

ORDINANCE NO. 09-19

AN ORDINANCE of the City of Richland amending Title 2.15 of the Richland Municipal Code related to the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee.

WHEREAS, the City has need, from time to time, to update the Richland Municipal Code to bring it into alignment with current practices and to eliminate conflict and ambiguity; and

WHEREAS, over time, disparate regulations have been codified for the City's various boards, commissions and committees which make consistent and clear administration difficult; and

WHEREAS, on May 15, 2018, Council approved Ordinance No. 21-18, which amended RMC 2.04.110 to lend consistency to the overall administration of the City's boards, commissions and committees, and to bring the Richland Municipal Code into alignment with current practices; and

WHEREAS, in the process of adopting Ordinance No. 21-18, the City created temporary conflicts in existing individual board, commission and committee code sections that now require amendment; and

WHEREAS, an element of the City's strategic plan is to ensure that proper foundational authorities are in place to allow for successful government.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City of Richland as follows:

Section 1. Richland Municipal Code Chapter 2.15, entitled Lodging Tax Advisory Committee, as first enacted by Ordinance No. 17-97, and last amended by Ordinance No. 40-98, is hereby amended as follows:

**Chapter 2.15
LODGING TAX ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Sections:

- 2.15.005 Purpose.**
- 2.15.010 Lodging tax advisory committee created – Membership.**
- ~~**2.15.020 Removal – Vacancies.**~~
- 2.15.030 Meetings, ~~officers, records,~~ and quorum.**
- 2.15.040 Duties ~~of the committee.~~**
- 2.15.050 Severability. ~~Expenditures – Budget.~~**
- ~~**2.15.060 Staff assistance.**~~

2.15.005 Purpose.

The purpose and intent of this chapter is to establish a committee to review and comment on any proposed imposition of hotel/motel tax, proposed increase in the hotel/motel tax rate, and any proposed change in the use of revenue derived from the hotel/motel tax and make recommendations to council regarding the distribution of hotel/motel tax funds, all as set forth in Chapter 67.28 RCW as it currently exists or may hereafter be amended.

2.15.010 Lodging tax advisory committee created – Membership.

There is created within the city of Richland a lodging tax advisory committee. The committee will be composed of five members appointed by the city council. One position must be filled by a councilmember; two members must represent businesses required to collect lodging tax, ~~one such member shall be appointed initially to a one-year term and one member shall be appointed to a two-year term~~; and two members must be involved in activities eligible for funding by lodging tax revenue, ~~one such member shall be appointed initially to a one-year term and one member shall be appointed to a two-year term.~~ The limitations of RCW 67.28.1817(1) apply to appointments. ~~In order to assure continuity of this committee after the initial appointments,~~ The membership shall be appointed to staggered two-year terms and until their successors are appointed and confirmed.

~~The members of the committee shall be selected without regard to political affiliation and shall serve without compensation. Selection of members shall follow established procedures as set forth in RMC 2.04.120.~~

2.15.020 Removal – Vacancies.

~~The council and committee, by mutual consent, may remove a member upon such grounds as may be deemed appropriate by the council and committee. The council and committee, by mutual agreement, may remove any appointed member of the committee and declare the position vacant. Unexcused absences from any two consecutive meetings shall be grounds for removal. Vacancies shall be filled in the manner used for regular appointments to the committee.~~

2.15.030 Meetings, ~~officers, records,~~ and quorum.

A. A councilmember shall serve as the committee's chairperson. The vice-chairperson and all other officers shall be filled as the committee determines it requires. The committee shall meet ~~initially for the purpose of establishing its operating procedures. It will then meet~~ as determined by the committee. ~~A record shall be kept of its meetings, findings and determinations, which records shall be open to public inspection.~~

B. Three members of the committee, comprised of one representative from council, one representative from a business required to collect lodging tax and one representative involved in activities eligible for funding by lodging tax revenue, shall constitute a quorum. ~~A member not present at the time of a meeting shall not participate in a decision.~~

2.15.040 Duties ~~of the committee.~~

The committee shall perform the following duties:

A. The committee shall serve as an advisory committee for the council as it relates to hotel/motel tax funds. All meetings shall be open to the public following publication of a notice for such meeting in the legal newspaper for the city of Richland.

B. The committee shall review and comment on any proposed imposition of the hotel/motel tax, any proposed increase in the hotel/motel tax rate, and any change in the use of revenue derived from the hotel/motel tax and recommend to council any distribution of hotel/motel tax funds.

C. The committee shall maintain a written log of activities in which it is involved, and shall report annually, in written form, to the city council ~~in written form annually of~~ regarding its involvement on behalf of the city.

~~D. All meetings shall be recorded and a written transcript shall be maintained in the files of the city clerk's office.~~

2.15.050 Severability. Expenditures — Budget.

~~The expenditures of the committee shall be limited to appropriations made to the budget line item for implementation and administration of the lodging tax advisory committee. The services and facilities of the city of Richland shall be utilized by the committee in performing its duties unless specific services are authorized by the city council.~~ If any one or more sections, subsections or sentences of this chapter are held to be unconstitutional or invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this chapter, and the same shall remain in full force and effect.

~~2.15.060 Staff assistance.~~

~~The community and development services group shall provide staff assistance to the committee and shall serve to facilitate communications by the committee to the city council.~~

Section 2. This ordinance shall take effect the day following its publication in the official newspaper of the City of Richland.

PASSED by the City Council of the City of Richland, Washington, at a regular meeting on the 19th day of February, 2019.


ROBERT J. THOMPSON
Mayor

ATTEST:


MARCIA HOPKINS, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


HEATHER KINTZLEY, City Attorney

Date Published: February 24, 2019