

Memorandum

TO: City Council
FROM: Renee Eisenbeisz , Assistant City Manager
DATE: December 1, 2025
SUBJECT: Ordinance updating regulations for massage establishments
ITEM NUMBER: 10.c
SECTION: GENERAL BUSINESS

REQUESTED MOTION

To approve ordinance 1057 and an ordinance summary amending chapter 10, businesses, article VIII, massage establishments and services.

INTRODUCTION

During the August 18 council meeting, a resident spoke under citizen comments requesting that the city allow for in-home massage therapy establishments. The city council spoke about this at their November 17 workshop and directed staff to bring back an ordinance at a future meeting for consideration.

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.

During their November 17 workshop, the city council discussed whether or not the city should update the city code to allow for in-home massage therapy establishments. It was the consensus of the city council to allow for this. Ordinance 1057 amends chapter 10, article VIII, by adding section 10-231, massage therapy home occupation restrictions. Many of the regulations in this section are identical to section 10-230, massage therapy establishment restrictions 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, cannabis products, or lower-potency hemp edibles on-site, nor can the licensee offer any of these products to its customers.
- Item #9 - hours of operations are different 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.

Based on the council discussion, section 10-230(5) is also being updated to restrict cannabis products or lower-potency hemp edibles in addition to alcohol on licensed premises.

The economic development commission reviewed these regulations as well and unanimously recommended approval.

RECOMMENDATION

It's recommended that the city council approve ordinance 1057 and the ordinance summary for publication.

ATTACHMENTS

[Ordinance 1057](#)

[Ordinance 1057 summary](#)