Public Engagement Plan](#) for what we had initially planned for engagement.

Action: The Commission should discuss what is being done for public engagement for the Comprehensive Plan, and determine whether it is worth it to have a Comprehensive Plan booth at the July 4 event.

TO: Planning Commission

FROM: Anne Henning, Community Development Director

MEETING: May 18, 2026

SUBJECT: Zoning Update – State Law Changes: New Housing in Existing Buildings, Child Care Centers, Family Burial Grounds

State law adopted in 2023 and amended in 2025 changes how all cities (RCW [35.21.990](#)) and all code cities (RCW [35A.21.440](#)) regulate redevelopment of existing buildings into housing, in commercial, mixed-use, and residential zones. We must adopt new codes by June 30, 2026 or be pre-empted by the state regulations. An existing building is one that received a Certificate of Occupancy at least 3 years ago.

A different state law adopted in 2025 requires all cities (RCW [35.21.996](#)) and all code cities (RCW [35A.21.460](#)) to allow child care centers in all zones. A child care center is defined broadly as “an agency that regularly provides early childhood education and early learning services for a group of children for periods of less than 24 hours.” These regulations must be adopted by June 2027.

A third state law adopted in 2026 allows people (but not corporations) to create family burial grounds on their private property, unless the city or county has prohibited the establishment of family burial grounds. This law takes effect June 11, 2026. See [HB 2239](#).

Because all of these new laws require amending some of the same chapters of the zoning code, it makes sense to combine the review. During the discussion of the housing and child care items at the January meeting, the issue of whether garages could be converted for these uses was raised, so staff gathered additional information about that topic as well.

New Housing in Existing Buildings

The requirements for new housing in existing buildings are:

1. In a zone that allows multifamily housing, a city must allow 50% higher housing density than what is allowed in the underlying zone, if constructed entirely within the existing building envelope, provided health and safety standards and fire and building code standards can be met.
2. A city must not require any new parking for the addition of dwelling units within an existing building. A city may require the retention of existing parking that is required to satisfy existing residential parking requirements and for nonresidential uses that remain after the new units are added.
3. Except for emergency housing and transitional housing, a city may not impose permitting requirements on the use of an existing building for residential purposes beyond those required for all residential development in that zone.
4. For use of an existing building for residential, a city may not impose design standard requirements, including setback, lot coverage, and floor area ratio, beyond those that apply to all residential development in that zone.

5. Unless a building is a designated landmark or within an established historic district, a city may not impose exterior design or architectural requirements beyond those necessary for health and safety of the use of the interior or to preserve character-defining streetscapes.
6. Except for ground floor commercial along a major pedestrian corridor defined by the city, a city may not prohibit the addition of housing units to any specific part of a building, unless the addition of units would violate applicable building codes or health and safety standards. (This has been clarified by Commerce as only applying to existing buildings, the same as the rest of this chapter.)
7. A city may not require unchanged portions of an existing building that have been used for residential or previously permit-approved conditioned space purposes to meet the current energy code solely because of the addition of new dwelling units within the building. For any other building converted to new dwelling units, changed portions of the new units must meet energy code EXCEPT if:
 - a. The size of the new units is less than 2500 sq. ft. or 50% of the total building size, whichever is greater;
 - b. The owner submits documentation that the new residential units projected energy use intensity is less than the energy use intensity target of the clean buildings performance standards; or
 - c. In an area zoned for residential housing, an additional housing unit is created within an existing home.
8. A city may not deny the addition of housing within an existing building due to nonconformity in parking, height, setbacks, elevator size, or modulation, unless the city finds that the nonconformity is causing a significant detriment to the surrounding area.
9. A city may not require a transportation concurrency study or an environmental study for the addition of residential units within an existing building.

A city is not required to approve a permit if a building is not able to meet life safety standards.

These requirements have been incorporated into the attached drafts, including one new section in the Building Code chapter to address the items that didn't fit elsewhere. Some of these items are not ideal for locating within a Building Code chapter, but it seemed better to keep them together than to create a second new section somewhere else. Proposed changes are shown in red underline or ~~red-strikeout~~.

Rather than providing the whole Residential, Commercial, and Parking chapters, only the sections with changes are attached, to make the packet less bulky. For those who would like to see the whole thing in context, here are the direct links:

- [OMC 17.20 Residential Zones](#)
- [OMC 17.30 Commercial Zones](#)
- [OMC 17.40 Industrial Zones](#)
- [OMC 17.56 General Provisions](#)
- [OMC 17.61 Off-Street Parking](#)
- [OMC 14.04 Building Codes](#)

Garage Conversions

At the January meeting, in the discussion of existing buildings for new housing, the issue of converting garages came up. The Planning Commission last discussed this issue in 2020, which resulted in changes to the Municipal Code, allowing garages to be converted if the house was built before the garage requirement was adopted in 2007. The 2007 garage requirement was very likely a reaction to new state requirements at that time that manufactured homes must be allowed on residential lots, the same as a site-built home. Requiring a garage, when almost all new homes were built with them anyway, creates friction and adds cost to placing a manufactured home, thereby discouraging them, while staying within the state requirements that site-built and manufactured housing must be treated equally. Other cities who shared the same City Attorney at the time or who just looked for local models had this same requirement (Moses Lake, Ephrata, Warden, Mattawa, Royal City, Soap Lake).

In 2020 when we last discussed this, the Planning Commission reviewed a report showing garage requirements in 31 Eastern Washington cities (5 of them required garages, 26 did not). Attached is an updated report, showing the 2026 garage requirement in 50 cities in Eastern Washington (51 including Othello):

- 2 covered spaces required in Deer Park and Sunnyside
- 1 covered space required in Prosser
- 1 covered space required in R-1 & R-2 but not R-3 in Royal City, Soap Lake, and Warden
- 44 of the 50 cities do not require covered parking
 - Since we last reviewed this issue in 2020, East Wenatchee, Moses Lake, and Pasco have amended their codes to eliminate the covered parking requirement
 - Grandview does not require a garage, unless there is a driveway

Points that were discussed in 2020 included:

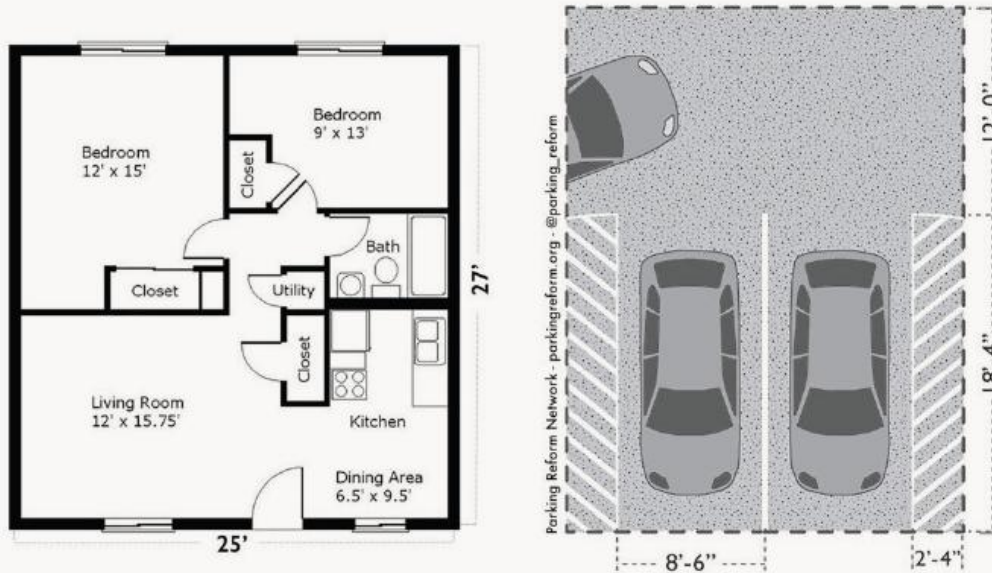
- Many people don't park in their garage, instead they use it for storage, shop space, or have converted them (legally or not).
- Many garages are not large enough for 2 vehicles, due to mechanical equipment like the water heater and furnace being located in the garage. The requirement that a garage be able to fit two 9'x20' parking spaces was only added in the zoning update adopted Feb. 2020. Even 18'x20' is pretty minimal to fit 2 vehicles, especially today's larger vehicles.
- It is likely that numerous garages in Othello have been converted to living space, but as long as the garage door is left in place, there would be no way for staff to know about the illegal conversion.
- There is a trend in the planning world to prioritize space for people over space for vehicles.

The [Housing Action Plan](#) recommends reviewing off-street parking requirements, with this rationale:

Parking can be one of the biggest drivers of costs and limitations on the design of new development. Accommodating surface parking to meet off-street parking requirements can prevent these areas from being used for other purposes. For larger developments, the limitations of space available on the site and the loss of internal space to garages and structure parking can serve as possible constraint on the housing that can be put on a site. (p.38)

As examples of comparing garage space to living space, see the first graphic from “The Housing-Ready City: A Toolkit for Local Code Reform” by Strong Towns, showing a 2-bedroom apartment compared to spaces in a parking lot, and the second graphic showing a floor plan of an apartment above a garage (22’ x 26’ footprint from a website called Design With Frank:

Living Space Vs. Parking Space



size for 2 bedroom apartment: 675 FT²

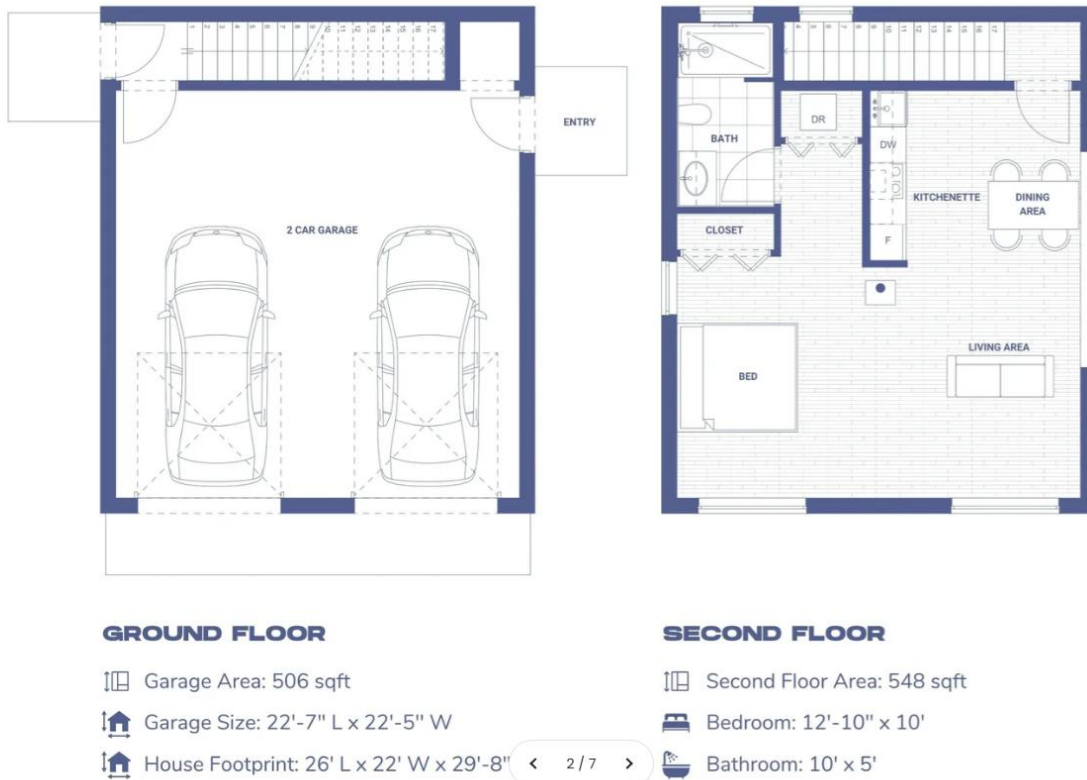
size for 2 parking spaces: 650 FT²

Sources: Transportation Cost and Benefit Analysis II - Parking Costs Victoria Transport Policy Institute (www.vtpi.org)

Graphic Adapted from Graphing Parking (<https://graphingparking.com/2013/07/23/parking-across-cascadia/>)

Image compiled by the Parking Reform Network - <https://parkingreform.org/> - @Parking_Reform





No garage-related changes are proposed in the attached drafts. The Commission should provide direction on this issue.

Child Care Centers

The new state requirements for child care centers are:

1. Child care centers must be outright permitted uses in all zones except industrial and open space.
2. The conversion of an existing building to a child care center must be an outright permitted use in all zones except industrial and open space.
3. In an industrial zone, cities must provide for conditional approval of **on-site** child care, except in or around high hazard facilities.

Cities may have reasonable restrictions, including pickup and drop-off areas.

To meet these requirements, we need to make changes in our Residential Zones, a minor change in Commercial (allowing it in C-3, and then modifying the language about "Daily Care Providers"), and no changes in Industrial (we already allow on-site child care as outright permitted in the Industrial Zones). Proposed changes to the Off-Street Parking chapter were also added to set requirements for child care. These proposed changes are shown in the attached drafts in red underline or ~~red strikeout~~. The existing limitations are proposed to be continued, such as play area not in the front yard, parking requirements, off-street loading/unloading, no signage allowed, no alteration of a home to change the character (although a new structure would not have to meet design standards since there are none for buildings in

residential zones), and notification of adjacent property owners. This provision is proposed to be changed to make it clear this is a courtesy notification only, since state law requires us to allow the child care, even if the neighbor objects. The Hearing Examiner provision is proposed to be changed to the more general “City” that may place conditions to mitigate impacts. This would seem to be in alignment with the RCW that allows cities to impose reasonable restrictions on the permit.

Family Burial Grounds

[HB 2239](#) adopted in 2026 allows “natural persons” (but not corporations) to create family burial grounds on their private property, unless the city or county has prohibited the establishment of family burial grounds. The state law does set some standards for setbacks, notice on title, etc. but when briefly discussed previously with the Planning Commission, the Commission was unanimously in favor of prohibiting this use in Othello. A statement prohibiting the use has been added to each zoning district (in Prohibited Uses) and to OMC 17.56 General Provisions. Simplifying to just saying it once in 17.56.170 is probably more efficient, although there is the danger that this section will be overlooked.

Attachments

- Residential Garage & Parking Requirements in Eastern Washington, Feb. 2026
- Draft changes to OMC 17.20 Residential Zones
- Draft changes to OMC 17.30 Commercial Zones
- Draft changes to OMC 17.40 Industrial Zones
- Draft changes to OMC 17.56.170 General Provisions-Prohibited Uses
- Draft changes to 17.61 Off-Street Parking
- Draft new section OMC 14.04.045 Special Provisions for New Housing in Existing Buildings

Action: The Planning Commission should review the proposed zoning amendments, discuss whether all the required changes are adequately addressed, and direct staff to make any changes. Once the Commission is satisfied with the draft, staff will schedule a public hearing on the changes.

Residential Garage Requirement in Eastern Washington, Feb. 2026

City	Population	Garage Regulations	Parking Spaces Required
Airway Heights	12,120	Garage or covered parking not required.	1 space/dwelling for single family, duplex, triplex, 4-plex, stacked flats, cottage, courtyard apartment, ADU, studio or -bedroom apartment. 1.5 space/dwelling unit for multi-family with 2+ bedrooms.
Benton City	3,845	Garage or covered parking not required. When provided, there are design standards (BCMC 20.62.020.O)	2 spaces/dwelling for studio thru 2 bedrooms 3 spaces/dwelling for 3 or more bedrooms 3 spaces/dwelling in apartment house
Cashmere	3,420	Garage or covered parking not required.	2 spaces/dwelling for single-family, 2-family, 3 or more family, ADU. 1 space/studio apartment
Clarkston	7,240	Garage or covered parking not required. Parking space is defined as enclosed or unenclosed.	2 spaces/dwelling for single-family, duplex, townhouse 1.5 spaces/dwelling for apartments Parking space is defined as enclosed or unenclosed.
Chelan	4,630	Garage or covered parking not required.	1 space for single family or ADU 1.5 spaces/dwelling for 1 or 2-bedroom apartments 2 spaces/dwelling for 3 or more bedroom apartments
Cheney	13,180	Garage or covered parking not required. If a garage is provided, it must be de-emphasized and the living area must be more prominent. Garage should not occupy more than 50% of the facade. CMC 21.20.050.D 21.67.030 allows conversion of a garage into an ADU.	2 spaces/dwelling for single family. 1 space/ADU 1 space/bedroom for duplex & multifamily
Cle Elum	2,300	Garage or covered parking not required.	2 spaces/dwelling single family & apts with 1+ bedrooms 1 space/ADU or studio apt
College Place	10,050	Garage or covered parking not required.	2 spaces/dwelling single family, duplex 1 space/ADU, cottage, studio apt, or 1-bed apt 1.5 spaces/dwelling for apt w/2 or more bedrooms
Colville	4,945	Garage or covered parking not required. Where provided, there are design standards (CMC 17.30.030.D)	1 space/dwelling for single family, ADU, duplex 1.5 spaces/dwelling for multi-family
Connell	5,180	Garage or covered parking not required. The 2 required parking spaces for a dwelling may be unenclosed or within a garage or carport. 17.20.030 If attached garage is converted to ADU, parking spaces must be provided elsewhere on the site. 17.19.130	2 spaces/dwelling. May be unenclosed or within a garage or carport. 17.20.030 1 space/ADU
Davenport	1,720	Garage or covered parking not required.	Requirements are not very clear, but appear to be:

City	Population	Garage Regulations	Parking Spaces Required
			2 spaces for single family 1 space for ADU 1 space/unit in a mobile home park
Dayton	2,440	Garage or covered parking not required. In PUD with lot size 2000 SF, 1 covered space/unit required.	2 spaces/dwelling for single family 1 space/dwelling for ADU, cottage, duplex, and multi-unit
Deer Park	5,135	Minimum garage dimensions DPMC 18.74 Figure 4 2 covered spaces required. 18.20.070. 25' setback required to be paved.	2 covered & enclosed spaces required per residence. All parking areas & driveways which lead onto the street required to be paved.
East Wenatchee	14,310	Garage or covered parking not required. (This is a change since 2020, when at least 300 SF of carport, storage, or garage was required for a residence.)	2 spaces/dwelling for single family, duplex w/2+ bedrooms 1 space/dwelling for ADU, 1-bed duplex or apt 1.5 spaces/dwelling for 2-bed apts 2 spaces/dwelling for 3+-bed apts Multi-family also requires 0.25 spaces/unit guest parking
Ellensburg	21,260	Garages or covered parking not required but may count toward required parking. Single family design standards (15.540.020) to de-emphasize garages and driveways as major visual elements along the street. Encourage garage to access from alley.	2 spaces/dwelling for single family up to 4 bedrooms. +1 spaces/bedroom after 4. 0 spaces for 1 st ADU, 1 space for 2 nd ADU 1 space/cottage 2 spaces/dwelling for duplex up to 6 bedrooms +1 space/bedroom after 6 1 space/bedroom for apts (0.7 space/bedroom in C-C zone outside of historic downtown district)
Ephrata	8,915	Garage or covered parking not required. Per staff in 2020, garages were still being built with new houses.	2 spaces/dwelling single family, duplex, apt up to 49 units 1.8 spaces/dwelling in apt/50 or more units 1 space/studio apartment or ADU
Goldendale	3,500	Garage or covered parking not required.	1 space/dwelling single family, duplex, townhouse 2 spaces/dwelling in Suburban & Rural Residential 1.5 spaces/dwelling for apartments
Grandview	11,950	Garage or covered parking not required, but driveway shall terminate into an architecturally integrated garage or carport. No parking pad permitted in front of a dwelling unless such pad leads to a garage or carport. Garage with vehicle doors parallel to an alley shall be set back from the alley 20'	2 spaces/dwelling unit for all residential units
Kennewick	87,790	Garage or covered parking not required.	2 spaces/dwelling for single family 1 space/dwelling for ADU & 1-bed apt

City	Population	Garage Regulations	Parking Spaces Required
		Residential parking may be unenclosed or within a garage or carport. If a garage is converted to an ADU, the lost parking spaces must be provided elsewhere on the site.	1.5 spaces/dwelling for 2+-bed apt Residential parking may be unenclosed or within a garage or carport.
Leavenworth	2,615	Garage or covered parking not required. Garage may be converted to ADU, even if does not meet setbacks or lot coverage.	1 space/dwelling up to 1500 SF dwelling 2 spaces/dwelling when dwelling >1500 SF
Liberty Lake	14,110	Garage or covered parking not required. Garage doors should be accessed from alleys or face the side or rear of the property. Front-loaded garage may extend 12' in front of house if 6 design elements incorporated. Parking spaces inside a garage count toward the minimum required.	2 spaces/dwelling for single family 1.75 spaces/dwelling for 2-family & multi-family 1 space/ADU Parking spaces inside a garage count toward the minimum required.
Mattawa	3,890	Garage or covered parking not required.	2 spaces/dwelling for all residential 1 space/ADU
Medical Lake	4,900	Garage or covered parking not required. If a garage is provided, there are standards for minimum and maximum size, etc. 17.16.080. In a planned unit development, 10% density bonus if all required parking is covered.	2 spaces/dwelling for 1 & 2-family dwellings 1.5 spaces/dwelling for apartments + 1 visitor space/4 units
Moses Lake MLMC 18.20.050	27,530	Garage or covered parking not required. (This is a change since 2020 , when 1 covered parking space (garage or carport) was required in single family and duplex zones but not R-3 Zone (which allows all housing, including single family, duplex, and larger). This had been the standard since at least 2003. If provided, garage must be set back at least 5' from the front of the house, cannot make up more than 50% of front facade	2 spaces/dwelling for single family, duplex, multi-family 2+ bedrooms. Apts also require 2% of total for guests. 1 space/dwelling for studio & 1-bed apts + 5% for guests 1 space/ADU
Newport	2,155	Garage or covered parking not required.	1 space/dwelling for all residential (including ADU)
Okanogan	2,425	Garage or covered parking not required. Garage or carport can be included as parking space.	2 spaces/dwelling for single family, duplex 1.5 spaces/dwelling for multi-family 1 space/ADU
Omak	4,985	Garage or covered parking not required.	2 spaces/dwelling for all residential 1 space/ADU

City	Population	Garage Regulations	Parking Spaces Required
		Lot coverage allowance is increased when required parking is covered in duplex and multi-family zones.	When there is an ADU, a garage may be used to meet the parking requirements
Othello	9,210	2 garage spaces required for single family in all zones. This requirement was added in 2007.	4 spaces for single family (2 in garage + 2 in front yard) 2 spaces/dwelling for duplex & multi-family 2 spaces for 1-bed ADU, 3 spaces for 2-bed ADU
Pasco	82,990	Garage or covered parking not required. Change since 2020, when no parking pad was permitted in front of a dwelling unless the pad led to a garage or carport.	1 space/dwelling for studio & 1-bed dwellings 2 spaces/dwelling for all other dwellings 0 spaces for ADUs (2 allowed/lot, 1 attached, 1 detached)
Pomeroy	1,395	Garage or covered parking not required.	2 spaces/dwelling single family 1.5 spaces/dwelling for duplex & multi-family
Prosser	6,650	Minimum 20' x 12' attached or detached garage required. Required parking may be unenclosed or within a garage.	2 spaces/dwelling 1 space/ADU Required parking may be unenclosed or within a garage.
Pullman	34,380	Garage or covered parking not required. 17.40.050 If the required off-street parking spaces for a single-family dwelling are not provided in a garage or carport, one space shall be located so that a future garage structure may be constructed. 17.75.070(8) Garages must meet at least 1 design standard: setback from street equal to or greater than some other part of façade, nor more than 60% of width of façade, floor level 4' below street, entrance more than 45 degree angle from street, architectural feature such as large window, dormer, etc.	0.5 spaces/bedroom for single family 0.75 spaces/bedroom for duplex, townhouse, multi-family 1 space/studio apt ADU calculated the same as the primary structure on the lot
Quincy	8,330	Garage or covered parking not required. In a planned development, 10% density bonus if at least 1 parking space/unit is in a garage or carport. 20.45.025.J Accessory storage structures including garages may be converted to ADUs if existing structure meets current setback requirements.	1 space/dwelling for all residential
Richland	64,930	Garage or covered parking not required.	2 spaces/dwelling for single family & duplex 1.5 spaces/dwelling for apartments 1 space/studio apt
Ritzville	1,790	Garage or covered parking not required.	2 spaces/dwelling single family & duplex

City	Population	Garage Regulations	Parking Spaces Required
		5% lot coverage bonus if the garage is detached and located on the rear half of the lot. Dwellings shall be designed so the front door entrance is closer to the street than the garage door. In a Manufactured Housing Community, if a garage or carport is proposed, it shall be constructed of materials similar to the home.	1 space/dwelling for middle housing types and affordable housing types
Royal City	1,960	1 covered space required in R-1, R-2, & S-1. Not required in R-3.	2 spaces/dwelling for single family, duplex, multi-family with 2+ bedrooms 1.5 spaces/dwelling for multi-family one-bed & efficiency
Selah	8,655	Garage or covered parking not required.	3 spaces/dwelling for single family & duplex 2 spaces/dwelling for multi-family
Soap Lake	1,810	1 covered space required in R-1 & R-2. Not required in R-3.	2 spaces/dwelling for single family, duplex, multi-family with 2+ bedrooms 1.5 spaces/dwelling for multi-family 1-bed & efficiency
Spokane	234,700	Garage or covered parking not required. A garage may be converted into an ADU.	0 spaces required for residential
Spokane Valley	110,200	Garage or covered parking not required. Existing accessory structures may be converted to detached ADUs.	2 spaces/dwelling for single family & 2-family 1.5 spaces/dwelling for multi-family 2+ bedrooms 1 space/dwelling for multi-family studio & 1-bed, ADU Multi-family also require 5% of total for guest parking
Sunnyside	16,690	400 SF garage required for a single family home	2 spaces/dwelling for single family, duplex, triplex 1 space/dwelling for multi-family & ADU
Toppenish	8,925	Garage or covered parking not required.	2 spaces/dwelling for single family & 2-family 1.5 spaces/dwelling for multi-family
Union Gap	6,670	Garage or covered parking not required.	2 spaces/dwelling for single, 2-, 3-family dwellings, multi-family. Multi-family also requires 1 guest space per 10 units.
Walla Walla	34,850	Garage or covered parking not required. Existing structures may be converted to ADUs, even if they do not meet current setback or lot coverage requirements.	1 space/dwelling for single family 1 space/unit for other housing types 0.5 spaces/unit for multi-family or units on less than 6000 SF lot 0 spaces for residences under 1000 SF or affordable housing (ADUs are limited to 1000 SF maximum)
Wapato	4,615	Garage or covered parking not required.	2 spaces/dwelling for single family & 2-family 5 spaces required for 3-unit bldg.

City	Population	Garage Regulations	Parking Spaces Required
			7 spaces required for 4-unit bldg. 8 spaces required for 5-unit bldg. 1.5 spaces/dwelling for multi-family 6+ units
Warden	2,765	1 covered space required in R-1 & R-2. Not required in R-3.	2 spaces/dwelling for single family, duplex, multi-family 2+ bedrooms 1.5 spaces/dwelling for multi-family 1-bed & efficiency
Wenatchee	36,170	Garage or covered parking not required. 10.47.050 Purpose to de-emphasize garages and driveways as major visual elements along the street. Garage may occupy no more than 50% of the façade, except may go to 65% with 2 design details. Accessory structures, including detached garages, may be converted to an ADU even if they do not meet setbacks or lot coverage. In a planned development, 5% density bonus if at least 2 covered parking spaces/dwelling unit.	2 spaces/dwelling on properties more than 6000 SF (unless 1 bedroom, then only 1 space/dwelling required) 1 space/dwelling on properties 6000 SF or less 1 space/ADU, unless City Engineer determines on-street parking is available abutting the lot on a non-arterial street.
West Richland	18,430	Garage or covered parking not required. Parking in a garage does not count toward the 2 parking spaces required (1 space required for ADU). Attached garage may be converted to an ADU when the garage is set back at least 40' from the front property line.	2 spaces/dwelling for single family & multi-family 1 space/ADU Parking in a garage does not count toward the required spaces
White Salmon	2,565	Garage or covered parking not required. If the required parking is not provided in a covered garage, it shall be located so that it may later be covered by a garage.	2 spaces/dwelling unless except 1 space in R-3 Zone 1 space/ADU except 0.5 space/ADU (min 1 space) in R-3 Zone Parking in a garage can meet the parking requirement.
Yakima	100,000	Garage or covered parking not required.	2 spaces/dwelling for single family, duplex, multi-family less than 10 units 1.5 spaces/dwelling for multi-family of 10+ units 1 space/dwelling for ADU, tiny house, recreational vehicle
Zillah	3,225	Garage or covered parking not required.	2 spaces/dwelling for all. Multi-family also requires 1 guest space for each 5 units. Unclear what the standard would be for ADU, since they are only listed in the utility chapter as paying half the utility development fee, but there are no other mentions in code.

Chapter 17.20
RESIDENTIAL ZONES

17.20.030 Uses.

(a) Table 1: Land Uses in Residential Zones indicates where categories of land uses may be permitted and whether those uses are allowed outright or by conditional use permit. Only residential zones are included in this table. Land uses not listed are prohibited unless allowed through the process specified in subsection (c) of this section. Further interpretation of these zones may be obtained as specified in Section 19.03.020. Land uses are also subject to the footnotes following the table.

(b) The symbols used in the table represent the following:

- (1) A = Allowed, subject to applicable standards and any footnotes.
- (2) C = Conditionally allowed through the conditional use permit process, subject to applicable standards and any footnotes.
- (3) X = Prohibited use.
- (4) PDD = Allowed through a development process; see Chapter 17.54.

(c) Uses similar to those listed may be established as allowed or conditionally allowed through the interpretation process in Section 19.03.020(b). In determining whether a use should be permitted, the administrator shall refer to the purpose statement in Section 17.20.010 and the most recent version of the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS), as used by federal agencies in the classification of business establishments.

(d) Procedural requirements for permits are described in Title 19, Development Code.

TABLE 1: LAND USES IN RESIDENTIAL ZONES

USE CATEGORIES	R-1	R-2	R-3	R-4	R-M	S-1
Residential						
One-family dwelling (site-built, manufactured, or modular)	A	A	A	A	A	A
Attached one-family dwelling, each on an individual lot (townhouses)	X	X	PDD	PDD	X	X
Condominium in compliance with Chapter 17.54, Planned Development District Overlay	A	A	A	A	A	A
Two-family dwelling	X	A	A	A	X	X
Triplex or fourplex dwelling	X	X	A	A	X	X
Triplex, fourplex, or multifamily dwelling on a lot directly abutting 7th Avenue	X	A	A	A	X	X
Multifamily dwelling larger than 4 units	X	X	C	A	X	X
Cottage housing development/bungalow court	X	X	PDD	PDD	X	X
Accessory dwelling unit (ADU) in compliance with Chapter 17.63	X	A	A	A	X	X
Commercial¹						
Adult family home licensed by the state	A	A	A	A	A	A

USE CATEGORIES	R-1	R-2	R-3	R-4	R-M	S-1
Art gallery	X	X	C	A	X	X
Bed and breakfast ²	A	A	A	A	A	A
Boardinghouse, bunk house, hostel, dormitory, resort, timeshare condominium, lodging house	X	X	C	A	X	X
Clinic, including medical, dental, chiropractic, holistic, or physical therapy, and supporting medical facilities	X	X	X	X	A	X
Child care center³	A	A	A	A	A	A
Child day care as a separate facility	X	X	X	X	X	X
Child day care as a separate facility on a lot directly abutting 7th Avenue	A	A	A	A	X	X
Day care for more than 12 children, in the home of the care provider and licensed by the state³	C	C	C	C	C	C
Day care for more than 12 children, in the home of the care provider and licensed by the state, on a lot directly abutting 7th Avenue³	A	A	A	A	X	X
Family day care home licensed by the state	A	A	A	A	A	A
Home occupations in compliance with Chapter 17.59	A	A	A	A	A	A
Medical-related commercial vendor	X	X	X	X	A	X
Museum	C	C	C	C	C	C
Neighborhood commercial uses abutting 7th Avenue ⁴	A	A	A	A	X	X
Nursing home, convalescent home, assisted living, or similar residential/medical use and its support facilities	X	X	X	C	A	X
Nursing home, convalescent home, assisted living, or similar residential/medical use and its support facilities, on a lot directly abutting 7th Avenue	X	A	A	A	X	X
Public and Institutional⁵						
Churches	C	C	C	C	C	C
Library	X	C	C	C	X	X
Municipal buildings or structures	C	C	C	C	C	C
Municipal facilities, such as wells or lift stations	A	A	A	A	A	A
Parks and playgrounds, including park buildings	C	C	C	C	C	C
Public hospital	X	X	X	X	A	X
Schools, public or private	C	C	C	C	C	C
Senior center or similar use, on a lot directly abutting 7th Avenue	A	A	A	A	A	X
Agricultural						
Gardening or fruit raising on vacant property, when maintained in a neat, orderly, and clean condition such that it does not constitute any sort of nuisance	A	A	A	A	A	A
Keeping of animals and/or livestock	X	X	X	X	X	A
Keeping of chickens and rabbits	See Chapter 6.12					A
Miscellaneous						
Household pets	See Chapter 6.04					

Notes for Table 1:

¹ All commercial uses shall require a city business license and any applicable state licenses. Where these commercial uses are conditionally allowed in a specific residential zone, they may be outright permitted in that zone on lots that directly abut 7th Avenue provided parking meets Chapter 17.61, operating hours are limited to seven a.m. to ten p.m., new buildings meet C-1/C-2 design standards (Section 17.30.070), and the commercial use extends no more than one-half block from 7th Avenue.

² A bed and breakfast facility shall be allowed with the following conditions:

- (a) Must meet the definition of a bed and breakfast in Chapter 17.09, Definitions;
- (b) The bed and breakfast shall be within an owner-occupied residence, and the owner shall reside on site during guest stay;
- (c) At least one hard surface parking space is provided per guest room, in addition to the parking spaces for the residents; and
- (d) Maximum length of stay for any guest shall be fourteen consecutive days.

³ ~~Day-Child~~ care facilities shall be in compliance with the following requirements:

- (a) Outdoor play areas shall not be located in the front yard.
- (b) One on-site parking space is required for each employee, in addition to any required resident parking.
- (c) An on-site, off-street loading and unloading area shall be provided.
- (d) Signage shall not be allowed.
- (e) No structural or decorative alteration which would alter the character or be incompatible with the surrounding residences shall be allowed.
- (f) The structure shall be in compliance with zoning and building code requirements.
- (g) As a courtesy, adjacent property owners shall be notified of an application for a child day care facility prior to obtaining a license from the state. The City must allow child care centers in compliance with RCW 35.21.996 and 35A.21.460.
- (h) The City-hearing examiner may impose conditions to mitigate any potential adverse impacts on the surrounding area.

⁴ The following uses allowed in commercial zones, and those deemed similar and compatible with the neighborhood by the planning commission, shall be allowed on lots abutting 7th Avenue provided parking meets Chapter 17.61, operating hours are limited to seven a.m. to ten p.m., new buildings meet C-1/C-2 design standards (Section 17.30.070), and the commercial use extends no more than one-half block from 7th Avenue:

- (a) Retail uses not otherwise specified.
- (b) Eating and drinking places.
- (c) Service uses.
- (d) Banking and financial services.
- (e) Cultural, recreational, and entertainment uses.
- (f) Daily care providers (~~ehildeare~~, elder care).
- (g) Health care providers.
- (h) Personal service shops.
- (i) Professional offices.

The following commercial uses are specifically prohibited: contractor supply and sales, lumberyard, daily outdoor merchandise display, drive-through, farm and landscaping equipment sales, supplies, and service; fuel stations, manufactured home sales, marijuana sales, open sales lot, vehicle sales lot, warehouse sales, wholesale, adult entertainment; clubs, lodges, and assembly halls as a primary use; dance hall, hospital, kennels, animal boarding, pet care; recreational vehicle park, rental of vehicles, trailers, and machinery; repair and maintenance, theater (movie), truck stop, sales, and repairs; veterinarian.

⁵ Where these public and institutional uses are conditionally allowed in a residential zone, they may be outright permitted on lots that directly abut 7th Avenue.

⁶ Animals and/or livestock are allowed in the S-1 zone as follows: not to exceed one horse, one mule, one cow, two goats, or two sheep for every twenty-one thousand seven hundred eighty square feet of lot area. No such livestock shall be maintained closer than one hundred feet to any dwelling.

⁷ Chickens, rabbits, and guinea pigs are allowed in the S-1 zone as follows: not to exceed fifteen fowl and not to exceed fifteen rabbits or guinea pigs. Guinea fowl and pea fowl are not permitted. Roosters are not permitted. No chickens, rabbits, or guinea pigs shall be maintained closer than twenty-five feet to any dwelling.

(Ord. 1634 § 1, 2025; Ord. 1578 § 1, 2022; Ord. 1547 § 3 (part), 2020).

17.20.040 Prohibited.

The following are prohibited in all residential zones:

- (a) Mobile homes, defined as factory-built residential structures constructed prior to June 15, 1976, and not in compliance with the National Manufactured Housing Construction and Safety Standards Act of 1974;
- (b) Commercial activities not otherwise specifically permitted;
- (c) Garages or other accessory structures on a lot without a residence;
- (d) Family burial grounds. (Ord. 1547 § 3 (part), 2020).

17.20.060 Development standards.

(a) Purpose. This section establishes the development standards and site requirements for uses in the residential zones. The standards and rules are established to provide flexibility in project design, prevent fire danger, provide adequate access and circulation, reduce incompatibilities, and prevent overloading of infrastructure due to the impacts of development.

(b) Explanation of Table. Development standards are listed down the left column of the table and the residential zones are identified across the top row. The matrix cells contain the requirements of each zone. The footnotes identify particular requirements applicable to a specific use, standard, or zone. “NR” stands for “No Requirement.”

TABLE 2: DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS IN RESIDENTIAL ZONES

Development Standards	R-1	R-2	R-3	R-4	R-M	S-1
Maximum building height—primary building	2 stories	2 stories	2 stories	3 stories	3 stories and 60'	2 stories
Maximum building height—residential accessory building	20'	20'	20'	20'	20'	20'
Front street setback ¹ for primary structure (excluding garage)	10'	10'	10'	10'	10'	20'
Front setback ¹ for accessory structures	No closer to the street than the dwelling unit					
Side street setback ¹ for a corner lot ²	10'	10'	10'	10'	10'	15'
Setback ¹ to front of garage	20'	20'	20'	20'	20'	20'
Interior side setback ¹	5'	5'	5'	5'	5'	5'
Interior side setback ¹ —residential accessory building	2'	2'	2'	2'	2'	2'
Rear setback ¹ if no alley	5'	5'	5'	5'	5'	5'
Rear setback ¹ if abutting alley and garage does not open onto alley	5'	5'	5'	5'	5'	5'
Rear setback ¹ if abutting alley and garage opens onto alley	8'	8'	8'	8'	8'	8'

Development Standards	R-1	R-2	R-3	R-4	R-M	S-1
Rear yard setback ¹ if abutting irrigation canal	2'	2'	2'	2'	2'	2'
Minimum lot size ²	7,000 square feet	6,000 square feet	5,000 square feet	4,500 square feet	7,000 square feet	1 acre
Maximum dwelling units per lot	1	2	4 ⁴	NR	1	1
Maximum lot area covered by buildings	50%	50%	65%	NR	50%	35%
Minimum roof pitch for main portion of primary structure	3:12	3:12	3:12	3:12	3:12 residential. NR for medical uses.	3:12
Minimum number of parking spaces inside a garage for a single-family dwelling ³	2	2	2	2	2	2

Table 2 Notes:

1. Setback Notes.

a. Within the setback area shown on Table 2, no building or structure (as defined in Chapter 17.09, Definitions) shall be allowed except flagpoles, street furniture, transit shelters, signage, fencing, slope stability structures, and improvements less than thirty inches above grade, including decks, patios, walks, and driveways. Some of these structures and improvements require a permit. The setbacks shown in Table 2 are zoning setbacks. Larger setbacks may be required by the State Building Code, Fire Code, sight distance requirements, or landscaping requirements.

b. Eaves, cornices, belt courses, and similar ornamentations and overhangs may extend into a setback not more than two feet. Balconies and bay windows may project into a front setback no more than three feet.

c. Interior side setback is not required for attached dwellings such as townhouses or for zero lot line development.

2. The minimum lot size does not apply to lots legally created prior to February 10, 2020.

3. The garage requirement was added by Ordinance Nos. 1246, 1247, and 1249 in 2007. Therefore, houses built before 2008 may convert an existing attached garage to living space, provided the following conditions are met:

a. A building permit is required.

b. The conversion shall meet all zoning and building code requirements.

c. The lot shall contain a minimum of four improved off-street parking spaces, unless the garage being converted is a one-car garage, then a minimum of three improved off-street parking spaces is required.

d. Per Section 17.74.090(a), at least fifty percent of the front yard shall be landscaped. If the garage conversion and associated parking space replacement would encroach on the fifty percent landscaped area, the conversion is not allowed.

4. Per RCW 35A.21.440, up to 50% more units are allowed if constructed entirely within an existing building envelope, provided that health and safety standards, including but not limited to building code standards and fire and life safety standards can be met within the building. An existing building is one that received a certificate of occupancy at least three years prior to the permit application to add housing units.

(Ord. 1634 § 2, 2025; Ord. 1569 § 1, 2021; Ord. 1554 § 1, 2020; Ord. 1547 § 3 (part), 2020).

Chapter 17.30
COMMERCIAL ZONES

17.30.030 Uses.

(a) The commercial land use table indicates where categories of land uses may be permitted and whether those uses are allowed outright or by conditional use permit. Only commercial zones are included in this table. Land uses not listed are prohibited unless allowed through the process specified in subsection (c) of this section. Further interpretation of these zones may be obtained as specified in Section 19.03.020. Land uses are also subject to the footnotes following the table.

(b) The symbols used in the table represent the following:

- (1) A = Allowed, subject to applicable standards and any footnotes.
- (2) C = Conditionally allowed through the conditional use permit process, subject to applicable standards and any footnotes.
- (3) X = Prohibited use.

(c) Uses similar to those listed may be established as allowed or conditionally allowed through the interpretation process in Section 19.03.020(b). In determining whether a use should be permitted, the administrator shall refer to the purpose statement in Section 17.30.010 and the most recent version of the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS), as used by federal agencies in the classification of business establishments.

TABLE 1: LAND USES IN COMMERCIAL ZONES

USE CATEGORIES	C-1	C-2	C-3
Retail			
Retail use (other than those listed below)	A ¹	A	A
Contractor supply and sales, lumberyard	X	A	A
Daily outdoor merchandise display	A	A	A
Drive-thru for a permitted use	A	A	A
Eating and drinking places	A	A	A
Farm and landscaping equipment sales, supplies, and service	X	A	A
Fuel stations	X	A	A
Manufactured home sales	X	A	A
Marijuana sales	X	X	X
Open sales lots in conjunction with a principal use which must be in an enclosed adjoining building	X	X	A
Vehicle sales lots (can include RVs, boats, trailers, and campers) (can include light service), in compliance with the development standards in Section 17.61.060	X	X	A
Warehouse sales	X	X	A

USE CATEGORIES	C-1	C-2	C-3
Wholesale			
Wholesale use when not associated with a retail use	X	X	A
Services			
Service uses (other than those listed below)	A ²	A	A
Adult entertainment and cabarets (in compliance with Chapter 4.28) ³	X	X	A
Banking and financial services	A	A	A
<u>Child care centers</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>A</u>
Clubs, lodges, assembly halls	X	A	A
Cultural, recreational, and entertainment uses	X	A	A
Daily care providers (ehild-care , elder care)	A	A	X
Dance hall	X	X	A
Drive-thru for a permitted use	A	A	A
Family day care home in an existing residence	A	A	A
Health care providers	A	A	A
Hospitals	X	X	A
Lodging (hotels and motels subject to review under Chapter 17.67)	X	A	A
Kennels, animal boarding, pet care	X	X	A
Personal service shops	A	A	A
Professional offices	A	A	A
Recreational vehicle park (in compliance with Chapter 17.44)	X	X	C
Rental of vehicles, trailers, and machinery	X	X	A
Repair and maintenance, including vehicles, small engines, and appliances	X	X	A
Theater	X	A	A
Truck stops, sales, and light repairs	X	X	A
Veterinarian	X	X	A
Transportation, Communication, and Utilities			
Passenger transportation facilities, public or private	X	X	A
Personal wireless telecommunications facilities (in compliance with Chapter 16.68)	X	A	A
Utility facilities (such as well house, electrical substation, etc.)	A	A	A
Industrial and Storage			

USE CATEGORIES	C-1	C-2	C-3
Cargo containers used for storage ⁴	X	A	A
Light manufacturing when subordinate to a retail sales outlet and contained in a building	A	A	A
Outside storage in conjunction with a principal use which is in an enclosed adjoining building	X	X ⁵	A
Self-storage, mini-storage, RV storage	X	X	A
Storage, warehousing, and distribution, not associated with a retail business	X	X	A
Truck parking ⁶	X	X	A
Wrecking yard, salvage yard, junk yard	X	X	X
Public and Institutional			
Churches	X	A	A
Libraries	A	A	A
Municipal and governmental facilities, shops, and yards	X	A	A
Outdoor recreational, entertainment, or amusement facilities	X	X	A
Park, playground, athletic field, other noncommercial recreation	A	A	A
Schools, public or private	X	A	A
Residential			
Adult family home in an existing residence	A	A	A
Assisted living facility	X	A	A
Manufactured or mobile home park	X	X	X
Multifamily residential use not in conjunction with a commercial structure <i>(new construction)</i>	X	A ⁷	X
<i>Multifamily residential (within an existing building, per RCW 35A.21.440)</i>	<u>A</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>A</u>
Residential use in a basement or upper story ⁸	A	A	A

Notes for Table 1:

¹ Limited to buildings under two thousand square feet.

² Limited to buildings under two thousand square feet.

³ An adult entertainment business must be at least seven hundred feet from any park, school, preschool, youth club, bus stop, day care center, or another adult entertainment business.

⁴ The following are required for any cargo containers used for storage:

(a) The container must be placed adjacent to a site-built structure, with separation as required by the International Building Code and International Fire Code;

(b) The container shall be inconspicuous from public streets. It shall be located behind the building or screened with sight-obscuring fencing, walls, or landscaping;

(c) Only one container is allowed per development site;

(d) The container shall be placed and blocked to prevent harboring of animals under the container or between the container and other structures;

- (e) The container shall not be connected to water or occupied in any way;
- (f) The container shall have only factory-installed doors. No windows or other openings shall be allowed;
- (g) The access route to the end doors cannot be on a public right-of-way, including alleys;
- (h) The container shall not be rented out or used for storage by anyone except the occupant of the associated building;
- (i) The container shall be painted to be compatible with the adjacent building;
- (j) The container shall be removed prior to the sale of the land or change of tenant;
- (k) A permit from the city shall be required, with a fee of fifty dollars, to verify compliance with this code.

⁵ Existing outside storage as of the date of initial adoption of this ordinance may continue. No new outside storage uses may be established.

⁶ Any parcel of land used as a public or private truck/trailer truck parking area shall be developed, used, and maintained in the following manner:

- (a) The lot shall have access directly off an improved truck route as established in Chapter 9.36;
- (b) All vehicles shall be within three hundred feet of a fire hydrant;
- (c) The driveway shall have a surfaced apron no less than thirty feet wide by thirty feet long and shall be permitted by the public works director per Chapter 11.20;
- (d) Vehicles shall not drive over curbs and/or sidewalks to access the parking area;
- (e) The lot shall have sidewalks along all curbs as prescribed in Chapter 11.16;
- (f) The parcel or lot area shall be graded to contain one inch of stormwater on site, or enter into a city stormwater contract if applicable;
- (g) The parking and maneuvering area shall be graded and graveled sufficiently to control dust and mud and to provide access to fire trucks;
- (h) All trucks/trailers shall be licensed operating vehicles. There shall be no non-operating, damaged, parting, hulks, or pieces of vehicles allowed to be stored under this conditional use;
- (i) No truck parking lot shall be used for truck repair, painting, or freight transfer;
- (j) A water service shall not be provided to an unplatted lot. A conditional use permit for a truck parking lot does not require platting of the parcel involved but further development or different uses may require platting;
- (k) Any person parking a truck or trailer on a lot which has not been approved for such parking shall be deemed to have committed a civil infraction and shall be punished by a C-6 penalty. Any person permitting the parking of trucks or trailers on a parcel or lot without having obtained a conditional use permit to do so shall be deemed to have committed a civil infraction and shall be punished by a C-3 penalty.

⁷ Residential uses without street frontage commercial uses are allowed, subject to the following provisions:

- (a) Not to be located within one hundred forty feet (a half block) of Main Street or Highway 26.
- (b) Minimum of three dwelling units per building.
- (c) Buildings are subject to commercial zone design standards.
- (d) Parking shall be in compliance with Chapter 17.61.

⁸ Accessory residential uses are allowed, subject to the following provisions:

- (a) Parking for the residential use shall be provided in compliance with Chapter 17.61.

(Ord. 1547 § 4 (part), 2020).

17.30.040 Prohibited.

The following are prohibited in all commercial zones:

- (a) Outside storage, collection, or dumping of dismantled, partly dismantled, or wrecked vehicles, trailers, machinery, or parts;
- (b) Outside storage or collection of any junk, scrap, unsightly material or debris visible from a public street;

- (c) Abandoned structures or buildings in a state of disrepair or not approved for use;
- (d) Removal of soil or other natural materials for the purpose of sale or use as fill material, except that excavation for the purpose of construction or landscaping is permitted;
- (e) Using any trailers, railroad cars, semi-trailers, car, truck, or van bodies for storage facilities;
- (f) Family burial grounds. (Ord. 1547 § 4 (part), 2020).

17.30.070 Design standards in the C-1 and C-2 zones.

(a) Scope and Applicability. These standards are applicable to all buildings in the C-1 and C-2 commercial zones, regardless of use. Design standards apply to all of the following:

- (1) New buildings and new developments;
- (2) Remodeled buildings where the cost of remodeling is more than fifty percent of the current assessed value of the building as determined by the Adams County assessor. Design standards shall apply to the whole building, not just the part that was remodeled. Exception: Per RCW 35A.21.440, new residential in existing buildings do not require exterior design or architectural requirements beyond those necessary for health and safety of the use of the interior or to preserve character-defining streetscapes.
- (3) Building additions when the gross floor area is being increased by fifty percent or where the cost of the addition is more than fifty percent of the current assessed value of the building as determined by the Adams County assessor. Design standards shall apply to the whole building, not just the addition.

(b) Departures from Standards. These standards are not intended to prohibit creative design and development solutions by professional designers/developers that may create a better quality development. Therefore, certain departures from the design standards may be permitted. In order for a departure from the standards to be allowed, the development proposal must demonstrate that the departure would result in a development that better meets the intent, objectives, and design principles of the design standards. The community development director shall have the final authority to resolve any conflicts in the standards in order to protect the city's objectives and goals.

[Remainder of section has no changes]

Chapter 17.40
INDUSTRIAL ZONES

17.40.030 Uses.

(a) The industrial land use table indicates where categories of land uses may be permitted and whether those uses are allowed outright or by conditional use permit. Only industrial zones are included in this table. Land uses not listed are prohibited unless allowed through the process specified in subsection (d) of this section. Further interpretation of these zones may be obtained as specified in Section 19.03.020. Land uses are also subject to the footnotes following the table.

(b) Uses are arranged in three categories:

- (1) Primary uses, which are those which industrial zones were designed to accommodate;
- (2) Accessory uses, which support primary uses; and
- (3) Other uses, which are compatible with primary uses or are not appropriate in other zones because of impacts such as noise.

(c) The symbols used in the table represent the following:

- (1) A = Allowed, subject to applicable standards and any footnotes.
- (2) C = Conditionally allowed through the conditional use permit process, subject to applicable standards and any footnotes.
- (3) X = Prohibited use.

(d) Uses similar to those listed may be established as allowed or conditionally allowed through the interpretation process in Section 19.03.020(b). In determining whether a use should be permitted, the administrator shall refer to the purpose statement in Section 17.40.010 and the most recent version of the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS), as used by federal agencies in the classification of business establishments.

TABLE 1: LAND USES IN INDUSTRIAL ZONES

USE CATEGORIES	I-1	I-2
Primary Uses		
Agriculture-related uses, such as feed and seed stores, farm equipment repair and sales, irrigation supply, and agricultural services such as soil preparation services, lawn care services, potato curing, seed cleaning, cold storage, and sorting, grading, packing, and packaging of fruits and vegetables	A	A
Assembly of parts	A	A
Fabrication and welding	A	A ¹
Junk yards, salvage yards, or wrecking yards	A	C
Machine shop	A	A ¹
Manufacturing, processing, or packaging of products, including food products but excluding meat, seafood, distilling, fermenting, canning, slaughtering, rendering, curing, and tanning	A	A
Manufacturing, processing, or packaging of food products, including meat, seafood, distilling, fermenting, and canning, slaughtering, rendering, curing, and tanning	C	A
Outside storage as a primary use ²	A	X
Printing, publishing, and allied products manufacturing including processes such as lithography, etching, engraving, binding, and blueprinting	A	A ¹

USE CATEGORIES	I-1	I-2
Recycling collection site and recycling facilities	A	A ¹
Solid waste processing facilities	X	X
Storage, warehousing, and distribution facilities	A	A ¹
Technological uses such as scientific research, testing, and experimental development laboratories	A	C
Transportation services such as bus barns and maintenance facilities, freight consolidation, shipping documents preparation, rental of railroad cars, packing and crating	A	A
Accessory Uses		
Accessory use appurtenant to any primary use and not otherwise prohibited	A	A
Child care, primarily for children of on-site employees or customers	A	A
Dwelling unit for on-site security or maintenance personnel and family ³	A	C
Offices related to permitted uses conducted on the same site	A	A
Sales (retail or wholesale) of goods or products manufactured on site, or utilized in manufacturing, repairing, or servicing activities which are permitted in the zone	A	A
Storage in cargo containers, on the site of the business using the storage	A	A
Support business for a primary allowed use	A	A
Other Allowed Uses		
Agriculture	A	A
Animal shelter, kennel, or veterinary clinic with outdoor boarding of animals or care of livestock	A	X
Building materials or lumber yard, retail or wholesale	A	X
Contractor establishments, including offices, shops, and storage yards	A	A ¹
Industrial laundry or dry-cleaning plant	A	X
Mini-storage	A	X
Nurseries and greenhouses for the growing and sale of plants	A	X
Power-generating facilities, including solar farms	X	A
Public facilities compatible with the intent of the zone, such as maintenance shops, substations, well houses, lift stations, local and regional utilities	A	A
Repair and service of consumer vehicles and equipment	A	X
Repair and service of agricultural/commercial/industrial vehicles and equipment	A	A ¹
Towing services and vehicle impound yards	A	X
Wireless communication facilities, in compliance with Chapter 16.68	A	A

Notes for Table 1:

1. To preserve land in the I-2 zone for uses which most need it, this use is limited to businesses with an annual gross income in excess of five million dollars per year.

2. See Section 17.40.070, Storage areas, for requirements.
3. The sole purpose of the dwelling is to furnish housing for an employee, including family, engaged in on-site security or maintenance. Only one such residence is allowed per site.

17.40.040 Prohibited.

The following are prohibited in all industrial zones:

- (a) Any use which does not or is not capable of conforming with the purpose and requirements of this chapter;
- (b) Any use determined by the city administrator to pose excessive hazard to the public health, safety, and general welfare;
- (c) Abandoned structures or buildings in a state of disrepair or not approved for use;
- (d) Surface mining, including extraction from deposits of rock, gravel, sand, earth, and minerals;
- (e) Rock crushing;
- (f) Family burial grounds.

17.56.170 Prohibited uses.

The following uses are prohibited in all zones except as specifically allowed below:

- (a) Portable toilets except for emergency or construction use with permission from the city public works director obtained prior to placement.
- (b) Electric fences or any device designed to give an electric shock to any person coming in contact therewith except within the open space zone subject to:
 - (1) No electric fence shall be placed closer than twenty-five feet to the property boundary.
 - (2) Where the property boundary is adjacent to a residential zone, appropriate signage in both English and Spanish shall be posted indicating that an electric fence is in operation and to keep away.
 - (3) All equipment used in conjunction with the electric fence shall be UL approved and properly maintained.
 - (4) Electric fencing material shall be considered temporary and in use only when animals are present.
- (c) Boats and water craft used for habitation purposes.
- (d) The use of any vehicle or trailer as a dwelling.
- (e) Any signs, except as permitted by this code, or other city or state regulation.
- (f) The production, processing, and/or retailing of marijuana or products containing marijuana are prohibited within the city of Othello. However, nothing herein shall be interpreted to prevent persons from possessing or using marijuana for personal consumption if and as allowed by the Revised Code of Washington.

(g) Family burial grounds.

Chapter 17.61

OFF-STREET PARKING

Sections:

- 17.61.010 Requirements generally.
- 17.61.015 Parking—Residential lots.
- 17.61.020 Parking spaces required.
- 17.61.030 Parking requirements for uses not specified.
- 17.61.040 Mixed occupancies.
- 17.61.050 Joint uses.
- 17.61.060 Required improvement and maintenance of parking area and car sales area.
- 17.61.070 Illumination of parking areas and car sales area.
- 17.61.080 Required loading space.
- 17.61.090 Accessibility.
- 17.61.100 Use of right-of-way.
- 17.61.110 Parking and storage of recreational vehicles.

17.61.010 Requirements generally.

(a) Off-street vehicle parking meeting the requirements of this chapter shall be provided based on the proposed use for:

- (1) A new or relocated building;
- (2) An expanded or enlarged structure, only for the new floor area;
- (3) An existing building that requires a change of occupancy per the Building Code for the new use.
- (4) Remodel, alteration, or repair of an existing building where the cost of the remodel, alteration, or repair exceeds twenty-five percent of the existing assessed value of the structure.

Exception: Per RCW 35A.21.440, no new parking is required for the addition of dwelling units entirely within an existing building.

(b) All vehicles shall be parked on improved parking spaces (concrete or asphalt). Access from the street and all portions of the parking lot shall be hard surface if the parking spaces are required to be.

(1) Exception: Parking accessed from an unpaved street may be compacted gravel until the street is paved. A covenant shall be required, guaranteeing hard surfacing of the parking lot when the street is paved. Regardless of whether a covenant was attached, any gravel parking lot created after August 27, 2018, shall be hard surfaced when the street is paved.

(2) Exception. Parking accessed from a gravel alley may be compacted gravel.

(c) Required parking spaces shall be made permanently available and be permanently maintained for parking purposes.

(d) For the purpose of this chapter, a parking space shall be at least nine feet wide and a minimum of twenty feet long, exclusive of access drives or aisles. Minimum size for a parking space also applies to spaces within a garage. Parking spaces accessed directly from an alley shall be set back at least eight feet from the edge of the alley.

(e) Parking spaces shall have access from a public thoroughfare, and shall be of usable shape and condition. There shall be provision for ingress and egress from each parking space. Except for residences of up to four dwelling units, groups of more than two parking spaces shall be so located and served by a driveway that their use will require no backing movements or maneuvering within a street right-of-way other than an alley. (Ord. 1627 § 1, 2025; Ord. 1517 § 1 (part), 2018; Ord. 1220 § 1 (part), 2006; Ord. 948 § 2 (part), 1995).

17.61.015 Parking—Residential lots.

For any residential lot, no vehicle shall be allowed to park on lawn or landscaped areas of the front yard. Parking shall be limited to an improved surface such as gravel, concrete, or asphalt that is no greater than thirty feet in width extending generally perpendicular from the structure to the street. Minimum required parking spaces for new residences must be concrete or asphalt, unless accessed directly from a gravel alley. (Ord. 1627 § 1, 2025; Ord. 1517 § 1 (part), 2018; Ord. 1347 § 1, 2011).

17.61.020 Parking spaces required.

Required parking spaces are as follows:

- (a) Single-family dwellings in R-1, R-2, R-3 or R-4 zones: **in addition to the two parking spaces required in a garage for houses built after 2007**, every dwelling shall have a minimum of two, but not more than four, concrete parking spaces in the front yard area. No more than four vehicles shall be parked or stored in the front yard on improved parking spaces. Vehicles can be stored in the back yard if surrounded by a six-foot-high sight-obscuring fence;
- (b) Two-family dwellings in R-2, R-3 or R-4 zones: in addition to any parking spaces in a garage, there shall be two spaces for each dwelling unit. No more than three vehicles may be parked off-street that are not within a garage in connection with each dwelling unit. If additional vehicles are to be parked off-street, they must be parked within a garage or within an enclosure surrounded by a sight-obscuring fence;
- (c) Multiple-family dwellings in R-3 or R-4 zones: two spaces for each dwelling unit. No more than two vehicles may be parked off-street that are not within a garage or carport in connection with each dwelling unit;
- (d) Residential hotels, fraternity houses, rooming houses or boardinghouses: one space for each two guest accommodations or four beds, whichever is greater;
- (e) Convalescent homes, sanitariums, institutions for the aged and children, welfare or correctional institutions: one space for each six beds or patients, plus one additional space for each two employees;
- (f) Hospitals: one space for each five beds including bassinets, plus one space for each two employees, plus one space for each two visiting and/or staff doctors;
- (g) Medical and dental clinics: three spaces for each doctor or three spaces for each two examination rooms, whichever is greater, plus one space for each employee;
- (h) Dancehalls: one space for each fifty square feet of dance floor space;
- (i) Funeral parlors and mortuaries: one space for each fifty square feet of assembly used for services, plus one space for each employee;
- (j) Passenger terminals (bus, rail or air): one space for every one hundred square feet of gross floor area used for passenger waiting area plus one space for each two employees;
- (k) Manufacturing and industrial buildings: one space for each two employees on the largest shift;
- (l) Stadiums, sports arenas, auditoriums (including school auditoriums) and other places of public assembly and clubs and lodges having no sleeping rooms: one space for each four seats or eight feet of bench length for spectators;
- (m) Bowling alleys: three spaces for each alley plus one space for every four seats or eight feet of bench devoted to spectator area, plus one space for the proprietor and one space for each two employees;
- (n) Libraries: one space for each two hundred square feet of gross floor area of the reading room, plus one space for each two employees;

- (o) Churches: one space for each four seats or eight feet of pew bench and one space for each four hundred square feet of gross floor space used for assembly and not containing fixed seats;
- (p) Colleges or commercial schools for adults: one space for each six seats in classrooms, plus one space for each two employees;
- (q) High schools, elementary schools and other children’s schools and child care centers: one space for each six seats in the auditorium or assembly room or one space per six high school students, whichever is more, plus one space for each two employees, plus sufficient off-street space for the safe and convenient loading and unloading of students or children from pickup and drop-off vehicles and school buses;
- (r) Theaters: one space for each four seats, plus one space for each two employees;
- (s) Mobile or manufactured home parks: two spaces for each mobile or manufactured home lot and one additional space for each four mobile or manufactured home lots for guests;
- (t) Motels and auto courts: one space for each unit, plus three additional spaces for every ten units;
- (u) Semi-private golf courses, country clubs, gun clubs, etc.: one space for each three members;
- (v) Public utility stations: one space;
- (w) Retail stores and personal service shops:
 - (1) Retail stores primarily handling bulky merchandise such as furniture, machinery, farm or agricultural equipment, lumber, construction materials, livestock feed, or heavy equipment: one-and-one-half spaces for each one thousand square feet of gross floor area;
 - (2) Personal service shops and other retail not addressed in subsection (w)(1) of this section:

Building size, gross floor area	Parking requirement
Up to 2,000 square feet	4 spaces/1,000 square feet
2,001—7,500 square feet	3.5 spaces/1,000 square feet
7,501—40,000 square feet	2.85 spaces/1,000 square feet
40,001+ square feet	2.5 spaces/1,000 square feet

- (x) Banks: one space for each four hundred square feet of gross building area, plus one space for each two employees;
- (y) Restaurants, taverns or bars: 0.75 space for each one hundred square feet of gross floor area;
- (z) Notwithstanding the off-street parking requirements defined in this chapter, those buildings located within commercially zoned districts may be permitted to obtain permits for renovation or expansion of the existing building space or use without fully complying with the off-street parking requirements of this section. Prior to the issuance of the development permit which would impose the off-street parking requirement sought to be modified, the owner or

owner's agent shall apply to the community development director for a waiver of some identified portion of the off-street parking requirement. The proponent shall bear the burden and expense of establishing to the community development director:

- (1) The lack of reasonably available off-street parking within a reasonable distance to the subject property, either through purchase, lease or joint use agreement;
- (2) What studies, measurements, or other indicia of adequate parking exist to support the request; and
- (3) How the proponent would propose to deal with overflow parking.

The community development director may: grant a waiver for a specified period of time after which the waiver shall terminate or be subject to further review; grant a waiver conditioned on average daily trip measurements remaining below a certain number and after that number is exceeded, additional parking shall be required to be provided; or deny the request. (Ord. 1627 § 1, 2025; Ord. 1555 § 1, 2020; Ord. 1517 § 1 (part), 2018; Ord. 1280 § 1 (part), 2008; Ord. 1220 § 1 (part), 2006; Ord. 1198 § 1, 2005; Ord. 974 § 1, 1995; Ord. 948 § 2 (part), 1995).

17.61.030 Parking requirements for uses not specified.

Where the parking requirements for a use are not specifically defined in this title, the parking requirements for such use shall be determined by the community development director and such determination shall be based upon the requirements for the most comparable use specified in this chapter. (Ord. 1517 § 1 (part), 2018; Ord. 1280 § 1 (part), 2008; Ord. 948 § 2 (part), 1995).

17.61.040 Mixed occupancies.

In the case of mixed occupancies in a building or on a lot, the total requirements for off-street parking shall be the sum of the requirements for the various uses computed separately. Off-street parking facilities shall not be considered as providing required parking facilities for any other use except as hereinafter specified for joint use. (Ord. 1517 § 1 (part), 2018; Ord. 948 § 2 (part), 1995).

17.61.050 Joint uses.

The community development director may, upon application by the owner or lessee of any property, authorize the joint use of parking facilities by the following uses or activities under the conditions specified in this section:

- (1) Up to fifty percent of the parking facilities required by this chapter for a use considered to be primarily a daytime use may be provided by the parking facilities of a use considered to be primarily a nighttime use or vice versa; provided, that such reciprocal parking area shall be subject to the conditions set forth in subsection (4) of this section.
- (2) Up to one hundred percent of the parking facilities required by this chapter for a church or auditorium incidental to a public or parochial school may be supplied by parking facilities for a use considered to be primarily a daytime use, provided such reciprocal parking area shall be subject to the conditions set forth in subsection (4) of this section.
- (3) For purposes of this section, the following uses are typical daytime uses: business offices, barbershops and beauty shops, manufacturing or wholesale buildings. The following uses are typical nighttime and/or Sunday uses: auditoriums incidental to a public or parochial school, churches, dancehalls, theaters and taverns.
- (4) Conditions required for joint use are as follows:
 - (A) The building or use for which application is made for authority to utilize the existing off-street parking facilities provided by another building or use shall be located within four hundred feet of such parking facilities.
 - (B) The applicant shall show that there is not substantial conflict in the principal operating hours of the buildings or uses for which the joint use of the parking facilities is proposed.

(C) Parties concerned in the joint use of off-street facilities shall evidence agreement for such joint use by a proper legal instrument approved by the city attorney as to form and content. Such instrument when approved as conforming to the provisions of this title shall be recorded in the office of the city clerk. (Ord. 1517 § 1 (part), 2018; Ord. 948 § 2 (part), 1995).

New section OMC 14.04.045 Special provisions for new housing in existing buildings.

1. Per RCW 35A.21.440, an existing building is defined as one that received a certificate of occupancy at least 3 years prior to a complete application to add housing units within the existing building.
2. The building official shall not require unchanged portions of an existing building that have been used for residential or previously permit-approved conditioned space purposes to meet the current energy code solely because of the addition of new dwelling units within the building. When any other existing building is converted to new dwelling units, changed portions of each of those new units must meet the requirements of the current Washington State Energy code, except if:
 - a. The square footage of new dwelling units does not exceed 2500 square feet or 50% of the total building square footage, whichever is greater;
 - b. The building owner submits documentation, in a form acceptable to the city, showing the building's residential units' projected energy use intensity is less than or equal to the energy use intensity target in accordance with the clean building performance standard in RCW 19.27A.210; or
 - c. In all areas zoned for residential housing, an additional housing unit is created within an existing home;
3. The city shall not deny a building permit application for the addition of housing units within an existing building due to nonconformity regarding parking, height, setbacks, elevator size for gurney transport, or modulation, unless the City Administrator makes written findings that the nonconformity is causing significant detriment to the surrounding area.
4. The city shall not approve a building permit application for the addition of housing units within an existing building if the building cannot satisfy life safety standards.
5. With the exception of emergency housing and transitional housing units, the city shall not impose permitting requirements on the use of an existing building for residential purposes beyond those generally applicable to all residential development within the building's zone, including requiring a change of use permit.
6. The city shall not impose design standard requirements, including setbacks and lot coverage, on the use of an existing building for residential purposes beyond those requirements generally applicable to all residential developments within the building's zone.
7. The city shall not require a transportation concurrency study under RCW 36.71A.070 or an environmental study under chapter 43.21 RCW based on the addition of residential units within an existing building.