

Memorandum

TO: City Council Workshop
FROM: Renee Eisenbeisz , Assistant City Manager
DATE: November 17, 2025
SUBJECT: In-home massage therapy regulations
ITEM NUMBER: 1.d
SECTION: GENERAL BUSINESS

REQUESTED MOTION

INTRODUCTION

During the August 18, 2025 council meeting, a resident spoke under citizen comments requesting that the city allow for in-home massage therapy establishments. The city council directed staff to bring this back to a future workshop for discussion.

DISCUSSION

Chapter 10, article VIII of the city code outlines regulations for massage therapists and establishments. Although it does not explicitly prohibit in-home massage establishments, the following make it difficult for one to exist:

- Section 10-230 (5) - no alcoholic beverages shall be allowed on or permitted to be brought onto the licensed premises.
- Section 10-230 (10) - there shall be a waiting room for patrons which is separate from any area wherein massage therapy is performed.

Several cities such as Arden Hills, Blaine, Chanhassen, Eden Prairie, Inver Grove Heights, Plymouth, and Roseville allow for in-home massage establishments and some, such as Arden Hills , have separate regulations for them. After reviewing other ordinances, staff drafted the attached section 10-231, separating regulations for in-home massage therapy establishments. Many of the regulations are identical to our current ones except for the following:

- Item #1 - licensees must comply with our home occupation regulations, in addition to zoning, fire, health, and building codes.
- Item #5 - customers cannot bring alcohol on-site, nor can the licensee offer alcohol to its customers.
- Item #9 - staff are recommending the city require different hours of operations for in-home businesses.
- Item #10 - licensees must schedule their appointments so that a waiting room is not needed inside of their home. However, if one is needed or desired, it needs to be in a separate area from where massage therapy is performed.

RECOMMENDATION

The city council should discuss this and provide direction to staff on the proposed language. If the city council is comfortable with this direction, an ordinance will be brought forward in

December for approval.

ATTACHMENTS

Massage therapy in-home regulations