

CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA

ORDINANCE #25-08

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA REPEALING CHAPTER 10.20 OF THE VALDEZ MUNICIPAL CODE TITLED RECREATIONAL VEHICLE PARKS AND TENT CAMPGROUNDS AND ENACTING CHAPTER 12.14 OF THE VALDEZ MUNICIPAL CODE ENTITLED RECREATIONAL VEHICLES AND TENT CAMPING

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the city to set reasonable standards for recreational vehicles and tent camping within the city; and

WHEREAS, in discussion on the previously considered Ordinance 25-04, which was postponed indefinitely, the City Council indicated a desire that the city not compete with private enterprise, ensure flexibility in use of private land, and allow reasonable opportunities for tent camping; and

WHEREAS, this ordinance brings alignment with Title 17, which includes detailed standards for RV Parks and Campgrounds, as well as other applicable provisions of the Valdez Municipal Code; and

WHEREAS, the provisions of this chapter are better suited to Title 12 of the Valdez Municipal Code entitled Streets, Sidewalks and Public Places, rather than Title 10 of the Valdez Municipal Code entitled Vehicles and Traffic.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA that:

Section 1: Chapter 10.20 of the Valdez Municipal Code is hereby repealed.

Section 2: Chapter 12.14 of the Valdez Municipal Code is hereby enacted as follows:

**Chapter 12.14**

**RECREATIONAL VEHICLE AND TENT CAMPING**

Sections:

12.14.010	Purpose.
12.14.020	Definitions.
12.14.030	Use and parking of recreational vehicles outside of a recreational vehicle park

- 12.14.040 Tent camping prohibited - Exceptions.  
12.14.050 Other requirements for tent camping in public areas.

**12.14.010 Purpose.**

The purpose of this chapter is to set reasonable standards for recreational vehicle and tent camping within the city in locations other than established recreational vehicle parks and campgrounds permitted under Title 17 of this code. It is the intent of the city to assure that the public health, safety and welfare of the community is preserved and protected while not creating burdensome and unduly restrictive regulations that would deter recreational vehicle travelers and tent campers from visiting Valdez.

Camping not in conformance with this chapter may be permitted under section 17.12.120 of this code entitled Temporary Land Use Permits.

**12.14.020 Definitions.**

As used in this chapter:

“Recreational vehicle” means a vehicular-type unit primarily designed as temporary living quarters for recreational, camping, travel use, or other temporary occupancy use, which either has its own motive power, or is mounted on or drawn by another vehicle. Examples include travel trailer, camping trailer, truck camper, motor home, and other similar vehicles.

“Recreational vehicle park or campground” means a lot or portion of a lot where two or more recreational vehicles or tents are parked, camped, leased or rented for temporary occupancy for recreation or vacation purposes. A recreational vehicle park or campground may be improved or unimproved providing remote, rural or nonrural settings that may or may not include improvements and amenities such as water, showers, electricity, a dump station, cable television, internet service or similar services.

“Temporary occupancy” means a period of 180 days or less.

“Tent” means a portable, collapsible, enclosed shelter made of canvas or nylon, or comparable material, stretched and sustained by poles, which has been specifically designed and manufactured for temporary use for camping.

“Tent Camper” means a person or party or persons camping in a tent or in the open.

**12.14.030 Use and parking of recreational vehicles outside of a recreational vehicle park.**

A. No recreational vehicle may be parked and occupied on city streets or in areas where such prohibition is posted or otherwise prohibited by the code.

B. No recreational vehicles may be parked and occupied in city parking lots or other city controlled property as posted.

C. Recreational vehicles may be parked for temporary occupancy on a lot in residential zoning districts R1, R2, RR, and NMU. Such occupancy must be with the owner's permission and in compliance with applicable laws.

D. One recreational vehicle may be parked for temporary occupancy with water and sewer hookups on a lot in commercial zoning districts CB and G. Such occupancy must be with the owner's permission and in compliance with applicable laws.

E. Up to three recreational vehicles may be parked for overnight camping on property belonging to a local private club or lodge provided the following conditions are met:

1. Sufficient off-street parking remains for patrons of the establishment.
2. The recreational vehicles are fully self-contained.
3. The private club or lodge has granted permission for overnight parking; and
4. The owners of the recreational vehicles must be out-of-town members of the local private club or lodge.

#### **12.14.040 Tent camping prohibited—Exceptions.**

No tent campers shall camp in the city, except tent campers who:

- A. Camp in an established recreational vehicle park or campground; or
- B. Camp not less than one-quarter mile from any roadway, or not less than one hundred yards from any public trail, unless posted "No Camping" or "No Trespassing"; or
- C. Camp on private property with the permission of the owner.

#### **12.14.050 Other requirements for tent camping in public areas.**

Tent campers shall maintain and keep the tent area:

- A. In a clean, orderly and sanitary condition at all times; and
- B. Free of any hazard or condition which could affect the health and safety of the occupants or the general public; and
- C. Free of refuse while camping and all refuse must be disposed of before leaving the camping area; and

D. Free of conditions which could tend to attract, harbor or breed insects, pests or wildlife.

Section 3: This ordinance shall take effect immediately following adoption by the Valdez City Council.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.

CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dennis Fleming, Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sheri L. Pierce, MMC, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jake Stasser, City Attorney  
Brena, Bell, & Walker, P.C.

First Reading:  
Second Reading:  
Ayes:  
Noes:  
Absent:  
Abstain: