

ORDINANCE NO. C36224

An ORDINANCE relating to short plat notification amending Spokane Municipal Code (SMC) Sections 17G.060.100, 17G.060T.003, 17G.060.130, and 17G.080.040.

WHEREAS, RCW 36.70A.600 encourages the City to take a number of actions in order to increase its residential building capacity and authorized the City to adopt a housing action plan; and

WHEREAS, as authorized by RCW 36.70A.600(2), Council Resolution RES-2021-0062 adopted the City of Spokane Housing Action Plan as a guide for future housing planning, policy development, and regulatory and programmatic implementation measures that increase housing options that are affordable and accessible for people and families of all incomes in the City; including the Implementation Plan, included as Appendix A within the Housing Action Plan, which outlines several strategies and policies to remedy the current housing crisis; and

WHEREAS, the 2020 Housing Needs Assessment completed for the Housing Action Plan indicates several facts about the housing supply and need, particularly the need to accommodate for an estimated 6,000 additional housing units by 2037; and

WHEREAS, in adopting RES-2021-0062 the City Council outlined several code amendments and permit processes that the City should enact in support of the strategies and actions recommended in the Housing Action Plan and to encourage construction of more housing within Spokane; and

WHEREAS, on July 26, 2021, the Mayor of the City of Spokane proclaimed a housing emergency and directed the City to pursue actions to expand housing types, reduce overall development costs to increase development of affordable housing, and to streamline municipal procedures to support the development cycle; and

WHEREAS, the City was awarded a \$100,000 grant from the Department of Commerce through the Housing Action Plan and Implementation (HAPI) grant program to implement strategies from its adopted Housing Action Plan, and the scope of work includes revising accessory dwelling unit (ADU) standards in chapter 17C.300 SMC to allow for additional flexibility and expand the zones that permit ADUs; and

WHEREAS, the proposed actions are consistent with and supported by the Spokane Comprehensive Plan, as outlined in the Plan Commission Findings of Fact, Conclusions, and Recommendations (Exhibit A), and will implement actions specified in RCW 36.70A.600(1); and

WHEREAS, RCW 58.17.060(1) requires cities to adopt regulations and procedures for the summary approval of short plats and short subdivisions; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to WAC 197-11-800(6), most short plats and short subdivisions are categorically exempt from review under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA); and

WHEREAS, as outlined in RCW 36.70B.110 a notice of application is not required for project permits that are categorically exempt under chapter 43.21C RCW; and

WHEREAS, by virtue of the public process outlined in Exhibits A and B, interested agencies and the public have had extensive opportunities to participate throughout the process and all persons desiring to comment on the amendment were given a full and complete opportunity to be heard; and

WHEREAS, the City has complied with RCW 36.70A.370 in the adoption of this Ordinance, avoiding any unconstitutional taking of private property; and

WHEREAS, on March 24, 2022, the Washington State Department of Commerce and appropriate state agencies were given the required 60-day notice before adoption of proposed changes to the Unified Development Code pursuant to RCW 36.70A.106; and

WHEREAS, on April 1, 2022, a Notice of Intent to adopt and request for SEPA agency comments was issued for the draft code pertaining to ADUs, lot size transitions, and short plat notification. The comment period ended on April 15, 2022. The Spokane Tribe of Indians issued comment noting project actions may require case by case cultural surveys; and

WHEREAS, a State Environmental Protection Act (SEPA) Determination of Nonsignificance and Checklist were issued by Planning Services on April 25, 2022. The comment period ended on May 11, 2022. Two city department comments were received during the comment period; and

WHEREAS, prior to the Plan Commission public hearing, a legal notice of public hearing was published in the *Spokesman-Review* on April 27 and May 4, 2022 and the notice of the proposed amendment was distributed to the City's agency/interested party list and posted on the City's website at www.ShapingSpokaneHousing.com; and

WHEREAS, on May 11, 2022, the Spokane Plan Commission held a public hearing on the proposed amendment and heard testimony from the public, following which they voted to recommend the City Council adopt, with some modifications, the proposed amendments (see Exhibit A); and

WHEREAS, the City Council adopts the recitals set forth herein as its findings and conclusions in support of its adoption of this ordinance and further adopts the findings, conclusions, and recommendations from the Planning Services Staff Report (Exhibit B) and the City of Spokane Plan Commission (Exhibit A) for the same purposes; and

NOW, THEREFORE, the City of Spokane does ordain:

Section 1. That Section 17G.060.100 SMC is amended to read as follows:

17G.060.100 Notice of Application

Within fourteen days of the issuance of a determination of a complete application, a notice of application shall be provided for Type I, II and III project permit applications in accordance with this section (RCW 36.70B.110.2), except that notice of application is not required for short subdivision applications involving minor engineering review as defined in SMC 17G.080.040(C)(2). The notice of application shall follow the public notice requirements contained in SMC 17G.060.110 through 17G.060.120. The notice of application may be combined with the notice of public hearing, if a hearing has been scheduled by notice of application. The date, time, place and type of hearing, SEPA determination and SEPA appeal deadline (using the optional DNS process) are required to be added to the notice of application if this provision is used (RCW 36.70B.110(2)(f)).

Section 2. That Section 17G.060T.003 SMC is amended to read as follows:

17G.060T.003 Table 17G.060-3 Type of Public Notice Required / Project Permit Review Process

TABLE 17G.060-3 TYPE OF PUBLIC NOTICE REQUIRED / PROJECT PERMIT REVIEW PROCESS (Click here to view PDF)						
Project Permit Type	Notice of Community Meeting	Notice of Application	Notice of Public Hearing	Review Official	City Council Review	Expiration of Permit [1]
Building and Code Enforcement – Type I Application						
Building Permit	No	No	No	Building Official	No	180 days
Grading Permit	No	No	No	Building Official	No	180 days
Demolition Permit	No	No [5]	No [2]	Building Official	No	180 days

Building Permit with SEPA	No	Posted / Legal	No	Building Official	No	180 days
Grading Permit with SEPA	No	Posted / Legal	No	Building Official	No	180 days
Demolition Permit with SEPA	No	Posted / Legal [5]	No	Building Official	No	180 days
Planning Services – Type I Application						
Floodplain with SEPA	Posted / Individual	Posted / Individual	No	Planning Director	No	180 days
Planning Services – Type II Application						
Binding Site Plan	No	Posted / Individual	No	Planning Director	No	5 years
Certificate of Compliance	No	Posted / Individual	No	Planning Director	No	None
Conditional Use Permit	No [3]	Posted / Individual	No	Planning Director	No	3 years
Plans-in-lieu	No	Posted / Individual	No	Planning Director	No	3 years
Shoreline SDP	No	Posted / Individual	No	Planning Director	No	Must Comply with WAC 173-27-90
Short Plat with SEPA	No	Posted / Individual	No	Planning Director	No	5 years
Short Plat with minor engineering review	<u>No</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Planning Director</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>5 years</u>
Short Plat, with SEPA exemption and standard engineering review	<u>No</u>	<u>Individual</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Planning Director</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>5 years</u>
Planning Services – Type III Application (Hearing Required)						
Certificate of Compliance	Posted / Individual	Posted / Individual	Posted / Individual	Hearing Examiner	No	None

Conditional Use Permit	Posted / Individual	Posted / Individual	Posted / Individual	Hearing Examiner	No	3 years
Floodplain Variance	Posted / Individual	Posted / Individual	Posted / Individual	Hearing Examiner	No	3 years
Long Plat	Posted / Individual	Posted / Individual	Newspaper / Posted / Individual	Hearing Examiner	No	5 years
Plans-in-lieu	Posted / Individual	Posted / Individual	Posted / Individual	Hearing Examiner	No	3 years
PUD	Posted / Individual	Posted / Individual	Posted / Individual	Hearing Examiner	Yes	5 years [4]
Rezone	Posted / Individual	Posted / Individual	Posted / Individual	Hearing Examiner	Yes	3 years
Shoreline CUP	Posted / Individual	Posted / Individual	Posted / Individual	Hearing Examiner	No	Must Comply with WAC 173-27-90
Shoreline Variance	Posted / Individual	Posted / Individual	Posted / Individual	Hearing Examiner	No	Must Comply with WAC 173-27-90
Skywalk	Posted / Individual	Posted / Individual	Posted / Individual	Hearing Examiner	Yes	2 years
Variance	Posted / Individual	Posted / Individual	Posted / Individual	Hearing Examiner	No	3 years

Notes:

[1] Approval expires after the specified time if no permit to develop the project is issued by the City of Spokane or building permit expires without completion of the improvements.

[2] Public Hearing is required if the structure is on the National Historic Register.

[3] Conditional Use Permits required under SMC 17C.110.110, Limited Use Standards for Religious Institutions and Schools, will complete posted/individual notification requirements for a Community Meeting.

[4] If a PUD is approved together with a preliminary plat, the expiration date for the PUD shall be the same as the expiration date of the preliminary plat.

[5] Applications for demolition permits for the demolition of an entire building or structure shall, in addition to any applicable requirements under chapter 43.21C RCW, be subject to a ten day review and comment period. This review and comment period shall run concurrently with any other applicable notice and comment period. Following receipt of such applications, copies shall be forwarded to the individual(s) designated pursuant to SMC 4.27.010(D) to receive written notice on behalf of the neighborhood council in which the building or structure is located, at the address for such neighborhood council designee(s) that is on file with the department. Any comments submitted to the department by the neighborhood council during this review and comment period shall be provided to the applicant prior to issuing the demolition permit.

Section 3. That Section 17G.060.130 SMC is amended to read as follows:

17G.060.130 Public Comment Period

- A. The public comment period for Type I, II, and III applications is fifteen days, except short subdivision applications with minor engineering review as provided in SMC 17G.080.040(C)(2) shall have no public comment period.
- B. The public comment period for a shoreline substantial development permit, shoreline conditional use, or shoreline variance shall be thirty days.
- C. The public comment period for a shoreline substantial development permit for limited utility extensions and bulkheads shall be twenty days (WAC 173-27-120).
- D. The longest public comment period shall prevail.

Section 4. That Section 17G.080.040 SMC is amended to read as follows:

17G.080.040 Short Subdivisions

- A. Predevelopment Meeting
A predevelopment meeting is required if the proposal is located in the central business district, unless waived by the director, and is recommended for all other proposals prior to submittal of the application. The purpose of a predevelopment meeting is to acquaint the applicant with the applicable provisions of this chapter, minimum submission requirements and other plans or regulations, which may impact the proposal.
- B. Preliminary Short Plat Application and Map Requirements
 - 1. Applications for approval of a preliminary short subdivision shall be filed with the director. All applications shall be submitted on forms provided for such purpose by the department. The director may waive specific submittal requirements determined to be unnecessary for review of the application. The application shall include the following:
 - a. The general application.
 - b. The supplemental application.
 - c. The environmental checklist, if required under chapter 17E.050 SMC.
 - d. Title report no older than thirty days from issuance from the title company.
 - e. The filing fees as required under chapter 8.02 SMC.
 - f. The required number of documents, plans or maps drawn to a minimum scale of one inch equals one hundred feet, on a sheet

twenty-four by thirty-six inches, as set forth in the application checklist.

- g. A written narrative identifying consistency with the applicable policies, regulations and criteria for approval of the permit requested; and
- h. Additional application information which may be requested by the permitting department and may include, but is not limited to, the following: geotechnical studies, hydrologic studies, critical area studies, noise studies, air quality studies, visual analysis and transportation impact studies.
- i. One copy of the predevelopment conference notes (if applicable); and
- j. One copy of the notification district map.

2. Contents of Preliminary Short Plat Map

The preliminary short plat shall be prepared by a land surveyor and shall show the following:

- a. Plat name and the name of any subdivision to be replatted.
- b. The name, mailing address and phone number of the owner and the person with whom official contact should be made regarding the application.
- c. Surveyor's name, mailing address and phone number.
- d. Legal description.
- e. Section, township and range.
- f. Vicinity map.
- g. North arrow, scale and date.
- h. Datum plane.
- i. Acreage.
- j. Number of lots and proposed density.
- k. Zoning designation.
- l. The boundary lines of the proposed subdivision.
- m. City limits and section lines.
- n. Park or open space (if proposed).
- o. Existing topography at two-foot maximum interval.
- p. The boundaries and approximate dimensions of all blocks and lots, together with the numbers proposed to be assigned each lot and block, and the dimensions, square footage and acreage of all proposed lots and tracts.

- q. Proposed names of streets.
- r. The location and widths of streets, alleys, rights-of-way, easements (both public and private), turn around and emergency access, parks and open spaces.
- s. Conditions of adjacent property, platted or unplatted, and if platted, giving the name of the subdivision. If the proposed short plat is the subdivision of a portion of an existing plat, the approximate lines of the existing plat are to be shown along with any and all recorded covenants and easements.
- t. The names and address of the record owners and taxpayers of each parcel adjoining the subdivision.
- u. Indicate any street grades in excess of eight percent.
- v. The location and, where ascertainable, sizes of all permanent buildings, wells, wellhead protection areas, sewage disposal systems, water courses, bodies of water, flood zones, culverts, bridges, structures, overhead and underground utilities, railroad lines, and other features existing upon, over or under the land proposed to be subdivided, and identifying any which are to be retained or removed.
- w. Proposed one-foot strips for right-of-way conveyed to the City, in cases where a proposed public street or alley abuts unplatted land.
- x. If a body of water forms the boundary of the plat, the ordinary high water mark as defined in chapter 90.58 RCW.
- y. Critical areas as defined in chapters 17E.020, 17E.030, 17E.070 and 17G.030 SMC.
- z. Significant historic, cultural or archaeological resources; and
- aa. If the proposal is located in an irrigation district, the irrigation district name.

C. Review of Preliminary Short Plat

1. The application shall be reviewed in accordance with the procedures set forth in chapter 17G.060 SMC for a Type II application, except an application that meets the requirements for minor engineering review as provided in subsection (2) of this section shall be excluded from the public notice requirements contained in SMC 17G.060.110 through 17G.060.120 and public comment period under SMC 17G.060.130.

2. Minor Engineering Review.

A preliminary short plat application may qualify for a minor engineering review if it meets all of the following conditions:

- a. The application is categorically exempt from chapter 43.21C RCW (SEPA);
- b. There is direct water and sewer main lot frontage on an existing and improved public right-of-way;
- c. No extensions of public water, sewer, or other utility services will be needed;
- d. No public easements for water, sewer, or other utility service exists on the lot;
- e. The lot is not situated in a Special Drainage District as defined in SMC 17D.060.130; and
- f. Public utility mains do not exist on the lot.

D. Public Notice

All public notice of the application shall be given in accordance with the procedures set forth in chapter 17G.060 SMC for a Type II application, except a short plat that meets the requirements for minor engineering review as provided in subsection (C)(2) of this section shall not require a notice of application.

E. Preliminary Short Plat Approval Criteria

Prior to approval of a short plat application, the director shall find the application to be in the public use and interest, conform to applicable land use controls and the comprehensive plan of the City, and the approval criteria set forth in chapter 17G.060 SMC. The director has the authority to approve or disapprove a proposed preliminary short plat under the provisions of this chapter, subject to appeal as provided in chapters 17F.050 and 17G.060 SMC.

F. Final Short Plat Review Procedure

1. The subdivider shall submit to the director for review the following:
 - a. A final short plat, prepared by a registered land surveyor licensed in the state of Washington, consistent with the approved preliminary short plat.
 - b. A title report less than thirty days old confirming that the title of the lands as described and shown on said plat is in the name of the owners signing the certificate or instrument of dedication.
 - c. Covenants, conditions and restrictions, if applicable; and
 - d. Fees pursuant to chapter 8.02 SMC.
2. Within thirty days, unless the applicant has consented to a longer period of time, of receipt of a proposed final short plat, the director shall review the plat for conformance with all conditions of the preliminary short plat approval, the requirements of this chapter and that arrangements have been made to insure the construction of required improvements. If all such conditions are met, the director shall approve the final short plat and

authorize the recording of the plat. If all conditions are not met, the director shall provide the applicant in writing a statement of the necessary changes to bring the final short plat into conformance with the conditions.

- a. If the final short plat is required to be resubmitted, the subdivider is required to provide the following:
 - b. A cover letter addressing the corrections, additions or modifications required.
 - c. Title report no older than thirty days from issuance of a title company conforming that the title of the lands as described and shown on said plat is in the name of the owners signing the certificate or instrument of dedication; and
 - d. The required number of copies of the corrected final short plat map.
3. If the final short plat is approved, the surveyor causes the plat to be signed by the Spokane county treasurer and file of record with the Spokane county auditor. The surveyor is required to file the appropriate number of mylar and bond copies of the recorded short plat with the director.

G. Final Short Plat Map Requirements

The subdivider shall submit to the director a final short plat in the same form and with the same content as the preliminary short plat, as provided in subsections (B)(1) and (2) of this section, with the following exceptions or additional requirements:

1. A final short plat shall contain all the information required of the preliminary plat, except the following:
 - a. Show existing buildings.
 - b. Show existing utility lines and underground structures.
 - c. Show the topographical elevations; or
 - d. Contain the names and addresses of adjoining landowners.
2. The final short plat shall include the following:
 - a. Surveyor's certificate, stamp, date and signature, as follows:

The following land surveyor's certificate to be shown on each sheet of the plat: "I, _____ registered land surveyor, hereby certify the plat of _____, as shown hereon, is based upon actual field survey of the land described and that all angles, distances, and courses are correctly shown and that all non fronting lot corners are set as shown on the plat. Monuments and fronting lot corners shall be set upon completion of the utility and street improvements.

Signed _____(Seal)"
 - b. A certification by the city treasurer, as applicable:

i. "I hereby certify that the land described by this plat, as of the date of this certification, is not subject to any local improvement assessments. Examined and approved, this _____ day of _____, 20__.

City of Spokane Treasurer"

ii. "I hereby certify that the land described by this plat, as of the date of this certificate, is not subject to any delinquent local improvement assessment. Future installments, if any, shall remain due and payable and it shall be the responsibility of the owners to initiate the segregation of the LID assessment. Examined and approved, this _____ day of _____, 20__.

City of Spokane Treasurer"

iii. "A preliminary local improvement assessment exists against this property. It shall be the responsibility of the owner's to initiate the segregation of the LID assessment. After this assessment is finalized, it shall be due and payable. Examined and approved this _____ day of _____, 20__.

City of Spokane Treasurer"

c. The certification by the planning director, as follows:

"This plat has been reviewed on this _____ day of _____, 20__ and is found to be in full compliance with all the conditions of approval stipulated in the Hearing Examiner's/Planning Director's approval of the preliminary plat # - -PP/SP.

City of Spokane Planning Director"

d. The certification by the city engineer, as follows:

"Approved as to compliance with the survey data, the design of public works and provisions made for constructing the improvements and permanent control monuments this _____ day of _____, 20__.

City of Spokane Engineer"

e. The certification by the Spokane county treasurer, as follows:

"I hereby certify that the land described in this plat, as of the date of this certification, is not subject to any outstanding fees or assessments. Examined and approved _____ day of _____, 20__.

Spokane County Treasurer”

- f. The certification by the Spokane county auditor on each page of the final short plat including the time, date, book and page number of the recording of the final mylar.
- g. Signature of every owner certifying that:
 - i. the plat is made with the free consent and in accordance with the desires of the owners of the land;
 - ii. the owners are the owners of the property and the only parties having interest in the land and is not encumbered by any delinquent taxes or assessments;
 - iii. the owners adopt the plan of lots, blocks and streets shown;
 - iv. owner dedicates to the City and the City’s permittees the easements shown for utilities and cable television purposes;
 - v. owner dedicates to the City the streets, alleys and other public places, including slope and construction easements and waives all claims for damages against any governmental authority including, without limitation, the City which may be occasioned to the adjacent land by the establishment, construction, drainage and maintenance of any public way so dedicated; and
 - vi. owner conveys to the City as general City property the buffer strips adjoining unplatted property.
- h. The drawing shall:
 - i. be a legibly drawn, printed or reproduced permanent map;
 - ii. if more than one sheet is required, each sheet shall show sheet numbers for the total sheets;
 - iii. have margins that comply with the standards of the Spokane county auditor;
 - iv. show in dashed lines the existing plat being replatted, if applicable;
 - v. show monuments in accordance with SMC 17G.080.020(H)(1);
 - vi. include any other information required by the conditions of approval; and
 - vii. include any special statements of approval required from governmental agencies, including those pertaining to flood hazard areas, shorelines, critical areas and connections to adjacent state highways.

H. Filing.

Once the final plat has been reviewed, approved and signed by the applicable departments, the applicant shall file the final short plat with the county auditor within ten days of approval. No permits shall be issued for a proposed lot until the required conformed copies of the short plat have been submitted to the planning services department.

I. Redivision.

No land within the boundaries of a short subdivision may be further divided in any manner which will create additional lots within a period of five years except by subdivision in accordance with SMC 17G.080.050.

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