**CITY OF LIBERTY LAKE**
**SPOKANE COUNTY, WASHINGTON**
**ORDINANCE NO. 317**

# AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LIBERTY LAKE, WASHINGTON AUTHORIZING A TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF CERTAIN DEVELOPMENT CODE PROVISIONS DUE TO THE SPOKANE COMPLEX FIRE EMERGENCY

**WHEREAS**, the Board of County Commissioners of Spokane County has declared a local emergency in response to the Spokane Complex fires, which have displaced residents and created an immediate need for temporary shelter and emergency accommodation; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Liberty Lake recognizes the extraordinary circumstances created by the Spokane Complex fires and desires to support emergency response and recovery efforts by providing limited temporary housing opportunities for displaced individuals; and

**WHEREAS**, the Liberty Lake Municipal Code ("LLMC") does not currently authorize overnight occupancy of campers or travel trailers on private property within the C2 Commercial zoning district except as otherwise expressly provided; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council finds that a narrowly tailored, temporary suspension of certain provisions of the LLMC and Liberty Lake Development Code are necessary to protect the public health, safety, and welfare by allowing temporary emergency sheltering while maintaining appropriate oversight and compatibility with surrounding properties; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council intends that this authorization apply only to those development code provisions identified by the Zoning Administrator through an administrative interpretation establishing the specific standards, limitations, eligibility requirements, duration, and operating conditions governing such temporary use; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council further finds that this temporary authorization is an emergency measure adopted solely in response to the Spokane Complex Fire emergency and is not intended to establish precedent or amend the City's development regulations; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council intends that this emergency authorization be temporary in nature, subject to periodic review, and continued only upon a finding that emergency conditions persist and that the temporary use remains necessary to protect the public health, safety, and welfare.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the City Council of the City of Liberty Lake, Washington, does hereby ordain as follows:

**Section 1. Temporary Suspension.** During the effective period of this Ordinance, the City Council temporarily suspends enforcement of those specific provisions of the Liberty Lake Development Code and/or LLMC identified by the Zoning Administrator as necessary to permit

the temporary placement and overnight occupancy of campers and travel trailers on private property located within the C2 Commercial zoning district, but only to the extent expressly authorized by the Zoning Administrator's administrative interpretation.

**Section 2. Scope of Authorization.** This Ordinance authorizes only the temporary emergency use described in the Zoning Administrator's administrative interpretation. All conditions, limitations, operational standards, occupancy limits, utility requirements, sanitation requirements, fire and life safety requirements, duration limits, and other requirements established in that interpretation shall apply and remain enforceable.

**Section 3. No Permanent Amendment.** This Ordinance does not amend the Liberty Lake Municipal Code or establish a permanent land use entitlement except as determined by the Zoning Administrator to effectuate the purpose and intent of this Ordinance. Upon expiration of this Ordinance, all suspended provisions of the Development Code and/or LLMC shall immediately resume full force and effect.

**Section 4. Declaration of Emergency and Effective Date.** This Ordinance, passed by a majority plus one of the whole membership of the City Council as a public emergency ordinance necessary for the protection of the public health, public safety, public property or public peace, shall be effective immediately upon its passage.

**Section 5. Duration**. This Ordinance shall remain in effect for forty-five (45) calendar days from the effective date unless sooner terminated by action of the City Council.

**Section 6. Extension.** Prior to the expiration of the initial forty-five (45) day period, or any subsequent extension, the City Council may, by ordinance, extend this authorization for additional periods of up to thirty (30) days each upon consideration of a report and recommendation from the City Administrator. A staff report shall evaluate the continuing need for temporary authorization, the effectiveness of the Zoning Administrator's administrative interpretation, any public health, safety, or code enforcement issues that have arisen, and whether continuation remains in the City's best interests. Unless extended by the City Council, this Ordinance shall automatically expire at the end of the applicable authorization period(s), and all provisions of the Liberty Lake Development Code and/or LLMC previously suspended by this Ordinance shall immediately resume full force and effect.

PASSED by the City Council this 4th day of August, 2026.

Cris Kaminskas

Cris Kaminskas, Mayor

**ATTEST**:

Rochelle Caton

Rochelle Caton, City Clerk

**APPROVED AS TO FORM**:

Sean P. Boutz, City Attorney