

**WAYZATA CITY COUNCIL
WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES
March 25, 2025**

4:50 p.m. Discussion of Additional Short-Term Rental Ordinance Amendments and Review of Next Steps

Mayor Mullin called the meeting to order at 4:50 p.m. Council Members present in-person in the community room at City Hall offices: MacDonald, Plechash, and Sorensen. Also present: City Manager Jeff Dahl, Deputy City Manager Aurora Yager, Community Development Director Alex Sharpe, Public Works Director/City Engineer Mike Kelly, and Interim Police Chief Jamie Baker.

Mr. Dahl introduced the history of the agenda item and the current status. Director Sharpe went through a presentation regarding additional context of short-term rentals in Wayzata, potential options moving forward, and discussion items to consider.

- Details on the presentation included in early 2025, 16 short-term rental properties registered, though additional unregistered properties may exist.
- The police department has reported minor concerns, primarily related to parking and parties.
- Many short-term rentals are used as investment properties, affecting the availability of long-term housing.

Key Issues Identified:

- Impact on neighborhood character and availability of long-term housing.
- Increased noise, traffic, parking, and waste management concerns.
- Compliance challenges due to transient renters.
- The need to capture lodging tax revenue.
- Possible zoning restrictions to prevent clustering of short-term rentals.

Next Steps:

- City Council to review and refine discussion priorities.
- Potential ordinance drafting, possibly modeled after another city's regulations.
- Engagement with property owners and affected neighborhoods.
- Public hearings if zoning changes are needed.
- Finalized ordinance review by City Council.

There was consensus on the Council to bring back a draft ordinance for consideration at a workshop that would consider more short-term rental flexibility in commercial areas but would limit them in residential areas especially if the landowner was not present within the community. After the workshop, if the Council provided the necessary direction, then a public process would commence in which the City would solicit feedback from the community prior to considering a draft ordinance at a regular meeting.

5:30 p.m. Discussion of Public Safety Priorities, Initiatives, and Communications for Downtown and City-Wide Speed Limit Study

Interim Chief Baker led the discussion for public safety priorities to inform, discuss, and seek direction on public safety initiatives to enhance community safety and quality of life. She mentioned that

- In a February workshop, the City Council reviewed police department initiatives to address increased activity and visitors, particularly in warmer months.
- The Council requested further details on existing ordinances, fines, and recommendations for updates.

Interim Chief Baker went through a presentation that outlined the following:

1. Current Ordinance & Fine Structure – Review of existing penalties and potential updates.
2. E-Bike Regulations – Recommendations for ordinance changes.
3. Police Staffing & Presence – Updates on recruitment and plans for increased downtown patrols.
4. Speed Limit Reductions – Overview of city-wide options, staff recommendations, and next steps.
5. Communications Plan – Strategy for informing the public on these initiatives.

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2 Additionally, Jeff Lambert, City Prosecuting Attorney attended for questions and answers related to the
3 fine structure and legal processes.
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5 Public Works Director/City Engineer provided a brief summary of options to reduce speed limits (city-
6 wide), staff recommendation, and next steps.
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8 Consensus on the Council was to direct staff to move forward with the drafting of an e-bike related
9 ordinance that would mandate helmets for riders under the age of 18. In addition, they encouraged the
10 Interim Chief and Prosecuting Attorney to petition the District Judge to increase the level of fines
11 commensurate with the legal violation of petty misdemeanor, misdemeanor, or gross misdemeanor. In
12 addition, they also directed staff to move forward with lowering the speed limit of City streets in a
13 uniform manner.
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15 The workshop meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.
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17 Respectfully submitted,
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19 Kathy Leervig, City Clerk