



## RESOLUTION OF THE WASHOE COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

INITIATING AND RECOMMENDING APPROVAL OF AN AMENDMENT TO WASHOE COUNTY CODE CHAPTER 110 (DEVELOPMENT CODE) WITHIN ARTICLE 306, *ACCESSORY USES AND STRUCTURES*, TO AMEND SECTION 110.306.10 DETACHED ACCESSORY STRUCTURES, RELATING TO DETERMINING THE HEIGHT OF A BUILDING WHEN THE STRUCTURE IS LOCATED WITHIN THE REAR OR SIDE YARD SETBACK, AND TO CLARIFY THAT WHEN THE STRUCTUE IS NOT LOCATED WITHIN ANY APPLICABLE SETBACKS THE HEIGHT IS MEASURED IN ACCORDANCE WITH BUILDING HEIGHT PROVISIONS IN ARTICLE 902 OF THIS CODE; AND OTHER MATTERS NECESSARILY CONNECTED THEREWITH AND PERTAINING THERETO.

Resolution Number 18-07

### WHEREAS

- A. Washoe County Code Section 110.818.05 requires that amendments to Washoe County Code Chapter 110 (Development Code) be initiated by resolution of the Washoe County Board of Commissioners or the Washoe County Planning Commission; and
- B. The Washoe County Planning Commission initiated amendments to the Washoe County Code Chapter 110 (Development Code) within Article 306, *Accessory Uses and Structures*, on February 6, 2018 as fully described in Attachment A-1 to this resolution; and
- C. Development Code Amendment Case Number WDCA17-0010, came before the Washoe County Planning Commission for a duly noticed public hearing on February 6, 2018; and
- D. The Washoe County Planning Commission gave reasoned consideration to the information it received regarding the proposed Development Code Amendment; and
- E. Whereas, pursuant to Washoe County Code Section 110.818.15(e), the Washoe County Planning Commission made the following findings necessary to support its recommendation for adoption of the proposed Development Code amendment Case Number WDCA17-0010:
  - 1. Consistency with Master Plan. The proposed amendment is in substantial compliance with the policies and action programs of the Washoe County Master Plan;
  - 2. Promotes the Purpose of the Development Code. The proposed Development Code amendment will not adversely impact the public health, safety or welfare, and will

promote the original purposes for the Development Code as expressed in Article 918, Adoption of Development Code;

3. Response to Changed Conditions. The proposed Development Code amendment responds to changed conditions or further studies that have occurred since the Development Code was adopted by the Board of County Commissioners, and the requested amendment allow for a more desirable utilization of land within the regulatory zones; and,
4. No Adverse Affects. The proposed Development Code amendment will not adversely affect the implementation of the policies and action programs of the Conservation Element or the Population Element of the Washoe County Master Plan.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Washoe County Planning Commission recommends approval of the ordinance attached hereto as Attachment A-1.

A report describing this amendment, discussion at this public hearing, this recommendation, and the vote on the recommendation will be forwarded to the Washoe County Board of County Commissioners within 60 days of this resolution's adoption date.

ADOPTED on February 6, 2018.

WASHOE COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Trevor Lloyd, Secretary  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sarah Chvilicek, Chair

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INFORMATION ONLY

REGULAR TEXT: NO CHANGE IN LANGUAGE

~~STRIKEOUT TEXT: DELETE LANGUAGE~~

**BOLD TEXT: NEW LANGUAGE**

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Notice: Per NRS 239B.030, this document does not contain personal information as defined in NRS 603A.040

*Summary: Amends the Development Code by updating the standards within Section 110.306.10, Detached Accessory Structures, to define how the height of an accessory structure is measured both when located within a rear or side yard setback, and when not located within any applicable setback; and other related matters.*

BILL NO. \_\_\_\_\_

ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

Title:

An ordinance amending the Washoe County Code at Chapter 110 (Development Code), within Article 306, Accessory uses structures, at Section 110.306.10, Detached Accessory Structures, to define how the height of an accessory structure is measured both when the structure is located within the required rear or side yard setback, and when not located within any applicable setback; and other matters necessarily connected therewith and pertaining thereto.

WHEREAS:

A. The Washoe County Planning Commission initiated the proposed amendments to Washoe County Code Chapter 110 (Development Code) by Resolution Number 18-\_\_ on February 6, 2018; and,

B. The amendments and this ordinance were drafted in concert with the District Attorney; and the Planning Commission held a duly noticed public hearing for WDCA17-0010 on

**DRAFT: January 18, 2018**

February 6, 2018, and adopted Resolution Number 18-\_\_\_\_  
recommending adoption of this ordinance; and,

- C. This Commission desires to amend Article 306 of the Washoe County Code Chapter 110 (Development Code) in order to update the standards within Section 110.306.10, *Detached Accessory Structures*; and,
- D. Following a first reading and publication as required by NRS 244.100 (1), and after a duly noticed public hearing, this Commission desires to adopt this Ordinance; and,
- E. This Commission has determined that this ordinance is being adopted pursuant to requirements set forth in Chapter 278 of NRS, therefore it is not a "rule" as defined in NRS 237.060 requiring a business impact statement.

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF WASHOE COUNTY DOES HEREBY ORDAIN:

SECTION 1. Section 110.306.10 of the Washoe County Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 110.306.10 Detached Accessory Structures. Detached accessory structures are defined in Article 304, Use Classification System, under Section 110.304.15, Residential Use Types. The following development requirements shall apply to detached accessory structures:

- (a) Lot Coverage. The establishment of detached accessory structures shall not exceed the following lot coverage limitations:
  - (1) On lots in the High Density Suburban (HDS) and Medium Density Suburban (MDS) Regulatory Zones, the combined area (i.e. square footage) of all building footprints on the lot shall not exceed 50 percent of the total lot acreage;
  - (2) On lots in the Low Density Suburban (LDS) Regulatory Zones, the combined area (i.e. square footage) of all building footprints on the lot shall not exceed 25 percent of the total lot acreage;
  - (3) On lots in the High Density Rural (HDR) Regulatory Zone, the combined area (i.e. square footage) of all building footprints on the lot shall not exceed 20 percent of the total lot acreage;

(4) On lots in the Medium Density Rural (MDR) Regulatory Zone, the combined area (i.e. square footage) of all building footprints on the lot shall not exceed 15 percent of the total lot acreage;

(5) On lots in the Low Density Rural (LDR) Regulatory Zone, the combined area (i.e. square footage) of all building footprints on the lot shall not exceed ten percent of the total lot acreage or 80,000 square feet, whichever is less;

(6) Exemptions to lot coverage limitations. Parcels 40 acres in size or larger in the General Rural (GR) and General Rural Agricultural (GRA) Regulatory Zones, and all parcels in the Commercial, Industrial, and Urban Regulatory Zones, are exempt from the lot coverage limitations of this section.

(b) Setbacks.

(1) Accessory structures 12 feet in height or less may be located within the required rear and side yard setbacks provided they are five feet or more from the rear and side property line. **The height of an accessory structure located within the required rear and side yard setback as provided in this subsection shall be measured from the lowest finished grade of the structure to the average height of the highest gable of a pitched or hipped roof.** ~~Accessory~~ **Except as otherwise specifically provided, all accessory** structures are prohibited within the required front yard setback.

(2) Accessory structures more than 12 feet in height shall comply with the yard setbacks for the main dwelling units stipulated in Article 306, Building Placement Standards. ~~The height of a structure is determined by using the building code currently adopted by Washoe County.~~ **Except as otherwise specifically provided, no accessory structure shall exceed 35 feet in height.**

(c) Height Limits. ~~The height of an accessory structure located outside of all required setbacks shall be measured in accordance with the building height provision in Article 902 of this Code. shall not exceed 12 feet when the structure is erected within the required yard setbacks. The height of an accessory structure shall not exceed 35 feet when the structure is erected outside the required yard setbacks.~~

(d) Size. A proposal to establish a detached accessory structure that is larger (i.e. has more square footage or a larger building footprint) than the existing main structure shall require the approval of an Administrative Permit (pursuant to Article 808), to include review of building

height and architectural compatibility with surrounding dwellings, prior to the issuance of a building permit. Parcels 40 acres in size or larger in the General Rural (GR) and General Rural Agricultural (GRA) Regulatory Zones, and all parcels in the Commercial and Industrial Regulatory Zones, are exempt from this requirement.

- (e) Location/Slopes. A detached accessory structure used as a private garage on any interior lot where the slope of the front half of the lot is greater than a two foot rise (or fall) for every ten feet above (or below) the established street grade may be built to the property line, provided such structure shall not exceed 15 feet in interior height when measured from parking surface and providing the Engineering Division has been able to determine that:
- (1) County snow removal operations will not be impeded or sufficient measures have been incorporated in the structure's design to mitigate an impediment to County snow removal operations and/or the County has been held harmless from liability resulting from the County's snow removal operations;
  - (2) The speed of traffic and the volume of traffic on the street is such that the placing of the garage at the property line will not cause a safety problem for vehicles using the street; and
  - (3) The placement of the garage at the property line will not impede the ability of the County to widen the street in accordance with the adopted Capital Improvements Program, or in accordance with a possible widening of the street as shown in the adopted Master Plan.
- (f) Building Setback. A detached accessory structure shall not be located closer than ten feet to any main building on an adjoining parcel.
- (g) Cargo Containers, to include Sea-land Containers, Cargo Containers or Other Portable Storage Containers not Designed for Independent or "In-tow Trailer" Highway Use. Cargo containers designed and constructed as a standardized, reusable vessel to be loaded on a truck, rail car or ship may be established as a detached accessory structure for the sole purpose of storage with the following restrictions:
- (1) Must meet all Washoe County placement standards for a detached accessory structure;
  - (2) Only one cargo container shall be allowed on a parcel of land having less than five acres in size, and shall

not exceed a maximum size of ten feet wide by nine feet high by 40 feet in length;

- (3) In the Suburban and Urban Regulatory Zones, the cargo container shall be:
  - (i) Located within an area fenced by either a six foot high slatted chain link fence, wooden fence or other durable and opaque fencing, or
  - (ii) Located within an area screened by existing solid vegetation having a minimum height of six feet. If existing landscaping is used as screening, it shall be indicated on the building plans and photos shall be submitted as evidence; or
  - (iii) Painted one, solid, muted color that blends with the surrounding vegetation, or structures or topography.
- (4) All cargo containers shall be free from damage, shall not be structurally altered, shall be free from severe rust, and shall not have exposed bare metal;
- (5) Shall not include plumbing fixtures;
- (6) Shall not be stacked; except in the Commercial and Industrial land use designations, and then not stacked above two high. Setback requirements shall be determined by the total height of the stacked structure;
- (7) Shall not display off-premise advertising, company logos, names, or other markings painted on, or otherwise attached to, the exterior of the cargo container;
- (8) Shall not occupy any required off-street parking spaces for the site;
- (9) Shall not be placed between a residence and the adjoining street or road right-of-way that provides primary access to the residence;
  - (i) On a parcel fronted by two or more street or road right-of-ways, the Director of the Planning and Development Division shall have the authority to determine the primary access to the residence.
- (10) When placed on a parcel fronted by two or more street or road right-of-ways, shall be placed at least one 75 feet from all street or road right-of-ways, excepts as provided for in (9), above.

- (i) The Director of the Planning and Development Division shall have the authority to allow a minor deviation in setbacks of up to 25 feet to the standards in (10) above, when the Director is presented with sufficient evidence that the proposed cargo container will be aesthetically enhanced to blend with the surrounding residences.
  - (ii) Aesthetic enhancements, as required in (i) above shall consist of one or more of the following: siding and/or painting to match the residence on the parcel; landscaping to obscure the cargo container from view from off-site; placement of the cargo container to obscure view from off-site; other techniques as proposed by the applicant and acceptable to the Director.
  - (iii) Approval of a minor deviation to setback standards in (10) above shall be by means of application for a Director's Modification of Standards.
- (11) Shall be separated from any other structure, storage shed or other cargo containers by a minimum of ten feet, when located within 100 feet of any property line;
  - (12) A cargo container may be allowed in a Commercial or Industrial land use regulatory zone for storage purposes if there is a lawful, principal established use on the property where it is located, is located to the rear of any principal use, is not located adjacent to a street, does not impact required parking, and is located behind a slatted chain link fence, wooden fence or other acceptable fencing having a minimum height of eight feet, or existing solid vegetation having a minimum height of eight feet;
  - (13) Shall obtain an appropriate permit from the Building and Safety Division if the cargo container is over the allowable exempted square footage as established in Article 105, Permits, of Chapter 100 of this Code; and
  - (14) The Building and Safety Division may additionally require foundations, tie-downs or other safety apparatus to assure compliance with wind load and other safety standards. Any electrical wiring shall require a building permit from the Building and Safety Division.
  - (15) Shall not be established as an Agricultural Building as a Main Use pursuant to Article 330, Domestic Pets and Livestock, of this Development Code.



- (h) Deed Restriction Required for Connection to Water or Wastewater Facilities. Any detached accessory structure proposed to be connected to a potable water supply line or a septic system or community sewer system (i.e. sanitary sewer) as part of a building permit application shall require a deed restriction to be filed with the County Recorder's office stipulating that the structure will not be converted to an accessory dwelling unit as defined in Section 110.304.15. Said deed restriction shall make the County a party to the restriction and shall be obtained through the Planning and Development Division. A copy of the recorded deed restriction shall be required prior to the issuance of the building permit. The Planning and Development Division shall agree in writing to the removal of the deed restriction if the owner legally converts the accessory structure to an accessory dwelling unit (pursuant to the provisions of this article and applicable building codes) or if the structure has been permanently disconnected from the potable water supply and sanitary sewer system. Installation of both a kitchen (as defined in Article 902) and a toilet in a detached accessory structure shall render the structure as a dwelling unit subject to the provisions of this article.
- (i) Use of Mobile/Manufactured Homes as Detached Accessory Structures. A detached accessory structure shall not be comprised of a mobile or manufactured home due to Federal Housing and Urban Development (HUD) standards prohibiting the removal or modification of any interior structural components, such as plumbing fixtures (see HUD 24 CFR Part 3280).
- (j) Hoop Houses and High Tunnels. Hoop houses and high tunnels, as defined in Section 110.902.15, General Definitions, may be established subject to the following regulations:
- (1) Must meet all Washoe County placement standards for a detached accessory structure;
  - (2) Are exempt from the lot coverage limitations established in Section 110.306.10(a); and
  - (3) The height of a hoop house or high tunnel at its tallest point shall not exceed the allowable height for the regulatory zone within which it is located.

SECTION 2. General Terms.

1. All actions, proceedings, matters, and things heretofore taken, had and done by the County and its officers not inconsistent with the provisions of this Ordinance are ratified and approved.

2. The Chairman of the Board and officers of the County are authorized and directed to take all action necessary or appropriate to effectuate the provisions of this Ordinance. The District Attorney is authorized to make non-substantive edits and corrections to this Ordinance.
3. All ordinances, resolutions, bylaws and orders, or parts thereof, in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent only of such inconsistency. This repealer shall not be construed to revive any ordinance, resolution, bylaw or order, or part thereof, heretofore repealed.
4. Each term and provision of this Ordinance shall be valid and shall be enforced to the extent permitted by law. If any term or provision of this Ordinance or the application thereof shall be deemed by a court of competent jurisdiction to be in violation of law or public policy, then it shall be deemed modified, ipso facto, to bring it within the limits of validity or enforceability, but if it cannot be so modified, then the offending provision or term shall be excised from this Ordinance. In any event, the remainder of this Ordinance, or the application of such term or provision to circumstances other than those to which it is invalid or unenforceable, shall not be affected.

Passage and Effective Date

Proposed on \_\_\_\_\_ (month) \_\_\_\_\_ (day), 2018.

Proposed by Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_.

Passed on \_\_\_\_\_ (month) \_\_\_\_\_ (day), 2017.

Vote:

Ayes: Commissioners \_\_\_\_\_

Nays: Commissioners \_\_\_\_\_

Absent: Commissioners \_\_\_\_\_.

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
County Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair of the Board

This ordinance shall be in force and effect from and after the

**DRAFT: January 18, 2018**

\_\_\_\_\_ day of the month of \_\_\_\_\_ of the year \_\_\_\_\_.

DRAFT