

Memorandum

Staff Report for Meeting of December 13, 2022

To: Huber Heights City Planning Commission
From: Aaron K. Sorrell, City Planner
Date: December 6, 2022
Subject: Proposed Zoning Text Amendments

Department of Planning and Zoning

City of Huber Heights

APPLICANT/OWNER: City of Huber Heights
DEVELOPMENT NAME: N/A
ADDRESS/LOCATION: Text Amendments
ZONING/ACREAGE: N/A
EXISTING LAND USE: N/A
**ZONING
ADJACENT LAND:** N/A
REQUEST: The City is proposing a number of zoning text amendments meant to enhance the future development of the city.
ORIGINAL APPROVAL: N/A
APPLICABLE HHCC: Chapter 1123, 1142
CORRESPONDENCE: In Favor – None Received
In Opposition – None Received

STAFF ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATION:

Overview

From time to time the zoning text should be reviewed for necessary amendments due to changing development and design values, updated laws and policies, and/or to ease administration or lessen regulatory burden. The amendments suggested below are due in part from discussions with the City Council, Planning Commission and staff review of the code. The planning commission is making a recommendation to the City Council on whether these proposed amendments should be adopted. Since it requires a supermajority to overturn the recommendation of the planning commission, the commission should consider grouping recommendations into two or more decision orders: the amendments favored by the planning commission and those they are against.

Suggested Text Amendment #1: Expand the definition of Home Occupations (Section 1123.53).

The home occupation definition is very limiting, especially considering the number of professions that have broadened work-at-home opportunities and advances in technology that make working from a home office easier. Additionally, traditional concerns about impacts from a home occupation such as delivery vehicles have primarily vanished with the increased popularity of Etsy, Amazon and other retailers who ship directly to consumers. Fed Ex, UPS and Amazon delivery vehicles are a ubiquitous sight in all residential areas.

Current Definition:

1123.53 Home occupation.

Home occupation means an occupation conducted in a dwelling unit, provided that:

- (a) Only members of the family residing on the premises shall be engaged in a home occupation, thus permitting no employees therein.
- (b) The use of the dwelling unit for the home occupation shall be clearly incidental and subordinate to its use for residential purposes by its occupants, and not more than 25 percent of the floor area of the dwelling unit shall be used in the conduct of the home occupation. Accessory buildings may not be used for the home occupation.
- (c) There shall be no visible evidence of the conduct of a home occupation.
- (d) No traffic shall be generated by a home occupation in greater volume than would normally be expected in a residential neighborhood, and any need for parking generated by the conduct of such home occupation shall meet the off-street parking requirements as specified in this Zoning Ordinance and shall not be located in a required front yard.
- (e) No equipment or process shall be used in a home occupation which creates noise, vibration, glare, fumes, odors or electrical interference detectable to the normal senses off the lot. In the case of electrical interference, no equipment may be used which causes fluctuations in line voltage off the premises.

- (f) There shall be no stock in trade kept or commodities sold on the premises.

I recommend the following updated and expanded definition for home occupations. I have bolded areas that are substantial expansions from the current definition.

Proposed Definition:

1123.53 Home Occupations

Home occupations may be permitted with standards when compliant with the following regulations and any other applicable sections of this resolution:

- 1) Such use shall be conducted entirely within the dwelling unit or an accessory building. In all cases, all activities related to home occupation must take place within the enclosed building.
- 2) Home occupations shall not change the character of the residential use and shall not adversely affect the uses permitted in the residential district of which they are a part.
- 3) The nature of home occupation as an accessory use relative to its location and conduct of activity is such that the average neighbor, under normal circumstances, would not be aware of its existence.
- 4) Any home occupation activities on the property shall be conducted only by persons residing in the dwelling unit and one additional person who does not reside at the home where the occupation takes place.
- 5) No building or structure shall be used to: operate a business, store equipment or supplies used for a business, or serve as a location where more than four employees meet or park prior to going to work off-site, where such employees do not work anywhere on the property.
- 6) The maximum floor area the use may cover shall not exceed 25 percent of the total floor area of the dwelling unit.
- 7) One, non-illuminated sign with a maximum square footage of four-square feet is permitted, without a permit, if it is mounted flat against the wall of the principal building.
- 8) Home occupations which provide a service shall not have more than two customers (including those arriving and waiting for service) at any one time.
- 9) The storage of all equipment, machinery, supplies, materials, files, and the like, shall be stored completely within the residence or accessory buildings.
- 10) Any need for parking generated by the conduct of such home occupation shall be accommodated on off-street parking spaces or areas that are paved for the purpose of parking.
- 11) No traffic shall be generated by such home occupation in greater volume than is normally expected for the residential neighborhood.
- 12) The following are examples of permitted types of home occupations:

- (i) Clerical and other similar business services;
- (ii) Instruction in music, dance or other types of teaching with a maximum number of two students at a time;
- (iii) The office of a professional accountant, attorney, broker, consultant, insurance agent, realtor, architect, engineer, sales representative, and similar office-oriented occupations;
- (iv) Artists, sculptors, photographers, and other providers of home crafts;
- (v) Barber shop/beauty salon with a maximum of one chair;
- (vi) A licensed massage therapist who provides massage therapy for a maximum of one client at any given time; or
- (vii) Any similar use as determined by the Zoning Inspector.

Suggested Text Amendment #2 & #3: Expand Special Uses within the Agricultural District (Chapter 1142)

There is a limited list of allowable special uses in the agricultural district and expanding this list and with appropriate standards will provide the BZA with additionally options and widen the potential use of lands without impacting adjacent property owners. Unlike a rezoning or variance, the special use permit expires if the use is discontinued for more than one year.

Bed and Breakfast Establishments

I recommend adding “Bed and Breakfast Establishments” to the list of Special Uses within the Agricultural District. Currently, Bed and Breakfast (B&B) uses are not defined nor allowed in Huber Heights. While there are currently no B&B’s, there are a few unique buildings that may lend themselves to operating as a B&B, and they have very limited impact on neighboring properties. Most surrounding jurisdictions permit B&Bs in large-lot or historic residential areas.

Zoning Text Amendment #2: I recommend the following definition and development standards for Bed and Breakfast Establishments within the Agricultural District:

Definition

1123.141 Bed and Breakfast Establishments

Any place of lodging that provides four or fewer rooms for rent on a temporary basis, is the owner’s personal residence, is occupied by the owner at the time of rental, and where meals may be served to guests.

The following standards shall apply to any bed and breakfast establishment:

- 1) Bed and breakfast establishments shall only be permitted within a single-family, detached dwelling or accessory structure, unless otherwise approved by the BZA.
- 2) The owner of the premises shall reside full-time in the dwelling, or in a dwelling on an adjoining lot.

- 3) No more than four bedrooms in any dwelling may be used for bed and breakfast lodging and at least one bathroom shall be dedicated to guest use.
- 4) One off-street parking space shall be provided for each bedroom used for guest lodging in addition to those normally required for the single-family dwelling.
- 5) There shall be no change in the outside appearance of the building or premises, or other visible evidence of the conduct of the bed and breakfast establishment that will indicate from the exterior that the building is being utilized in part for any purpose other than a dwelling unit.
- 6) Meals provided for cost in a bed and breakfast establishment, shall only be served to the guests who are lodging at the bed and breakfast establishment.
- 7) Guests shall be permitted to reside at the facility for not longer than three continuous weeks.

Add to Special Use table:

1142.03 (g) Bed and Breakfast Establishments

Indoor Automotive / Vehicle Repair

Allowing the BZA to consider automotive/vehicle repair as a Special Use within the Agricultural District may provide the BZA with additional options when they were reviewing the Skilwies variance request. This approach is preferable to a rezoning or variance, because the use is no longer allowed if voluntarily discontinued after one year.

Zoning Text Amendment #3: I recommend the following development standards for indoor automotive / vehicle repair:

1142.03 (h) Automotive / Vehicle Repair (Indoor)

The following standards shall apply to any automotive or vehicle repair use:

- 1) Activities shall be limited to the servicing of motor vehicles with minor repair work, including engine and transmission repair. All activities shall be performed in an enclosed building.
- 2) Bodywork and painting shall be prohibited.
- 3) The storage of non-operational vehicles for longer than one week shall be prohibited. Vehicles must be able to move at least 100 feet under their own power within 24 hours' notice by the City. All vehicles shall be required to have a valid license plate.
- 4) Parking, storage, or salvaging of junk vehicles, as defined by the ORC, shall be prohibited
- 5) The building shall be set back a minimum of 40 feet from any adjacent residential lot and 200 feet from any adjacent residential structure. The parking for the storage of vehicles, whether operational or non-operational, shall be set back a minimum of 35 feet from any adjacent residential lot.
- 6) Parking areas within 100 feet of an adjacent residential lot shall be screened along said lot line by an 8-foot solid fence, or dense evergreen vegetation with a height of at least 8' feet within two years of planting.

Self-Storage Facilities

Self-Storage Facilities have been a topic of discussion both in Huber Heights and surrounding jurisdictions due to the recent acceleration in their development. While these facilities provide a service to the renters, they generate little employment opportunities, income tax, or vibrancy along a commercial corridor or areas designed to be active and vibrant.

Currently, there is no consistent definition for self-storage facilities within the zoning code. The terms "warehouse", "mini-warehouse" and "mini-storage warehouse" are used in the code but none of the terms are defined.

Text Amendment #4: I suggest we use the State of Ohio’s definition for “Self-Service Storage Facilities” to define self-storage facilities, mini-warehouse, and mini-storage warehouse. Operators of these facilities use the state’s definition because the state regulates how foreclosures and forfeitures of stored goods are handled.

Ohio Revised Code 5322.01 states:

"Self-service storage facility" means any real property that is designed and used only for the purpose of renting or leasing individual storage space in the facility under the following conditions:

(1) The occupants have access to the storage space only for the purpose of storing and removing personal property.

(2) The owner does not issue a warehouse receipt, bill of lading, or other document of title, as defined in section 1301.201 of the Revised Code, for the personal property stored in the storage space.

I suggest the following definition:

Section 1123.9301 “Self Storage Facilities, “mini-warehouse” and “mini-storage warehouse” are defined as Self-Service Storage Facilities as defined in ORC 5322.01.

Additionally, I suggest stand-alone self-storage facilities be principally permitted in the I-1, I-2, and PI Districts. The Planning Commission may wish to allow indoor self-storage facilities as a Special Use when existing buildings are being repurposed such as a vacant Wal-Mart, K-Mart, etc.

Suggested Amendments for each district:

I-1 District: 1156.02(a)(18) Self-Service Storage Facilities

PC District: 1176.05 (d) Indoor Self-Service Storage Facilities as part of an adaptive reuse of an existing building.

Planning Commission Action

The planning commission may make any changes to the recommended text amendments.