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ORDINANCE NO. 503 AN ORDINANCE REVISING THE PARKING REGULATIONS OF WALLA WALLA COUNTY CODE; AMENDING WALLA WALLA COUNTY CODE TITLE 10 – VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC; REVISING 10.08 – "PARKING GENERALLY" TO "PARKING ON COUNTY ROADWAYS OR ROAD RIGHT OF WAYS" AND ADDING ADDITIONAL PARKING PROHIBITIONS ON SPECIFIC COUNTY ROADS; AMENDING 10.12 – PARKING IN SPECIFIC AREAS; AND ADDING NEW CHAPTER 10.32 – PROCEDURES FOR TOWING AND IMPOUNDS.

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Karen Martin County Auditor, Walla Walla County WA

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
WALLA WALLA COUNTY, WASHINGTON

ORDINANCE NO. 503

AN ORDINANCE REVISING THE PARKING REGULATIONS OF WALLA WALLA COUNTY CODE; AMENDING WALLA WALLA COUNTY CODE TITLE 10 – VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC; REVISING 10.08 – "PARKING GENERALLY" TO "PARKING ON COUNTY ROADWAYS OR ROAD RIGHT OF WAYS" AND ADDING ADDITIONAL PARKING PROHIBITIONS ON SPECIFIC COUNTY ROADS; AMENDING 10.12 – PARKING IN SPECIFIC AREAS; AND ADDING NEW CHAPTER 10.32 – PROCEDURES FOR TOWING AND IMPOUNDS

Whereas, Walla Walla County code provisions regarding parking on County road rights-of-ways have not been amended since 1979; and

Whereas, the Walla Walla County Board of Commissioners have the authority pursuant to RCW 36.32.120(7) to make and enforce, by appropriate resolutions or ordinances, all such police and sanitary regulations as are not in conflict with state law; and

Whereas, the Walla Walla County Board of Commissioners have the authority pursuant to RCW 36.32.120(10) to declare by ordinance what shall be deemed a nuisance in the County; and

Whereas, RCW 36.32.120(7) states that parking, standing, stopping and pedestrian offenses should be punishable as traffic infractions except as otherwise authorized by state law; and

Whereas, the Walla Walla County Board of County Commissioners has considered adoption of this Ordinance during a regularly and duly called public meeting, has given careful review and consideration to said Ordinance, and finds said Ordinance to be in the best interests of the County of Walla Walla.

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT ORDAINED, by the Walla Walla County Board of County Commissioners that:

Section I. The Board of County Commissioners Makes the Following Findings of Fact:

1. Notice of a Public Hearing was published in the Union Bulletin on July 17, 2025.

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2. The Board of County Commissioners held a workshop on the proposed amendments on July 21, 2025.

3. The Board of County Commissioners held a public hearing on July 28, 2025 for the purpose of receiving testimony on the proposed amendments.

4. It is necessary for the County to update Title 10 to implement state laws regarding parking regulations, modifying penalty provisions to civil infractions, rather than criminal misdemeanors.

5. Long-term parking on certain County roads has created and can potentially create a detrimental impact to neighboring public and private properties.

6. In particular, unmanaged long-term parking on Rooks Park Road has created circumstances which are potentially injurious to private property and to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Rooks Park, Bennington Lake and the Mill Creek Flood Control Project.

7. Long-term parking on Rooks Park Road has created public nuisance conditions, including littering and unsanitary conditions.

8. On July 21, 2025 the Board of County Commissioners received a letter from the US Army Corps of Engineers, Walla Walla District, stating that the District was in full support of limiting parking on Rooks Park Road.

9. The Corps of Engineers' letter stated that "Excessive long-term parking along Rooks Park Road has generated numerous public complaints and raised concerns about safety, accessibility, and congestion. The increasing presence of vehicles parked for extended periods has created challenges for both operations personnel and recreational users, potentially limiting visibility, restricting maneuverability, and discouraging public use of the area." The letter further stated that the road was important for construction and public access.

10. Rooks Park, Bennington Lake and the Walla Walla County Fairgrounds are important public assets that provide both public recreation and necessary public infrastructure.

11. The Mill Creek Flood Control Zone District similarly provides necessary flood protection. The location of the Mill Creek Flood Control Zone District Property on Reservoir Road, although not presenting an issue at this time, presents a similar potential for a long-term parking issue that would detrimentally impact the Mill Creek Flood Control Zone District property and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' property at Bennington Lake.

12. Walla Walla County Public Works staff have worked with the Corps of Engineers to develop an area for limited public parking on Rooks Park Road that is consistent with Rooks Park hours.

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13. The code modifications as shown on Exhibit A will provide necessary regulations to protect the character of Rooks Park Road, South Fourth Avenue and Reservoir Road.

Section II. The Board of County Commissioners Makes the Following Conclusions of Law:

1. The County has reviewed and evaluated comments received from the public.

2. The amendments are consistent with RCW Title 46 and RCW 36.32.120(7).

3. The amendments are an appropriate exercise of the County's police powers, as the amendments implement rules of general applicability for the use of specific County rights-of-way for parking.

4. The amendments are necessary as an exercise of the Board of County Commissioners' legislative police power.

5. The amendments are necessary to prevent public nuisances.

6. The amendments are necessary to modify parking violations from misdemeanors to civil infractions.

7. The monetary penalties imposed by the civil infractions are not excessive, nor are they intended to raise funding for the County.

8. The amendments are necessary to implement rules and procedures for vehicle impoundments.

Section III. Amendments to Walla Walla County Code, amending Chapter 10.08, amending Chapter 10.12 and adding a new Chapter 10.32. The amendments to Walla Walla County Code are **adopted** as presented to the Board of County Commissioners on this date as attached in Exhibit A.

Section IV. Index. The index to any chapter of the Walla Walla County Code in which sections are added or removed or in which section titles are changed herein shall also be amended to reflect the section amendments.

Section V. Effective Date. This Ordinance is effective as of the date of signing. To the extent any vehicles are in violation of this code, no impounds shall occur until August 1, 2025.

Section VI. Severability. If any section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance is declared unconstitutional or invalid for any reason, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining parts of this Ordinance.

Section VII. Publication. This Ordinance will be published by the Clerk of the Board by an approved summary consisting of the title.

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PASSED by the Walla Walla County Board of County Commissioners in regular session at Walla Walla, Washington, then signed by its membership and attested by its Clerk in authorization of such passage this 28th day of July, 2025.

Attest:

Diane L Harris, Clerk of the Board

Gunner Fulmer Chairman, District 3

Todd L. Kimball, Commissioner, District 2

Bertha J. Clayton, Commissioner, District 1

Constituting the Board of County Commissioners of Walla Walla County, Washington

Approved as to form:

Jesse D. Nolte, Chief Civil Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

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Exhibit A

Section 1. Changes to Walla Walla County Code Chapter 10.08.

CHAPTER 10.08 PARKING ON COUNTY ROADWAYS OR ROAD RIGHT OF WAYS ~~GENERALLY~~

10.08.010 Statutory authority.

In order to make this chapter, relating to the control of parking of motor vehicles on certain county roads and road rights-of-way where properly posted for controlled "No Parking," uniform with the provisions of the Washington Motor Vehicle Laws, Laws of Washington, as amended, or as hereinafter may be amended, they are by reference made a part of this chapter. (Ord. 86 § 1, 1971)

10.08.020 ~~Prohibited acts.~~ Authorities and Duties of County Engineer

~~It is unlawful for the operator of any vehicle to operate the same by parking it in areas posted with official signs prohibiting stopping or parking as listed below:~~

A. ~~1.~~ The county engineer is authorized to designate and determine where to erect signs indicating "No Parking" upon ~~that~~ the side of any road adjacent to any school property when such parking would, in the engineer's ~~his~~ opinion, interfere with traffic or create a hazardous situation.

~~2. When official signs are erected indicating "No Parking" upon that the side of a street adjacent to any school property, no person shall park a vehicle in any such designated place.~~

B. ~~1.~~ The county engineer is authorized to determine and designate by proper signs, placed along any Walla Walla County road in which stopping, standing or parking of vehicles would, in the engineer's opinion, create an especially hazardous condition or would cause unusual delay to traffic.

~~2. When official signs are erected at hazardous or congested places as authorized in this chapter, no person shall stop, stand or park a vehicle in such designated places.~~

~~C. The provisions or signs imposing a time limit on parking shall not relieve any person from the duty to observe other and more restrictive provisions prohibiting or limiting the stopping, standing or parking of vehicles in specified places or at specific times.~~

~~D~~C. Whenever the ordinance codified in this chapter or any other ordinance of Walla Walla County concerning parking or no parking is imposed or parking is prohibited, it shall be the duty of the county engineer to erect appropriate signs and no such regulations shall be effective unless signs are erected and in place at the time of any alleged offense. (Ord. 86 § 3, 1971)

10.08.022 Parking in specific roadways or right of ways.

A. The following roadways and road right of ways are restricted as follows:

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1.	Rooks Park Road and Rooks Park Road right-of-way	No parking anytime, except for within the designated parking area 225 feet north of the entrance to Rooks Park on west side of road. In designated parking section: No parking is allowed between 9 p.m. and 7 a.m.
2.	S. 4th Avenue between Cushing Street and Tietan Street	West side of road: No parking anytime.
3	Reservoir Road on right of way abutting Mill Creek Flood Control Zone District property	North side of road: Two-hour limit. No parking is allowed between 9 p.m. and 7 a.m.

10.08.030 Violation-Penalty.

A. ~~Any person violating any terms of the laws referred to in Section 10.08.010 within the bounds to be hereafter mentioned shall be guilty of a violation of this chapter.~~

Any violation of any terms of this chapter or signage erected under the authority of this chapter shall constitute a civil infraction, to be issued by the Walla Walla County Sheriff or Sheriff's deputies, punishable as follows:

First Offense:$20.00

Second Offense:$50.00

B. ~~Any person who violates or fails to comply with any of the provisions of this chapter or who counsels, aids or abets any such violation or fails to comply shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor.~~ (Ord. 86 §§ 2, 4, 1971)

In addition to the civil penalties outlined above, vehicles parked in violation of this chapter may be removed and impounded by a law enforcement officer in accordance with RCW 46.55.085. Impoundments shall be further governed by Chapter 10.32 of this title.

Section 2. Changes to Walla Walla County Code Chapter 10.12.030

10.12.030 Violations, removal or impoundment of vehicles parking in violation of Sections 10.12.010 and 10.12.020.

A. Any violation of any terms of this chapter or signage erected by the County shall constitute a civil infraction, issued by the Walla Walla County Sheriff or Sheriff's deputies, punishable as follows:

First Offense:$20.00

Second Offense:$50.00

B. In addition to the civil penalties outlined above, vehicles parked in violation of this chapter, or in violation of signage or parked in areas designated for the travel of vehicles or blocking other vehicles in parking lots referred to in Sections 10.12.010 and 10.12.020, may be removed and impounded, by a law enforcement officer, at the expense of the owner of the vehicle impounded in accordance with RCW 46.55.070 and RCW

46.55.080, with notice given in accordance with RCW 46.55.110 as it exists or is hereafter amended. Impoundments shall be further governed by Chapter 10.32 of this title.

(Ord. 147 § 2, 1979; Ord. No. 501, § III(Exh. A), 1-13-2025)

Section 3. New Walla Walla County Code Chapter 10.32.

10.32.010 Procedures for towing and impounds

A. The following sections of the Revised Code of Washington (RCW) pertaining to towing of abandoned, unauthorized, and junk vehicles and vehicle tow truck operators as now or hereafter amended are hereby adopted by reference as a part of this chapter in all respects as though such sections were set forth herein in full: RCWs 46.55.010, 46.55.020, 46.55.025, 46.55.035, 46.55.037, 46.55.040, 46.55.050, 46.55.060, 46.55.063, 46.55.070, 46.55.075, 46.55.080, 46.55.085, 46.55.090, 46.55.100, 46.55.105, 46.55.110, 46.55.113, 46.55.120, 46.55.130, 46.55.140, 46.55.150, 46.55.160, 46.55.170, 46.55.230, and 46.55.240.

B. Hearings pursuant to RCW 46.55.120 shall be heard by the Walla Walla County District Court. The District Court is authorized to waive court filing fees required by RCW 46.55.120 pursuant to GR 34.

C. The District Court may review the appropriateness of towing fees and charges in accordance with *City of Seattle vs. Long*, 198 Wn 2d. 136 (2021).

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