



City of Medical Lake
124 S Lefevre Street
PO Box 369
Medical Lake, WA 99022-0369
509-565-5000

1/21/2025 City Council Meeting

To: Mayor and City Council
From: Elisa Rodriguez, City Planner
TOPIC: Amendments to the Municipal Code regarding Code Enforcement

Requested Action:

Provide staff direction.

Key Points:

In response to citizen concerns over code enforcement and the limited amount of guidance in the Municipal Code, language is being drafted to provide a clear process to be followed when the regulations of the Municipal Code are being violated.

Background Discussion:

The municipal code offers little guidance on enforcement of the code. In addition, when the code does state that there is a penalty for violation, it is often cited as a misdemeanor. Misdemeanors are criminal infractions, and our Code Enforcement Officer can only issue civil infractions. The Code Enforcement Officer is challenged to legally address some enforcement issues because he must rely heavily on Chapter 9.10 – Nuisances. The definition of “nuisance” is broad, but there are better ways to address clear violations of code standards.

Public Involvement:

Citizens have raised concerns over code enforcement on numerous occasions.

Next Steps:

Staff will prepare draft language to address the gaps in the municipal code.