

**CITY OF MEDICAL LAKE
SPOKANE COUNTY, WASHINGTON
ORDINANCE NO. 1141**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF MEDICAL LAKE, WASHINGTON, RELATING
TO AMENDMENTS TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE REGARDING CODE
ENFORCEMENT**

WHEREAS, the City of Medical Lake (City) is a fully planning city under the Growth Management Act (GMA); and

WHEREAS, the State of Washington finds that some misdemeanors should be decriminalized and may be considered civil infractions per RCW 7.48; and

WHEREAS, the Medical Lake Municipal Code (MLMC) has code enforcement procedures throughout, notably in Chapter 1.01 – Code Adoption, Chapter 7.05 – Infractions, Chapter 8.32 – Junk Vehicles, Chapter 9.10 - Nuisances; and

WHEREAS, the MLMC contains citations to Chapter 1.01 – Code Adoption, throughout; and

WHEREAS, to better serve the City and its citizens, a new chapter, Chapter 1.21 – Compliance and Enforcement, is being adopted to provide code enforcement process information in one location.; and

WHEREAS, code enforcement process information is being consolidated and citations updated; and

WHEREAS, a State Environmental Protection Act (SEPA) checklist and a determination of non-significance were distributed on January 7, 2026, and no comments were received and the DNS is retained; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to RCW 36.70A.106, on December 23, 2025, the City provided the Washington State Department of Commerce with a sixty (60) day notice of its intent to adopt the amendment(s) to the MLMC; and

WHEREAS, on February 3, 2026, the City of Medical Lake City Council (City Council) discussed the proposed text amendments at a properly noticed open public hearing; and

WHEREAS, the City Council considered the entire public record, public comments, written and oral; and

WHEREAS, this Ordinance is supported by the staff report and materials associated with this Ordinance, including documents on file with the City; and

WHEREAS, this Ordinance is also supported by the professional judgment and experience of the City staff who have worked on this proposal.

NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Medical Lake, Washington does ordain as follows:

Section 1. Amendment. MLMC Section 1.01.040 – Definitions and construction, is hereby amended to read as follows:

Unless the context otherwise requires, the following words and phrases where used in this code shall have the meaning and construction given in this section:

“City” means the City of Medical Lake.

“City Council” means the City Council of Medical Lake.

"Code" means the Medical Lake Municipal Code.

"County" means the county of Spokane.

"Oath" includes affirmation.

"Person" means any natural person, firm, association, joint venture, joint stock company, partnership, organization, club, company, corporation, business trust, or the manager, lessee, agent, servant, officer or employee of any of them.

"State" means the state of Washington.

Gender. The masculine gender includes the feminine and neuter.

Number. The singular number includes the plural, and the plural the singular.

Tenses. The present tense includes the past and future tenses, and the future tense includes the present tense.

Shall, May. "Shall" is mandatory; "may" is permissive.

Title of office. The use of the title of any officer, employee, department, board or commission means that officer, employee, department, board or commission of the city of Medical Lake.

Section 2. Amendment. Section 1.01.110 – Penalty for violation, is hereby removed from the MLMC.

Section 3. Amendment. Section 1.01.120 – Failure to pay fine, costs, is hereby removed from the MLMC.

Section 4. Amendment. Section 1.01.130 – Infraction, Penalty for violation, is hereby removed from the MLMC.

Section 5. Amendment. Section 1.01.140 – Infraction – Failure to respond or comply, is hereby removed from the MLMC.

Section 6. Amendment. Chapter 1.21 – Compliance and Enforcement, is hereby added to the MLMC:

Section 1.21.010 – Purpose.

The purpose of this Chapter is to set forth the compliance and enforcement procedures for Medical Lake Municipal Code Titles 4 through 19.

Section 1.21.015 – Applicability.

This chapter shall be applicable to all violations of this code and to violations of regulations and Washington state statutes that are incorporated into this code by reference or otherwise, except for violations that are expressly designated to be misdemeanors or gross misdemeanors. Any violation of this code to which this chapter applies is deemed and declared to be a Class II civil infraction unless such violation is expressly designated as another class of civil infraction.

Section 1.21.020 – Authority.

The City of Medical Lake has been given authority to enforce its municipal code through the Revised Code of Washington, including RCW 9.66.010 (nuisances), RCW 7.48 (nuisances), RCW 7.60 (receivers), RCW 7.80 (civil infractions), and RCW 35A.21.160 (abatement).

Section 1.21.030 – Severability.

This Title and the various parts thereof are hereby declared to be severable. Should any Chapter or Section of this Title be declared by the courts to be unconstitutional or invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the Title as a whole, or any portion thereof other than the Chapter or Section so declared to be unconstitutional or invalid.

Section 1.21.040 – Definitions.

“Chronic Nuisance Property” means a property on which three (3) or more nuisance activities occur or exist during any sixty (60) day period.

“Civil Infraction,” pursuant to RCW 7.80, means a violation of the City of Medical Lake Municipal Code for which a monetary penalty may be imposed under this Chapter. Each day or portion thereof during which a violation occurs or exists shall be deemed a separate civil infraction.

“Misdemeanor,” pursuant to RCW 9A.20, is defined in MLMC Chapter 9.52 – Gross misdemeanor and misdemeanor crimes.

“Nuisance” means a nuisance as defined by state law or local ordinance including MLMC Chapter 9.10 – Nuisances, occurring around or near the property.

“Owner” means any person having any interest in the real estate in question as indicated in the records of the office of the Spokane County auditor, or who establishes under this Chapter, their ownership interest therein.

“Property” means any building, lot, parcel, dwelling, rental unit, real estate or land or portion thereof including property used as residential or commercial property.

“Responsible Person” means any person, in actual or constructive possession of a property, including, but not limited to, an owner, occupant, agent, or property manager of a property under his/her control.

Section 1.21.050 – Administration.

A. In order to discourage public nuisances and otherwise promote compliance with MLMC provisions, the City may, in response to field observations, determine that violations have occurred or are occurring.

- B. The procedures set forth in this Chapter are not exclusive. These procedures shall not, in any manner, limit or restrict the City from remedying or abating violations of MLMC Titles 4 through 19 in any other manner authorized by law.
- C. In addition to, or as an alternative to, utilizing the procedures set forth in this Chapter, the City may seek legal or equitable relief to abate any conditions or enjoin any acts or practices which constitute a MLMC violation.
- D. In addition to, or as an alternative to, utilizing the procedures set forth in this Chapter, the City may assess or recover civil penalties accruing pursuant to this Chapter or law by legal action filed in municipal court or superior court.
- E. The City shall use all reasonable means to determine and proceed against the Responsible Person(s) for a MLMC violation occurring when the Property Owner has not directly or indirectly caused the violation.
- F. The provisions of this Chapter shall in no way adversely affect the rights of an Owner, or Responsible Person of any Property to recover all costs and expenses incurred and required by this Chapter from any Responsible Person causing such violation.
- G. In administering the provisions for MLMC compliance, the City shall have the authority to waive any one or more such provisions so as to avoid substantial injustice. For purposes of this Chapter, substantial injustice may not be based exclusively on financial hardship.
- H. The City may, upon presentation of proper credentials, with the consent of the Owner or Responsible Person, or pursuant to a lawfully issued court order, enter at reasonable times any Property subject to the consent or court order to perform the duties imposed by the MLMC. It is the intent of the City that any entry made to private property for the purpose of inspection for MLMC violations be accomplished in strict conformity with constitutional and statutory constraints on entry, and the holdings of the relevant court cases regarding entry. The right of entry authorized by this Chapter shall not supersede those legal constraints.
- I. The City may request that the sheriff's office, fire district, health district, or other non-City agency assist in enforcement.

Section 1.21.060 – Identification of a Violation.

- A. The City shall determine, based upon information derived from sources such as field observations, the statements of witnesses, relevant documents, and data systems for tracking violations and applicable City codes and regulations, whether a violation has occurred. As soon as the City has reasonable cause to determine that a violation has occurred, the violation shall be documented and the Responsible Person for the violations promptly notified. The City shall not be required to notify any Person when it determines that no violation has occurred, unless specifically requested in writing. If the Responsible Person is given a verbal warning, this must be followed by a written notice. The Responsible Person shall be notified by one of the following methods:
 - 1. Violation Notification. As established in MLMC Section 1.21.090 – Violation Notice.

2. Stop Work Order. As established in MLMC Section 1.21.100 – Stop Work Order.
3. Civil Infraction. In instances of repeat violation cases or cases that are already subject to a voluntary compliance agreement, a civil infraction may be issued without a further violation notification as required herein as established in MLMC Section 1.21.110 – Civil Infraction.

Section 1.21.070 – Obligations of Responsible Persons for code violation.

It shall be the responsibility of any Person identified as responsible for a MLMC violation to bring the Property or right-of-way into a safe and reasonable condition to achieve MLMC compliance. Payment of penalties, applications for permits, and acknowledgment of stop work orders do not substitute for performing the corrective work required and having the Property brought into compliance to the extent reasonably possible under the circumstances. The Responsible Person for a MLMC violation has a duty to notify the City in writing of any actions taken to achieve compliance.

Section 1.21.080 – Determination of compliance.

After issuing a violation notice, stop work order, or civil infraction, and after the Responsible Person(s) for a violation has come into compliance, the City shall issue a written determination of compliance. The City shall mail copies of the determination of compliance to each Person originally named in the violation notice, stop work order, or civil infraction.

Section 1.21.090 – Violation Notice

- A. Authority. When the City has reason to believe, based on investigation of documents and/or physical evidence, that a MLMC violation exists or has occurred, the City is authorized to issue a violation notice to any Responsible Person for a MLMC violation. The City shall make a determination whether or not to issue a violation notice within a reasonable period after determining such violation exists.
- B. Effect. A violation notice represents a determination that a violation has occurred, the party to whom the notice is issued is a Responsible Person for a MLMC violation, and that the violations identified require remedies as specified therein.
- C. Service. Service of a violation notice shall be made on a Responsible Person for a MLMC violation by one or more of the following methods:
 1. Personal service or hand delivery may be made by presenting the violation notice to the Responsible Person for the MLMC violation or by leaving a copy of the violation notice at the Person's house of usual abode with a person of suitable age and discretion who resides there. For corporations and business entities, in-person service shall be on the registered agent as listed in the records of the Washington State Secretary of State; or
 2. Mail service may be made by mailing the violation notice to the Responsible Person for the MLMC violation at the last known address, at the address of the violation, or at the address of the registered agent as shown in the records of the Washington State Secretary of State for corporations and business entities; or
 3. If personal or mail service is not possible, other methods may be pursued.

Section 1.21.100 – Stop work order.

- A. Authority. When the City finds that work is being done that requires prior approval, or the work being done is not within the scope of the approval received, or public safety is at risk, the City is authorized to issue a stop work order to any Responsible Person for a MLMC violation.
- B. Effect. A stop work order represents a determination that a MLMC violation has occurred or is occurring, and that any work or activity that caused, is causing or contributing to the violation on the Property where the violation has occurred, or is occurring, must cease. A stop work order requires the immediate cessation of the specified work or activity on the Property. Work activity may not resume unless specifically authorized in writing by the City.
- C. Issuance. The stop work order shall be in writing, posted on the site, and be given to the Owner of the Property, the Owner's authorized agent, or the Person performing the work pursuant to Section 1.21.090.
- D. Penalties. A stop work order is accompanied by a fee in accordance with and as set forth by resolution of the City Council for the City of Medical Lake.
- E. Appeal. The stop work order may be appealed by following the procedures contained in MLMC 19.290 – Appeals.
- F. Willful Violation. When a Responsible Person willfully violates a stop work order, the City may pursue further remedies, including misdemeanor charges as provided by law.
- G. Issued Permits. In instances where there is an issued permit or approved review, the City may choose to suspend, revoke, or modify the permit or review at the expense of the applicant or Responsible Person.
- H. Obtaining Permits. In instances where work is being done without the benefit of an issued permit or approved review, the Responsible Person must submit the required information and fees necessary to obtain such permit or review.

Section 1.21.110 – Civil Infraction.

A Civil Infraction may be issued when a violation notification, stop work order, or voluntary compliance agreement has not been addressed by the Responsible Person, or it has become a Chronic Nuisance. Civil infractions for MLMC violations shall be imposed for remedial purposes as shown in the following schedule, pursuant to RCW 7.80.120, as now or hereafter amended, or as determined by the City Council for the City of Medical Lake:

Violation	Penalty Amount
Class IV Civil Infraction	\$25
Class III Civil Infraction	\$50
Class II Civil Infraction	\$125
Class I Civil Infraction or Chronic Nuisance Properties	\$250

Section 1.21.120 – Voluntary compliance agreement

A. Authority:

1. Whenever the City determines that a MLMC violation has occurred or is occurring, the City shall make reasonable efforts to secure voluntary compliance from the Responsible Person for such violation. Upon contacting the Responsible Person for the MLMC violation, the City may enter into a voluntary compliance agreement as provided for in this Title.
 2. A voluntary compliance agreement may be entered into at any time after a violation notice, stop work order, or civil infraction has been issued.
 3. Upon entering into a voluntary compliance agreement, a Responsible Person for a MLMC violation waives the right to administratively appeal, and thereby admits that the conditions described in the voluntary compliance agreement existed and constituted a MLMC violation.
 4. The voluntary compliance agreement is not a settlement agreement.
- B. Contents. The voluntary compliance agreement is a written, signed commitment by the Responsible Person for a MLMC violation in which the Responsible Person agrees to abate the violation, remediate the site, and/or mitigate the impacts of the violation.
- C. Failure to meet terms: If the terms of the voluntary compliance agreement are not completely met, and an extension of time has not been granted, in the City's sole discretion, the Responsible Person for the violation may receive a civil infraction.

Section 1.21.130 – Abatement.

- A. Emergency Abatement. Whenever a condition constitutes an immediate threat to the public health, safety, or welfare or to the environment, the City may summarily and without prior notice abate the condition. Notice of such abatement, including the reason for it, shall be given in writing to the Responsible Person for the violation as soon as reasonably possible after the abatement.
- B. Judicial Abatement. The City may seek a judicial abatement order from the Spokane County Superior Court to abate a condition which continues to be a violation of the MLMC where other methods of remedial action have failed to produce compliance.
- C. Recovery. The City shall seek to recover the costs of abatement as authorized by this Chapter or applicable law.

Section 1.21.150 – Cost recovery.

If a Civil Infraction is issued, the City may recover the costs of pursuing MLMC compliance and/or abatement to correct such violation(s) against the Responsible Person. These costs may include:

- A. Reasonable Legal Fees and Costs. Reasonable legal fees and costs shall include, but are not limited to, legal fees and costs, both direct and related, incurred to enforce the provisions of this Chapter as may be allowed by law;

- B. Administrative Personnel Costs. Administrative personnel costs shall include, but are not limited to, administrative employee costs, both direct and related, incurred to enforce the provisions of this Title;
- C. Abatement Costs. The City shall keep an itemized account of costs incurred by the City in the abatement of a violation under this Title; and
- D. Actual expenses and costs of the City in preparing notices, specifications, and contracts; in accomplishing or contracting and inspecting the work; and the costs of any required printing, mailing, or court filing fees.

Section 1.21.160 – Collection of civil penalties, fees, and costs.

- A. The City may use the services of a collection agency in order to collect any civil penalties, fees, costs, and/or interest owing under this Chapter.
- B. In addition to, or in lieu of, any other state or local provision for the recovery of costs, the City may, after abating a violation pursuant to this Chapter, file for record with the Spokane County Auditor a claim of lien against the real property for the civil penalties, fees, and costs assessed pursuant to this Chapter and in accordance with any lien provisions authorized by state law.
- C. Any lien filed shall be subject to priority pursuant to state law, including but not limited to RCW 35A.21.405, as now adopted or hereafter amended. Any such claim of lien may be amended from time to time to reflect changed conditions. Any such lien shall bind the affected real property for the period as provided by state law.

Section 7. Amendment. MLMC 2.78.070 - Penalty for violation, is hereby amended to read as follows.

Any person, firm or corporation violating any of the provisions of this chapter is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be punished as provided in MLMC Chapter 9.52 – Gross Misdemeanor or Misdemeanor Crimes. Each and every day or portion thereof during which any violation of any of the provisions of this chapter is committed, continued or permitted shall be a separate offense.

Section 8. Amendment. MLMC Section 4.01.400 - Penalties for violation, is hereby amended to read as follows.

(A) Violations of, or failure to comply with, any provision of this chapter, shall constitute a civil infraction by the imposition of a monetary penalty of not more than one hundred dollars for each such violation. Procedures for addressing a violation are contained in MLMC Chapter 1.21 – Compliance and Enforcement.

(B) The imposition of a penalty for violation of this chapter shall be in addition to any other penalties provided for in any other ordinance or resolution of the city or any other applicable ordinances, laws or regulations and any premises upon which a business is operated in violation of this chapter is declared to be a public nuisance.

(C) Upon conviction of a violation of this chapter, the Medical Lake Municipal Court may as an additional penalty, enjoin any person so convicted from operating the business which is the subject of the violation until such time as the violation has been corrected.

(D) Failure to respond to a citation issued pursuant to this chapter and/or failure to pay any monetary penalty imposed pursuant to this chapter and/or failure to comply with any order of the Medical Lake Municipal Court pursuant to this chapter shall be a misdemeanor punishable in accordance with MLMC Chapter 9.52 – Gross Misdemeanor or Misdemeanor Crimes. As an additional penalty, the Medical Lake Municipal Court may order that the business involved be immediately shut down and precluded from further operations until the matter has been resolved.

(E) The city shall not enter into any contract nor conduct any trade or commerce with any business which fails to comply with this chapter.

Section 9. Amendment. MLMC Section 4.04.050 - Penalty for violation, is hereby amended to read as follows:

Any person or persons violating any of the provisions of this chapter shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be punished according to MLMC Chapter 9.52 – Gross Misdemeanor or Misdemeanor Crimes.

Section 10. Amendment. MLMC Section 4.16.160 - Violations—Penalties, is hereby amended to read as follows:

Any person who engages in any activity taxable under this chapter without first having filed the declaration of intent required by Section 4.16.070, or any person who willfully fails to make and file when due any return required by this chapter, or any person who willfully fails to keep the books and records required by this chapter, or any person who fails to produce books and records for inspection and audit at the time and place required by this chapter, is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be punished in accordance with the provisions of MLMC Chapter 9.52 – Gross Misdemeanor or Misdemeanor Crimes. Each day of any such violation constitutes a separate offense.

Section 11. Amendment. MLMC Section 4.20.090 - Penalties, is hereby amended to read as follows:

Any person, firm or corporation subject to this chapter who fails or refuses to apply for an occupation license or to make the tax returns or to pay the tax when due, or who makes any false statement or representation in or in connection with any such application for an occupation license or such tax return, or otherwise violates or refuses or fails to comply with this chapter, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor subject to the penalties set forth in MLMC Chapter 9.52 – Gross Misdemeanor or Misdemeanor Crimes.

Section 12. Amendment. MLMC Section 4.30.170 - Violation—Penalty, is hereby amended to read as follows:

A. Unlawful to Sponsor or Participate in an Event Without a Permit. It is unlawful for any person to sponsor or conduct a special event requiring a special event permit pursuant to this chapter unless a valid permit has been issued for the special event. It is unlawful for any person to participate in such an event with the knowledge that the sponsor of the special event has not been issued a required, valid permit.

B. Unlawful to Exceed Scope of Permit. The special event permit authorizes the permittee/sponsor to conduct only such an event as is described in the permit, and in accordance with the terms and conditions of the special event permit. It is unlawful for the permittee/sponsor to willfully violate the terms and conditions of the special event permit, or for any special event participant with knowledge thereof to willfully violate the terms and conditions of the special event permit.

C. Violation is a Civil Infraction. Any person or organization violating the provisions of this chapter is guilty of a civil infraction punishable by a fine pursuant to MLMC Chapter 1.21 – Compliance and Enforcement.

Section 13. Amendment. MLMC Section 5.04.180 - Suspension of service-Credit for vacancies, is hereby amended to read as follows:

(a) Service to any premises may be suspended for nonpayment of accounts. Such suspension shall not relieve the person owing such account of the duty of complying with the provisions of this chapter. Such suspension shall render the premises where such service is suspended subject to condemnation for sanitary reasons, and the owner or occupant thereof shall be subject to the penalties in MLMC Chapter 9.52 – Gross Misdemeanor or Misdemeanor Crimes.

(b) The appeal provisions of Section 12.02.050 shall apply to all disputed bills.

(c) As an additional and concurrent method of enforcing a lien of the city for garbage charges, the city clerk-treasurer is authorized and directed, at the end of fifteen days after the date of the first delinquency of garbage charges, to order the cut-off of the water services to the premises where such services are provided until such time as all such garbage charges, plus penalties in the sum of fifteen percent of the unpaid charges, plus interest at the maximum rate per year permitted by law upon such unpaid charges and penalties as of the date of suspension of services together with the additional sum as set by council resolution for turning the domestic water on, have been paid.

(d) Credit for vacancies will be allowed only when the city clerk-treasurer's office is notified in accordance with Chapter 12.02 of this Code and the vacancy must be for thirty days or more.

Section 14. Amendment. MLMC Section 5.04.200 - Penalty for violations, is hereby amended as follows:

Any person who violates or fails to comply with any of the provisions of this chapter or who counsels, aid or abets any such violation or failure to comply shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be punished as provided in MLMC Chapter 9.52 – Gross Misdemeanor or Misdemeanor Crimes. Each day's violation shall be deemed a separate violation.

Section 15. Amendment. MLMC Section 5.08.050 - Litter in general, is hereby amended as follows:

(a) No person shall throw, drop, deposit, discard or otherwise dispose of litter upon any street, alley, sidewalk or any other public place in the city or upon a private residence or other private property not owned by him, or in any waters within the jurisdiction of the city whether from a vehicle or otherwise except:

(1) When such property is designated by the state or by any of its agencies or the city for the disposal of garbage and refuse, and such person is authorized by the proper public authority to so use such property; or

(2) Into a litter receptacle or other container in such manner that the litter will be prevented from being carried away or deposited by the elements upon any part of said public place, private residence or other private property; or

(3) When such person is the owner or does have control or custody of the property, or has prior consent of the owner or tenant in lawful possession of such property, or unless the act is done under the personal direction of said owner or tenant and provided said litter will not cause a public nuisance or be in violation of any other state or local laws, rules or regulations.

(b) Penalty. A violation of the provisions of this section shall constitute a civil infraction and the fine for each such violation shall be as set forth in MLMC Chapter 1.21 – Compliance and Enforcement. In addition thereto, in the sound discretion of the court, the violator may be directed by the court to pick up and remove from any public place or any private residence or other property, with permission of the legal owner or other person having legal possession, upon which it is established by competent evidence that such person has deposited litter, any and all litter deposited thereon by anyone prior to the date of the execution of the order.

Section 16. Amendment. MLMC Section 5.08.060 - Placement of litter receptacles, is hereby amended as follows:

(1) Litter receptacles shall be placed in all parks, trailer parks in respect to the service of transient habitation, gasoline service stations, tavern parking lots, shopping centers, grocery store parking lots, marinas, boat launching areas, beaches, bathing areas and other such public places in numbers appropriate to need as specified by state regulation.

(2) It shall be the responsibility of any person owning or operating any establishment of public place in which litter receptacles are required by this section to procure and place and maintain such litter receptacles at his own expense on the premises in accord with such state regulations.

(3) Penalty. A violation of the provisions of this section shall be a civil infraction subject to a fine as set forth in MLMC Chapter 1.21 – Compliance and Enforcement.

Section 17. Amendment. MLMC Section 5.08.230 - Penalties, is hereby amended as follows:

A violation of this chapter for which no penalty is specifically provided within the specific section violated shall be a civil infraction punished by a fine for each such violation as set forth in MLMC Chapter 1.21 – Compliance and Enforcement. Each day that such violation continues shall be considered a separate offense.

Section 18. Amendment. MLMC Section 5.14.020 - Violation of parking rules-Penalty, is hereby amended as follows:

Any person, firm, corporation or association failing to abide by the rules and regulations regarding parking in or adjacent to city parks or playground facilities, including but not limited to the requirement to pay fees, shall have committed an infraction which shall be punished in accordance with the provisions of MLMC Chapter 1.21 – Compliance and Enforcement.

Section 19. Amendment. MLMC Section 7.01.060 - Penalty, is hereby amended as follows:

Any person who violates any provisions of this chapter shall be guilty of an infraction. The penalty shall be as set forth in MLMC Chapter 1.21 – Compliance and Enforcement.

Section 20. Amendment. MLMC Section 7.02.010 - Animal control infractions, is hereby amended as follows:

Any person who commits any of the following acts shall be guilty of a civil infraction in accordance with MLMC Chapter 1.21 – Compliance and Enforcement:

(1) Allow or permit a dog or other animal to enter any place where food is stored, prepared, served, or sold to the public or any public building or hall. This shall not apply to Seeing-Eye or hearing dogs, veterinary offices or hospitals, show dogs, animal exhibitions, organized animal training classes, dogs used by armor car services, or other special cases as may be authorized by the city council;

(2) Allow or permit a female dog in heat to be accessible to male dogs except by male dogs specifically and intentionally admitted by said female's owner for breeding purposes;

(3) Allow or permit a dog or other animal to howl, yell, whine, bark, or make other noise which disturbs the public peace and quiet. This offense applies to dog or animal owners and to owners or occupiers of premises whereon the dog or other animal is kept or harbored;

(4) Allow or permit a dog or other animal or fowl, except a domestic cat, to run at large from the building or premises where it is harbored whether licensed or not. This section shall not apply to the following: a person walking or exercising a dog or other animal in public, when such dog or animal is on a leash, tether or chain not longer than eight feet; a blind person using a Seeing-Eye dog or a deaf person using a hearing dog; or any animal safely and securely confined or completely controlled while in or upon any vehicle;

(5) Harbor, own or maintain any swine or goats penned or otherwise, within eight hundred feet of any dwelling within the city limits.

Section 21. Amendment. MLMC Section 7.02.020 - Property damage, is hereby amended as follows:

No owner or custodian of any animal may cause or permit the animal to enter upon and do damage to any public park or place or the private property of another to the injury or annoyance of the owner or occupant of said premises. Violation of this section shall constitute a civil infraction punishable by a fine in accordance with MLMC Chapter 1.21 – Compliance and Enforcement Section 1.01.130.

Section 22. Amendment. MLMC Section 7.05.010 - Infractions—Civil, is hereby amended as follows:

Failure to perform any act required or the performance of any act prohibited under this title, except as otherwise specifically designated, shall be a civil infraction in accordance with MLMC Chapter 1.21 – Compliance and Enforcement and may not be classified as a criminal offense. The city council shall by resolution set penalties for civil infractions.

Section 23. Amendment. Section 7.05.020 - Notice of infraction, is hereby removed from the MLMC.

Section 24. Amendment. Section 7.05.030 - Form of notice of infraction, is hereby removed from the MLMC.

Section 25. Amendment. Section 7.05.040 - Response—Contest—Failure to appear, is hereby removed from the MLMC.

Section 26. Amendment. Section 7.05.050 - Hearings, is hereby removed from the MLMC.

Section 27. Amendment. MLMC Section 7.13.040 - Violations, is hereby amended to read as follows:

A violation of any provision of this chapter shall be a civil infraction in accordance with MLMC Chapter 1.21 – Compliance and Enforcement, subject to a civil penalty as follows:

1. First violation: Fifty dollars, plus statutory costs and assessments.
2. Second offense: One hundred dollars, plus statutory costs and assessments.
3. Third: One hundred fifty dollars, plus statutory costs and assessments.
4. Each subsequent: Two hundred fifty dollars, plus statutory costs and assessments, which the court shall not mitigate.
5. When an individual is issued a citation for the civil infraction involving the feeding of deer, elk, or moose, he or she should also be provided with deer, elk, and moose no feeding educational materials.

Section 28. Amendment. MLMC Section 8.10.020 - Penalty for violation, is hereby amended to read as follows:

A violation of any of the provisions of this Chapter shall be a civil infraction subject to the penalties provided in MLMC Chapter 1.21 – Compliance and Enforcement.

Section 29. Amendment. MLMC Section 8.32.050 - Violation notice, is hereby amended to read as follows:

Violation notices shall be issued in accordance with MLMC Chapter 1.21 – Compliance and Enforcement.

Section 30. Amendment. MLMC Section 8.32.060 - Notice of civil infraction, is hereby amended as follows:

A civil infraction shall be issued in accordance with MLMC Chapter 1.21 – Compliance and Enforcement.

Section 31. Amendment. MLMC Section 8.32.070 - Abatement—Costs—Liens, is hereby amended as follows:

Abatement shall be handled in accordance with MLMC Chapter 1.21 – Compliance and Enforcement.

Section 32. Amendment. MLMC Section 8.32.100 - Penalty, is hereby amended as follows:

A violation of the provisions of this chapter shall constitute a Class 1 civil infraction under the provisions of RCW subject to a penalty to be assessed in accordance with MLMC Chapter 1.21 – Compliance and Enforcement. For a second violation of this chapter within a twenty-four-month period, the court shall not reduce the penalty below one hundred twenty-five dollars plus statutory assessments; for a third or subsequent violation of this chapter within a twenty-four-month period, the court shall not reduce or suspend any portion of the maximum penalty.

Section 33. Amendment. Section 9.10.070 - Abatement procedure, is hereby amended as follows:

Abatement shall be handled in accordance with MLMC Chapter 1.21 – Compliance and Enforcement.

Section 34. Amendment. Section 9.10.080 - Disposition of abatement moneys, is hereby removed from the MLMC.

Section 35. Amendment. MLMC Section 9.10.200 - Penalties, is hereby amended to read as follows:

Any violation of the provisions of this chapter shall be a class 1 civil infraction subject to a penalty as set forth in RCW 7.80 and in accordance with MLMC Chapter 1.21 – Compliance and Enforcement.

Section 36. Amendment. MLMC Section 9.11.090 - Violation—Penalty, is hereby amended to read as follows:

Every person who violates any of the provisions of this chapter shall have committed an infraction punishable by a fine pursuant to MLMC Chapter 1.21 – Compliance and Enforcement

Section 37. Amendment. MLMC Section 9.13.040 - Operation on sidewalks prohibited, is hereby amended to read as follows:

No person shall operate a skateboard or bicycle on any sidewalk in the central business district of the city of Medical Lake. Violation of this section shall constitute a Class 1 civil infraction in accordance with MLMC Chapter 1.21 – Compliance and Enforcement.

Section 38. Amendment. MLMC Section 9.13.090 - Penalty and forfeiture, is hereby amended to read as follows:

Enforcement procedures will be in accordance with MLMC Chapter 1.21 – Compliance and Enforcement.

(a) The first violation of this section shall constitute a Class 3 civil infraction, subject to the statutory penalty and all state assessments.

(b) The second violation of this section shall constitute a Class 2 civil infraction, subject to the statutory penalty and all state assessments. In addition, the court may order the vehicle forfeited.

(c) The third and all subsequent violations of this chapter shall constitute a Class 1 civil infraction, subject to the statutory penalty and all state assessments. In addition, the court may order the vehicle forfeited.

Section 39. Amendment. MLMC Section 9.20.010 - False alarms-Prohibited, is hereby amended to read as follows:

(a) No person may willfully tamper with, damage, or interfere with any wire, switch, telephone, radio, or other equipment or apparatus of any public or private alarm system.

(b) No person may willfully and without reasonable grounds give or send any false alarm of fire or other emergency, including shouting to, a public place.

(c) No person may intentionally activate any alarm system, for the purpose of summoning emergency response personnel, except in the event of an actual or attempted criminal activity or other actual emergency necessitating emergency response personnel response, and no person notifying emergency response services of an activated alarm and having knowledge that such activation was apparently caused by an electric or other malfunction of the alarm system may fail at the same time to notify the emergency response personnel of such apparent malfunction.

(d) No alarm system user may cause or allow more than two false alarms to occur within any calendar year period.

(e) No person may provide alarm system monitoring service to the user of an automatic alarm system without maintaining a verification process as provided in Section 9.20.070.

(f) A violation of subsections (a) through (c), inclusive, is a misdemeanor. A violation of subsection (d) or (e) is a civil infraction. Civil infraction procedures will be in accordance with MLMC Chapter 1.21 – Compliance and Enforcement.

Section 40. Amendment. MLMC Section 11.08.180 - Violations, is hereby amended to read as follows:

Any person violating the provisions of this chapter shall be subject to all enforcement actions and penalties contained in MLMC Chapter 9.52 – Gross Misdemeanor or Misdemeanor Crimes.

Section 41. Amendment. MLMC Section 11.12.020 - Penalty for violation, is hereby amended to read as follows:

Violation of the provisions of this chapter shall constitute a civil infraction punishable by a fine as set forth in MLMC Chapter 1.21 – Compliance and Enforcement.

Section 42. Amendment. MLMC Section 12.04.090 - Unauthorized use of water— Penalty, is hereby amended to read as follows:

Any firm, person, association or corporation who knowingly takes or uses city water without first contracting for same shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be punished as provided in MLMC Chapter 9.52 – Gross Misdemeanor or Misdemeanor Crimes.

Section 43. Amendment. MLMC Section 12.04.195 - Water conservation and rationing, is hereby amended to read as follows:

(a) Restrictions upon Use of Water. In order to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the city by providing for maintenance of an adequate water supply, the city council may, by resolution, determine that a water shortage exists and may, by such resolution, restrict and regulate the use of water from the city's water supply system.

(b) Posting or Resolution. When the council adopts such a resolution restricting and regulating the use of water, it shall cause such resolution to be posted in three public places in the city, including the lobby of the city hall.

(c) Termination of Water Service for Noncompliance. Should any owner or occupant or other person in charge of any premises served by the city's water system willfully fail to comply with the restrictions on water use imposed by the resolution provided for in subsection (a) of this section then the city may terminate water service to the premises during the period such restrictions are in force or until such time as the city receives reasonable assurance from such owner, occupant or other person in charge of the premises that the restrictions in force will be observed for said premises.

(d) Penalty for Violation. Restrictions adopted by resolution in accordance with subsection (a) of this section, and posted in accordance with subsection (b) of this section, shall have the full force and effect of law and any person, firm or corporation who willfully violates such restrictions is guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof shall be punished as provided in MLMC Chapter 9.52 – Gross Misdemeanor or Misdemeanor Crimes.

Section 44. Amendment. MLMC Section 12.04.197 - Restrictions on residential irrigation, is hereby amended to read as follows:

(a) Residential irrigation shall be prohibited between the hours of ten a.m. and seven p.m. during the months of June, July, August and September. Exceptions will be made for newly planted lawns.

(b) Any person, firm or corporation who violates the provisions of this section shall be subject to the following penalties:

(1) First violation: written warning;

(2) Second violation: civil infraction pursuant to MLMC Chapter 1.21 – Compliance and Enforcement;

(3) A third or subsequent violation of this section shall be a misdemeanor.

(c) In addition, water service may be terminated under the provisions of Section 12.04.190(c).

Section 45. Amendment. MLMC Section 14.04.040 - Administration, is hereby amended to read as follows:

The building code of the city shall be administered and enforced by the building department.

Section 46. Amendment. MLMC Section 14.04.050 - Code enforcement department—Administrative authority, is hereby renamed Building department – Administrative authority, and amended to read as follows:

The building department of the city shall be deemed to be the "building official" as defined in Chapter 2 of the 2015 International Building Code. The building department shall also be deemed "administrative authority," as such term is defined in Chapter 2 of the 2015 Uniform Plumbing Code, for purposes of enforcing and administering the provisions of the 2015 Uniform Plumbing Code. The building department shall also enforce and administer the standards set forth in the Regulations for Barrier Free Facilities as published by the Washington State Building Code Council for making buildings and facilities accessible to, and usable by, the physically handicapped.

Section 47. Amendment. MLMC Section 14.04.100 - Penalty for violations, is hereby amended to read as follows:

Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 114 of the International Building Code, any person, firm or corporation violating any of the provisions of this chapter is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be punished as provided in MLMC Chapter 9.52 – Gross Misdemeanor or Misdemeanor Crimes.

Each and every day or portion thereof during which any violation of any of the provisions of this chapter is committed, continued, or permitted shall be a separate offense.

Section 48. Amendment. MLMC Section 14.04.110 - Building permit—Sidewalk and curbing prerequisites, is hereby amended to read as follows:

No building permit shall be issued unless the application for such building permit includes the construction of curbs and sidewalks if required by MLMC Section 11.20.035 where the same are not already in existence. Requirements for the installation of curbs and sidewalks placed upon special uses as provided for in Title 17 of this code shall be determined on an individual basis by the permit granting authority. In any case where the building official shall determine that existing curbs and sidewalks are inadequate by reason of deterioration, damage or obsolescence, each

application for new construction in any of the building classification zones shall include the construction of new curbs and sidewalks.

When new construction requires curbs and/or sidewalks, the area between the existing street surface and the new curb shall be paved with an impervious surface acceptable to the city public works department. This area is not to be considered as off-street parking.

Section 49. Amendment. MLMC Section 14.12.310 - Penalty for violation, is hereby amended to read as follows:

Any person, firm or corporation violating any of the provisions of this chapter is deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished according to MLMC Chapter 9.52 – Gross Misdemeanor or Misdemeanor Crimes.

Section 50. Amendment. MLMC Section 14.16.110 - Enforcement, is hereby amended to read as follows:

A. Enforcement of the provisions of this chapter will be performed in accordance with MLMC Chapter 1.21 – Compliance and Enforcement.

B. No responsible person may violate or fail to comply with any provisions of this chapter. Each responsible person commits a separate offense for each and every day they commit, continue or permit a violation of any provision of this chapter.

C. All responsible persons or structure owner for a commercial space are jointly and severally responsible with respect to that commercial space for compliance with the provisions of this chapter and for any payments that they may be required to make to the city under this chapter. If the commercial space is subject to a lease, the city shall have discretion to determine whether to enforce this chapter against the responsible person, structure owner, or leasing party, or all of them, but the city shall consider in this determination whether the lease provides that the compliance with this chapter is the responsibility of the responsible person, structure owner, or leasing party.

Section 51. Amendment. MLMC Section 14.28.020 - Conformance required, is hereby amended to read as follows:

No person shall construct, establish or operate a new mobile home park, or make additions, extensions, or modifications to an existing mobile home park, unless plans and specifications fully describing said new mobile home park or said additions, extensions or modifications to an existing mobile home park have first been submitted to and approved by the building official of the city and the Spokane County health district. The building official approval shall be based upon the standards contained or incorporated in this chapter. Any proposed deviations from said approved plans and specifications must first be approved in writing by the building official of the city. In addition, a mobile home permit shall be obtained from the building official in accordance with Chapter 14.32 of the Medical Lake Municipal Code prior to the occupancy of any new or relocated mobile home in a mobile home park.

Section 52. Amendment. MLMC Section 14.28.030 - Plans and specifications— Submittal required for permit, is hereby amended to read as follows:

The building official shall not issue a permit for a mobile home park unless complete plans and specifications fully describing said mobile home park and any additions, extensions, or modifications thereto, have been submitted to the City.

Section 53. Amendment. MLMC Section 14.28.040 – Plans and specifications – Contents, is hereby amended to read as follows:

Plans and specifications received by the building official of the city of the proposed mobile home park shall contain information included, but not limited to the following:

- (1) The area and dimensions of the tract of land;
- (2) The number, location, and size of all mobile home lots, defining dependent and independent lots;
- (3) The number, location and size of all automobile parking lots;
- (4) The location and width of park streets and walk-ways;
- (5) The method and plan of water supply;
- (6) The method and plan of sewage disposal;
- (7) The method and plan of garbage disposal;
- (8) The plan of electrical service, including outside lighting;
- (9) The plan of cable television and telephone service;
- (10) The plans and specifications of all buildings and other improvement constructed within the mobile home park;
- (11) The size and location of the play area;
- (12) Evidence of compliance with local building and/or zoning requirements; and
- (13) Name and address of park owner.

Section 54. Amendment. MLMC Section 14.28.050 - Permit revocation, is hereby amended to read as follows:

The building official shall suspend or revoke the permit of a mobile home park whenever, in the opinion of the building official, the continued operation of the mobile home park would create a hazard to the health of the occupants of the park or the people of the city.

Section 55. Amendment. MLMC Section 14.28.120 - Inspection, is hereby amended to read as follows:

The building official is authorized and directed to make such inspections, examinations, or investigations of mobile home parks as are necessary to determine satisfactory compliance with the provisions of this chapter. For the purposes of such inspection, the building official shall have free access at all reasonable times to all mobile home parks, buildings, grounds, or premises.

Section 56. Amendment. MLMC Section 14.28.350 - Electrical and communication lines, is hereby amended to read as follows:

All electrical and communication system lines shall be installed and maintained underground in accordance with national or local codes unless the installing utility company or mobile park owner/agent can demonstrate undue hardship because of surface rock, existing underground utilities, home pads, patios, sidewalks, and other barriers to construction that in the opinion of the building official are cause for a postponement of this requirement, until significant improvements, such as underground utilities or other major changes are made in the mobile home park.

Section 57. Amendment. MLMC Section 14.32.030 - Additions and alterations— Building permit required, is hereby amended to read as follows:

There shall be no addition of a mobile home without first obtaining a building permit from the city. A modified plot plan showing setbacks, skirting, supports or extensions of a permanent foundation, and the location of all accessory structures or buildings, shall be submitted and approved by the building official prior to the insurance of the building permit.

Section 58. Amendment. MLMC Section 14.32.050 - Sites outside mobile home park— Permit required, is hereby amended to read as follows:

No mobile home shall be moved onto a lot inside or outside of a mobile home park without having first obtained a mobile home permit from the building official.

Section 59. Amendment. MLMC Section 14.32.060 - Application and permit issuance, is hereby amended to read as follows:

Mobile home permits for siting mobile homes shall be issued by the building official upon the submittal and approval of an application on the form provided by the building official together with required supporting documents demonstrating compliance with applicable sections of this code and payment of a prescribed fee.

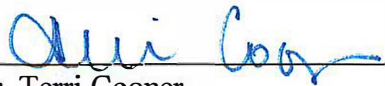
Section 60. Amendment. Section 16.03.090 - Enforcement, is hereby amended to read as follows:

If a property owner or agent commences work without the benefit of a required zoning permit, the violation will be dealt with in accordance with MLMC Chapter 1.21 – Compliance and Enforcement.

Section 61. Amendment. Section 17.39.040 - Violation, is hereby amended to read as follows:

A violation of any provision of this chapter shall be a civil infraction, punishable by a fine in an amount as set forth in MLMC Chapter 1.21 – Compliance and Enforcement. In addition to the imposition of a civil penalty, the Medical Lake municipal court may order compliance with the provisions of this chapter or removal of any sign, which violates the provisions of this chapter.

PASSED by the City Council this 3rd day of March 2026.




Mayor, Terri Cooper

ATTEST:



Finance Director/City Clerk Koss Ronholt

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



City Attorney, Sean P. Boutz

Date of Publication: 3/12/26

Effective Date: 3/17/26