

**CITY OF LIBERTY LAKE
SPOKANE COUNTY, WASHINGTON
ORDINANCE NO. 303**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LIBERTY LAKE, WASHINGTON,
SUSPENDING THE ACCEPTANCE OF ANNUAL APPLICATIONS FOR
AMENDMENTS TO THE CITY'S COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AND DEVELOPMENT
CODE UNTIL THE COMPLETION OF THE CITY'S 2026 PERIODIC
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE, AND DEFERRING AND SUSPENDING THE
PROCESSING OF APPLICATIONS WHICH CANNOT BE COMPLETED BEFORE
DECEMBER 31, 2024, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

WHEREAS, the Growth Management Act ("GMA") was established in the State of Washington in 1990 to provide a framework for land use planning and development regulation; and

WHEREAS, Spokane County and the cities within it were mandated to plan under the GMA in 1993; and

WHEREAS, the City of Liberty Lake has adopted its own comprehensive land use plan pursuant to RCW 36.70A; and

WHEREAS, the City has adopted a Development Code to implement the Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS, the City is required under RCW 36.70A.130 to take legislative action to review and, where needed, revise its Comprehensive Plan and development regulations by June 30, 2026, to ensure the plan and regulations comply with requirements of GMA and its numerous recent amendments (the "2026 Update"); and

WHEREAS, GMA also requires the City to establish procedures and schedules whereby updates, proposed amendments, or revisions to the Comprehensive Plan and Development Code are considered no more frequently than once per year; and

WHEREAS, the City requires significant resources devoted to completing the required 2026 Update; and

WHEREAS, the GMA generally requires all comprehensive plan amendment proposals to be considered by the governing body concurrently so the cumulative effect of the various proposals can be ascertained, but also provides that, after appropriate public participation, a county or city may adopt amendments or revisions to its comprehensive plan that conform with the GMA whenever an emergency exists or to resolve an appeal of a comprehensive plan with the growth management hearings board or with the court; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission recommended on May 8th, 2024, that the City Council consider the suspension of accepting and processing applications for the privately initiated annual Comprehensive Plan and Development Code Amendments during 2025 and

2026, to allow for staff and Commission members to devote their attention to the 2026 Update; and

WHEREAS, the City Council considered this Ordinance suspending acceptance and processing of privately initiated annual Comprehensive Plan and Development Code Amendments at a duly noticed public hearing on **June 18, 2024**, and allowed for public testimony from interested parties; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that suspending the acceptance of applications and processing of privately initiated annual Comprehensive Plan and Development Code Amendments requests is necessary for the immediate preservation of public peace, health, or safety, and for the immediate support of City government and its existing public institutions; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to WAC 197-11-880, the adoption of this Ordinance is exempt from the requirements of a threshold determination under the State Environmental Policy Act; and

WHEREAS, the City Council adopts the foregoing as its findings of fact, justifying the adoption of this Ordinance;

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

Section 1. Suspend.

The acceptance of applications and processing of privately initiated annual Comprehensive Plan and Development Code Amendments pursuant to City Development Code §10-4B-5 is suspended for the 2025/2026 cycles. This suspension does not preclude out-of-cycle amendments, if an emergency exists, new territory is annexed into the City, or to resolve an obvious mapping error, or an appeal of a comprehensive plan filed with the growth management hearings board or with the court. Upon completion of the 2026 Update, the annual review process will resume with the 2027 annual Comprehensive Plan and Development Code Amendment process detailed in City Development Code §10-4B-5.

Section 2. Pending Applications.

If any pending 2024 annual amendment proposals (i.e. applications submitted pursuant to City Development Code §10-4B-5 prior to April 1, 2024) cannot, for any reason, be processed before December 31, 2024, in the current cycle of consideration, or are otherwise postponed/deferred to the next applicable amendment cycle, such proposals/applications will be deferred until the 2027 annual amendment cycle.

Section 3: 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.

PASSED by the City Council this _____ day of _____, 2024.

Mayor Cristella Kaminskas

ATTEST:

City Clerk, Kelsey Hardy

Approved As To Form:

City Attorney, Sean P. Boutz

Date of Publication: _____

Effective Date: _____