



To: City Council
From: Elisa Rodriguez, City Planner
TOPIC: Periodic Update: MLMC amendments regarding Amendment Criteria

Requested Action:

Conduct a public hearing and have a first reading for proposed Ordinance #1140. Provide feedback and guidance on Amendment Criteria in the Medical Lake Municipal Code (MLMC).

Key Points:

The proposed ordinance provides clear and concise language describing the process and approval criteria for amending the comprehensive plan, the zoning map, and the development regulations.

Staff presented draft language to City Council at the January 6, 2026 meeting. The Mayor and Council gave feedback which has been incorporated into the ordinance.

- It was unclear as to whether all of the approval criteria needed to be met for an approval, therefore, the phrase "shall meet all the following criteria for approval," was added.
- A councilman was concerned the criterium, "The proposed amendment will result in long-term benefits to the community as a whole and is in the public interest," would be difficult to evaluate, therefore the phrase "will not be detrimental to" was added.

Background Discussion:

This is the fifth public meeting wherein this subject is being discussed. The Planning Commission held a workshop on November 20, 2025, and a public hearing on December 18, 2025. The City Council held an intro workshop on December 2, 2025, and a language workshop on January 6, 2026. The packet for the January 6, 2026 meeting contained a staff report with the findings of fact for this review.

Public Involvement:

A public hearing was held with the Planning Commission on December 18, 2025. Two written comments were received. No verbal comments were made. Draft language has been provided on the City website for review and comment by the public.

Next Steps:

The second reading of the ordinance is scheduled for February 17, 2026