



MARION COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Board Session Agenda Review Form

Meeting date: May 6, 2020

Department: Public Works Agenda Planning Date: April 30, 2020 Time required: 20 min.

Audio/Visual aids

Contact: Joe Fennimore Phone: 503-566-4177

Department Head Signature: Bria Mettler

TITLE Public Hearing for Legislative Amendment (LA) 20-001/Amending Marion County Code, Title 17, related to temporary hardship dwellings.

Issue, Description & Background On March 3, 2020, the Marion County Board of Commissioners adopted Resolution #20R-3 initiating amendments to the Marion County Code (MCC), Title 17, related to temporary hardship dwellings. On April 8, 2020, the board held a public hearing on the matter and it was continued to May 6, 2020. Under MCC Section 17.120.040 a property owner in rural Marion County can qualify for placement of a temporary mobile home or recreational vehicle to provide care for a family member. This section of the code was last updated in 2008. Marion County Legal Counsel and the Planning Division staff developed amendments for the board to consider to address some issues that have arisen since this section of the code was last updated. These include addressing how absences from the hardship dwelling impact the permit, refining language regarding licensed medical professional assessments, and adding criteria for the conversion of existing structures into temporary hardship dwellings. The proposed amendments include definitions and application requirements specific to hardship dwellings.

Financial Impacts: None.

Impacts to Department & External Agencies: None.

Options for Consideration: 1. Continue the public hearing. 2. Close the public hearing and leave the record open. 3. Close the public hearing and approve, deny, or modify the proposed amendments.

Recommendation: Staff recommends the board close the public hearing and approve the amendments.

List of attachments: Memorandum from staff Proposed Amendments Current Marion County Code Section 17.120.040

Presenter: Joe Fennimore; Joseph Miller



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Copies of completed paperwork sent to the following: (Include names and e-mail addresses.)

Copies to:

Joe Fennimore - gfennimore@co.marion.or.us
Joseph Miller - jcmiller@co.marion.or.us



Marion County **OREGON**

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Marion County Board of Commissioners

FROM: Marion County Planning Division/Joe Fennimore

DATE: March 23, 2020

SUBJECT: Legislative Amendment 20-001/Rural Zone Code Amendment – Marion County Code Section 17.120.040 related to temporary hardship dwellings.

BACKGROUND:

Under Marion County Code (MCC) Section 17.120.040 currently, a property owner in rural Marion County can qualify for placement of a temporary mobile home or recreational vehicle to provide care for a family member. If approved they must obtain all necessary permits and record an agreement in the deeds records agreeing to remove the home within 90 days of the hardship no longer being necessary. They are required to renew the approval on a yearly basis by providing certification from the caregiver that the hardship still exists. This section of the code was last updated in 2008. At its public meeting on February 24, 2020, the board approved a resolution initiating amendments to this section of the code and scheduled a public hearing for April 8, 2020.

ANLYSIS

The amendments proposed by staff were developed by Legal Counsel and the Planning Division to address some issues that have arisen since this section of the code was last updated. These include provisions addressing how absences from the hardship dwelling impact the permit, refining language regarding licensed medical professional assessments, and adding criteria for the conversion of existing structures into temporary hardship dwellings. The proposed amendments include definitions and application requirements specific to hardship dwellings. If approved, the proposed amendments will replace the existing provisions in MCC17.120.040.

17.120.040 TEMPORARY USE OF MOBILE HOME OR RECREATIONAL VEHICLE DURING CERTAIN HARDSHIP CONDITIONS.

Use of a temporary mobile home, recreational vehicle, or existing building for the care of someone with a hardship may be approved as a conditional use subject to meeting the following criteria:

A. For the purposes of this subsection:

1. "Absence" means that the person(s) for whom the hardship dwelling permit was granted has lived away from the hardship dwelling for less than 165 days per calendar year or less than 165 consecutive days;
2. "Aged or infirm person" means the person(s) suffering from a medical hardship or hardship due to age or infirmity that requires care to be provided;
3. "Application" means both an application to obtain approval to place a hardship permit dwelling on a property and the annual renewal of the hardship permit;
4. "Domicile" means the intention of the aged or infirmed person(s) or caregiver(s) to live on the property or in the hardship permit dwelling as that person's primary residence;
5. "Extended absence" means that the person(s) for whom the hardship dwelling permit was granted has not lived at the hardship dwelling for more than 165 days per calendar year or 165 consecutive days;
6. "Hardship" means a medical hardship or hardship for the care of an aged or infirm person or persons;
7. "Hardship permit" means a conditional use permit granted under ORS 215.283(2)(L) and MCC 17.120.040 to allow for the use of a hardship permit dwelling on the property for a period of one year;
8. "Hardship permit dwelling" means a temporary mobile home, recreational vehicle, or existing building used for the care of an aged or infirmed person who is or will be domiciled on the property;
9. "Medically necessary absence" means an extended absence that is necessary for the aged or infirm person to receive medical care or treatment;
10. "Owner" has the same meaning as defined in MCC 17.110.425 ; and
11. "Temporary absence" means a period of up to 165 days per calendar year or 165 consecutive days, in which the aged or infirm person(s) has not lived on the property.

B. An application for a hardship permit must be submitted in writing.

1. An application must:
 - a. Include the name of the aged or infirm person(s) for whom the hardship permit is sought;
 - b. Include a signed statement from a licensed medical professional indicating whether the aged or infirm person has a hardship as defined in Section A. The statement shall also attest whether the licensed medical professional is convinced the person(s) with the hardship must be provided the care so frequently or in such a manner that the caregiver(s) must reside on the same premises;
 - c. Identify whether the aged or infirm person(s) and/or caregiver(s) will be residing in the hardship permit dwelling.
2. Only the Owner(s) of a property may submit an application for a hardship permit.
3. If additional information is required to clarify any portion of an application, the Owner(s) will be notified in writing of the deficiencies within the application.

- C. In the EFU, SA, FT and TC zones, occupancy of a hardship permit dwelling is limited to the term of the hardship suffered by the existing resident or a relative as defined in ORS 215.283(2)(L).
- D. When the aged or infirm person must be provided care so frequently or in such a manner that caregiver(s) must reside on the same premises, the aged or infirm person and/or those caregivers providing care for the aged or infirm person may temporarily reside in the hardship permit dwelling for the term necessary to provide care.
1. Those providing the care must show that they will be available and have the skills to provide the care required, as described by the licensed medical professional.
 2. Caregivers may reside within a hardship permit dwelling during periods of absence and medically necessary absence.
 3. Caregivers shall not have any financial or expense obligation increased for residing in the hardship dwelling during periods of absence and medically necessary absence.
- E. A temporary absence or medically necessary absence from the property by the aged or infirm person(s) will not result in the revocation or denial of a hardship permit.
1. When a medically necessary absence results in the aged or infirm person(s) living off of the property for more than 165 days in one calendar year or 165 consecutive days they must provide notice of the medically necessary absence to prevent the absence from being considered an extended absence.
 2. Notice of a medically necessary absence that will result in the aged or infirm person(s) living off of the property for more than 165 days in one calendar year or 165 consecutive days must be provided within 14 days of learning that the absence from the property will result in the aged or infirm person having to live away from the property for more than 165 days in one calendar year or 165 consecutive days.
 3. Notice of a medically necessary absence must:
 - a. Be submitted in writing;
 - b. Include a statement from a licensed medical provider outlining that the absence from the property is necessary for the care or medical treatment of the aged or infirm person;
 - c. Provide an estimate as to when the aged or infirm person(s) will return to the property;
 - d. Include an assessment from the licensed medical professional on whether or not the aged or infirm person(s) will be able to reside on the property again.
 - i. If a licensed medical professional cannot provide an assessment on whether the aged or infirm person will be able to return to the property at the time when notice of a medical necessary absence is due, a hardship permit maybe approved for the amount of time necessary, not to exceed one year, for the licensed medical professional to make the assessment as to whether the aged or infirm person(s) will be able to return to the property.
 - ii. If a licensed medical professional cannot provide an assessment after the period of time described in Section E.3.b.ii then a determination will be made as to whether the hardship permit is still necessary for the care of the aged or infirm person(s).
 4. Notice of a medically necessary absence maybe submitted by the Owner(s), aged or infirm person(s), caregiver(s) of the aged or infirm person(s), or other agent of the aged or infirm person(s).

5. Caregivers may not be charged any rent or otherwise required to provide financial compensation to live in the hardship dwelling during a temporary absence or medically necessary absence.
 - a. If as a part of any agreement to provide caretaking services, the caregiver was required to provide financial compensation or incur a financial obligation in order to reside within the hardship dwelling then that arrangement will not violate Section E.4, provided that the arrangement existed prior to the temporary absence or medically necessary absence.

- F. Extended absence from the property by the aged or infirm person(s), or caregiver(s) when the hardship permit dwelling is only being inhabited by caregiver(s), creates a rebuttable presumption that the hardship permit is no longer necessary to provide care to the aged or infirm person(s).
 1. Extended absence from the property may result in revocation of the hardship permit; issuance of a citation pursuant to MCC 1.25.030; and/or initiation of civil action in circuit court pursuant to MCC 1.25.050.
 2. Notice will be provided to the owner of any substantiated violation of Section F. 30 days prior to the effective date of a revocation of the hardship permit made pursuant to Section F.1.

- G. A mobile home or recreational vehicle being used as a hardship dwelling shall to the extent permitted by the nature of the property and existing development:
 1. Be located as near as possible to other residences on the property;
 2. On EFU, SA, FT and TC zoned property, be located on the portion of the property that is least suitable for farm or forest use, if it is not feasible to locate it near an existing residence;
 3. Not require new driveway access to the street;
 4. Be connected to the existing wastewater disposal system if feasible. The disposal system shall be approved by the county sanitarian.

- H. For an existing building to be used as a hardship dwelling it must:
 1. Be suitable for human habitation;
 2. Comply with all building and specialty codes (for example, but not limited to, electrical, plumbing, and sanitation) applicable to dwellings;
 3. Not require new driveway access to the street; and
 4. Be connected to the existing wastewater disposal system if feasible. The disposal system shall be approved by the county sanitarian.

- I. One of the residences shall be removed from the property within 90 days of the date the person(s) with the hardship or the care provider no longer reside on the property.
 1. In the case of a recreational vehicle, it shall be rendered uninhabitable by disconnection from services.
 - a. An agreement to comply with this requirement shall be signed by the applicant, and the owner of the recreational vehicle if different than the applicant.
 - b. Oregon Department of Environmental Quality removal requirements also apply.
 2. In the case of an existing building, the renovations or modifications made to an existing building to be used for inhabitation must be removed.
 - a. The existing building shall be returned to similar conditions as its previous use; or

Current Code

17.120.040 Temporary use of mobile home or recreational vehicle during certain hardship conditions. SHARE

Use of a temporary mobile home or recreational vehicle for the care of someone with a hardship may be approved as a conditional use subject to meeting the following criteria:

- A. For the purposes of this section "hardship" means a medical hardship or hardship for the care of an aged or infirm person or persons.
- B. A doctor of medicine or licensed psychologist shall sign a statement indicating the physical or mental condition that prevents the person(s) with the hardship from providing the basic self-care needed to live on a separate lot. The statement shall also attest that the physician or licensed psychologist is convinced the person(s) with the hardship must be provided the care so frequently or in such a manner that the caretaker must reside on the same premises.
- C. Those providing the needed assistance shall be related by blood, marriage or legal guardianship and reside in another residence on the property. If evidence is presented that there is no family member able to provide the needed care the caretaker may be someone else provided the property is located in a zone other than the EFU, SA, FT or TC zones. In the EFU, SA, FT and TC zones, occupancy of the hardship mobile home or recreational vehicle is limited to the term of the hardship suffered by the existing resident or a relative as defined in ORS 215.283.
- D. Those providing the care must show that they will be available and have the skills to provide the primary care required by the doctor or psychologist.
- E. One of the residences shall be removed from the property within 90 days of the date the person(s) with the hardship or the care provider no longer reside on the property. In the case of a recreational vehicle it shall be rendered uninhabitable by disconnection from services. An agreement to comply with this requirement shall be signed by the property owner and the care providers. Oregon Department of Environmental Quality removal requirements also apply.
- F. The mobile home or recreational vehicle shall to the extent permitted by the nature of the property and existing development:
 - 1. Be located as near as possible to other residences on the property;
 - 2. On EFU, SA, FT and TC zoned property, be located on the portion of the property that is least suitable for farm or forest use, if it is not feasible to locate it near an existing residence;

Current Code

3. Not require new driveway access to the street;

4. Be connected to the existing wastewater disposal system if feasible. The disposal system shall be approved by the county sanitarian.

G. The use is intended to be temporary, shall be subject to review every year, and shall continue to meet the above criteria in order to qualify for renewal. [Ord. 1271 § 5, 2008; Ord. 1204 § 4, 2004; Ord. 1180 § 4, 2004; Ord. 1168 § 5, 2002; Ord. 1125 § 5, 2000. RZ Ord. § 120.040.]