

Campers: Private homeowners, nonprofits and churches may also receive permits to allow tents or RVs overnight

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"I'm concerned about making sure we protect the rights of the people that are camping there," the mayor said. "But I'm also concerned that we protect the rights of the citizens that live in the houses that are housed around them. And I worry a bit about the liability for the city. I sense a kind of a boiling pot there. And I'm concerned about it."

Cities are trying to balance legal concerns with the practical challenges of responding to homelessness. Court rulings and state law make it difficult to restrict homeless camping in public places if there are not adequate shelter beds available.

The ordinance in Seaside would require people to obtain permits to camp and limit the hours from 8 p.m. to 8 a.m., Police Chief Dave Ham, a member of the Seaside Houseless Task Force, said.



A makeshift camp has been set up off Necanicum Drive.

"They're there for 12 hours, and then it's going to be time to move along and go somewhere else during the day," he said.

Vehicles, including vans or motor homes, would need to be registered and in compliance with vehicle insurance responsibilities.

"We're all playing on the same playing field," Ham said. "And so in this particular case, we're regulating place, manner, where you're

asleep and where you park. In doing so, we've still got to be part of society and play by the rules."

Noncompliant vehicles will be towed, stored or disposed.

This will not be a "free service," Ham said. "There's going to be a cost associated with this. I can't tell you what that's going to be but it's going to add up."

The task force hopes to recommend several camping areas in the city so no one place is overburdened.

While the locations have not been chosen, potential overnight parking spots could include Broadway Park across from the American Legion, U Street by the beach, 12th and Prom, the parking lot at Cartwright Park or on N. Holladay Drive near the old high school.

Private homeowners, nonprofits and churches may also receive permits to allow tents or RVs overnight.

Meanwhile, with an ordinance on the horizon, authorities are looking to clear the makeshift RV camp off Necanicum. The camp has grown from a handful of vehicles to more than 20.

Ham said the city will begin notifying people parked there that they need to start preparing to leave. "That's the letter basically saying, 'Hey, you need to be preparing that in the next couple of months, you are going to need to have other arrangements made,'" he said. "I will draft that."

The city will be presenting the new ordinance at the first meeting in April, Barber said.

"And the result of that ordinance is that people will be required to vacate that camping area in an orderly fashion with appropriate notice, and then they will be able to camp or park overnight in other areas in the community," the mayor said.



Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

The city will likely amend the development code to allow duplexes on single-family lots.

Housing: 'A very emotional topic'

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Some provisions need to be in place by the end of the year, so Murphy suggested an approach and timeline for public engagement and adoption, and asked the commission for feedback about how best to proceed.

"This is going to be a very emotional topic," he said. "And I don't think it will go smoothly. And so I want to provide opportunity as much as possible for everyone that's interested to participate and have the opportunity to be heard."

"At the end of the day, we have to have a code that incorporates all of these pieces."

Recent legislation requires cities to allow what is known as "middle housing" — which includes duplexes, triplexes, quadruplexes, cottage clusters and townhouses — based on population. Cities with a population over 10,000 are required to allow a duplex on "each lot or parcel zoned for residential use that allows for the development of detached single-family dwellings."

If the city does not adopt

the changes by the end of the year, the state code will automatically take effect. The city is also expected to expand middle housing land division opportunities.

Murphy emphasized that the change will not ban single-family homes, just allow duplexes. While the city anticipates public concern, Murphy said the change will not necessarily lead to many new duplexes. He pointed to other cities and states that have made similar changes but have seen few new developments.

Recent state legislation also required state agencies to analyze regional housing needs for the next 20 years.

The analysis, which was completed last year, expects that Astoria will need about 1,400 additional housing units over the next two decades, an increase of about 28%.

The state also requires the city to analyze the housing needs for current and future residents every six or eight years, which must be completed by the end of 2024. The city's forecast for housing needs may differ from the regional analysis. After the analysis, the city must

adopt a housing production strategy to ensure the needs are addressed.

"And I don't know about you guys, but I'm not entirely sure where we do that," Murphy said of the additional housing. "That's going to be one of these challenges that we need to figure out."

Some of the other changes the city is considering involve reducing minimum lot sizes and removing lot coverage limits in residential zones, establishing a minimum density standard in residential zones and reevaluating parking requirements.

Planning commissioners called for a thorough public process.

"I have no idea where the state believes that we can add another 1,400 units in the next 18 years given that we are surrounded by water on three sides and a forest on the fourth side," Planning Commissioner Sean Fitzpatrick said. "At some point, we have to communicate to the state: this can't be done. And given our absolute physical constraints, we have to recognize that we can't do it. They don't want us to fill in

the river, and we don't want to do that anyhow. Where are we supposed to go?"

Fitzpatrick, who is running for mayor in the November election, echoed other commissioners suggestions for soliciting community feedback. He said people in the community already feel like they are not being heard by elected officials over other projects.

"It's vital that we make sure that the public feels that they are being heard, because we see what happens when they don't," he said.

Commissioner Cindy Price asked for the city to take its time and expressed concerns that the state-mandated changes could alter the character of many parts of Astoria.

"I mean, this town is in a rage over what is going on at Heritage Square," said Price, who has been among the most vocal critics of the proposed workforce housing project at Heritage Square. "It's very divisive, and it's engaged a large segment of the population, people who are interested in development, density, and all that sort of thing."

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A: Remember baby's teeth are not only important, but part of their health and development. Cleaning baby's teeth can be done by gauze, a finger swipe, or a small brush. Make it quick and fun!! Remember that a night-time bottle with milk has lactose (milk sugar) and juice has fructose or sucrose (sugar) and if it sits on teeth day after day, problems are going to develop. Baby teeth are small with thin enamel, so they are important to keep clean.

Virtual ICU: Patients can expect same level of care

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The hospitals discussed a virtual ICU in 2019 as a way to keep patients in their communities. They launched the consultation service as a first step.

"It's certainly been used more since the pandemic started," Geiger said. "The hospitals have been very full in Portland and so we've kept patients a little bit longer and a little bit sicker than we would have otherwise. And we felt like we could do it very safely

with the OHSU support."

The hospital uses the consultation service twice a day on average.

Patients typically respond well to the remote services, Geiger said. Providers have scripts to explain what the service will be like before turning the camera on.

The hospital said that patients can expect the same level of care with a virtual provider.

"We kind of have the best of both worlds, because the complicated part of car-

ing for these patients isn't the physical exam. It's not hooking them up to the monitor or measuring their blood pressure. The complicated part is: What do you do with all of this data? How do you analyze it and turn it into a care plan? And you don't need to be in the same room to talk about what the tests show, or what the X-rays show or how the patient is responding to the treatment," Strear said.

Patients needing specialists and surgeries that are not available locally

will still be transferred to Portland.

Columbia Memorial expects the virtual ICU to still be in demand even if hospitalizations from COVID continue to decrease.

"We've always had patients that traditionally transferred to Portland that now, hopefully, with COVID forcing us to up our game and with the augmented help from the virtual ICU, we'll now be keeping these patients here," Strear said.



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