

# City of Poulsbo

Office of Mayor Rebecca Erickson



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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City of Poulsbo, Mayor's Office  
200 NE Moe Street, Poulsbo, WA 98370  
360.394.9880  
[www.cityofpoulsbo.com](http://www.cityofpoulsbo.com)

## Message from Mayor Erickson Regarding the Commercial Code Ordinance Update

City officials have been busy this year studying and considering changes to Poulsbo's zoning ordinance rules that affect commercially zoned properties. The 2018 Commercial Code Ordinance update was released in March 2018 and was reviewed by the Poulsbo Planning Commission, the City's land use advisory committee, in a series of five workshops March through April 2018. The Poulsbo City Council began their review in May, and have held three workshops on the changes, with a public hearing on June 20, 2018. The Council is currently in deliberations.

Some of changes recommended by the Planning Commission are:

- Lowering the existing allowable building height from 45' to 35' in the C-1 downtown zoning district and decreasing the lot coverage standard for larger lots from 100% to 85%.
- Enhanced building design standards in the C-1 downtown zoning district to ensure continuation of the Scandinavian heritage and small village character.
- A new overlay to preserve the historical development pattern along Front Street.
- Additional building design, landscaping and screening standards for the other commercial districts outside of the downtown.
- Residential units through mixed use development, in the downtown and other commercial areas, to increase housing options.

The City Council will continue their deliberations at their July 11, 2018 meeting, and are considering the appropriate height for downtown and how to incorporate residential units into the downtown in a way that retains its unique character and heritage. These are meaningful and important considerations as the City continues to strike a balance of folding more people into Poulsbo in a way that builds upon the identity of the city.

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