By: Planning

Introduced: 04/27/09

Public Hearing: 05/11/09

Failed: 05/11/09

# CITY OF WASILLA ORDINANCE SERIAL NO. 09-12

AN ORDINANCE OF THE WASILLA CITY COUNCIL AMENDING WMC 16.24.010 REGARDING DENSITY AND DIMENSIONAL REQUIREMENTS: AMENDING WMC 16.24.020 REGARDING MAXIMUM RESIDENTIAL DENSITY AND MINIMUM LOT AREA; AND ENACTING WMC 16.24.025 TO PERMIT DEVIATIONS FROM THE DENSITY AND DIMENSIONAL REQUIREMENTS WHERE RESIDENTIAL SPACE CREATED UNDER **APPROVED** ADDITIONAL **OPEN** IS AN CONSERVATION SUBDIVISION DESIGN, AND ESTABLISHING THE PROCEDURE FOR APPROVAL OF A CONSERVATION SUBDIVISION

WHEREAS, the City of Wasilla ("City") strongly supports development within its boundaries that conserves the City's natural resources, promotes outdoor recreation, and improves the community's appearance; and

**WHEREAS**, the creation of conservation subdivisions permits subdividers to create private and public open space that promotes the goals of the City comprehensive plan and of the City Council; and

WHEREAS, it is in the city's best interest to amend provisions of WMC Chapter 16.24 to permit and encourage subdividers to create conservation subdivisions and to clarify various definitions and explanations regarding residential density and dimensional requirements under the City's land development code.

**Section 1.** Classification. This ordinance is of a general and permanent nature and shall become part of the city code.

**Section 2. Amendment of section.** WMC 16.24.010, Density and dimensional requirements, is amended to read as follows:

**Bold and underline added.** [CAPS AND BRACKETS, DELETED.]

16.24.010 Density and Dimensional Requirements.

- A. This chapter states [THE FOLLOWING ARE THE] requirements governing density of residential development, building height, building setback requirements, [FOR BUILDINGS FROM LOT LINES] and parking.
- B. Where [IN CALCULATING] the number of dwelling units that is permitted [ALLOWED] on a lot or the number of parking, loading or storage spaces that is required under the provisions of this chapter is not a whole number, the number shall be expressed in decimal form, truncated at two digits to the right of the decimal point, and rounded:
- 1. To the next larger whole number where the digits to the right of the decimal are .50 or greater.
- 2. To the next smaller whole number where the digits to the right of the decimal are less than .50. [THE PLANNER SHALL ROUND FRACTIONAL UNITS ABOVE TWO UP TO THE NEXT WHOLE NUMBER IF THAT FRACTION EQUALS OR EXCEEDS. (EXAMPLE: FOUR UNITS ARE REQUIRED IF THE DENSITY CALCULATION YIELDED 3.48 UNITS, ONLY THREE UNITS WOULD BE ALLOWED)].
- **Section 3.** Amendment of section. WMC 16.24.020, Density, is amended to read as follows:

16.24.020 <u>Maximum residential</u> density; <u>Minimum lot area</u>.

A. In addition to any limitation on the number of dwelling units on a lot under WMC 16.20.020, the maximum number of dwelling units per lot, and the minimum area of a lot, permitted in the RR, R1, R2, RM and C zoning districts shall be as stated in the following table:

	DISTRICTS			
	RR	<u>R1</u>	<u>R2</u>	RM, C
Maximum number of dwelling units per lot [RESIDENT IAL DENSITY]	One single family dwelling per 20,000 square feet of lot area, or one duplex per 20,000 square feet of lot area on a lot served by city water [1/20,000, OR DUPLEX/20, 000 WITH CITY WATER]	One single family dwelling per lot [1/LOT]	One single family dwelling or one duplex per 10,000 square feet of lot area [1/10,000]	No Limit
Minimum lot area	20,000 square feet	10,000 square feet	10,000 square feet	10,000 square feet

- B. Subsection A of this section does not apply to a conservation subdivision approved under WMC 16.24.025.
  - C. Where state law or the borough code requires that the

Bold and underline added. [CAPS AND BRACKETS, DELETED.]

residential density of a lot be less than the maximum residential density permitted under subsection A of this section, or that the minimum area of lot be greater than the minimum permitted under subsection A of this section, the requirement of state law or the borough code shall govern.

**Section 4.** Adoption of section. WMC, 16.24.025, Conservation Subdivision Design, is adopted to read as follows:

#### 16.24.025 Conservation Subdivision Design.

A. Authorization. A subdivision conforming to the requirements of this section may be approved as a conservation subdivision. All lots in a conservation subdivision shall be used only for residential uses, open space, or supporting utility facilities. In a conservation subdivision, a lot may have an area less than the minimum required under WMC 16.20.020.A only when an area equal to the difference between that required minimum and the area of the lot becomes a part of an open space area within the subdivision, and the lot meets the requirements in subsection B. For purposes of this chapter, "Open Space" is a lot in a subdivision that complies with the requirements for open space in this section, has been set aside by the subdivider for common use and enjoyment, and has been approved by the city planner through the procedures in Chapter 16.30.

B. Maximum residential density; Maximum number of lots;

Minimum lot area. The maximum number of dwelling units, and the

maximum number or residentially developed lots, permitted in a

conservation subdivision shall be as stated in the following table:

	DISTRICTS			
	RR	<u>R1</u>	<u>R2</u>	<u>RM, C</u>
Maximum number of dwelling units	One single family dwelling per 20,000 square feet of gross area of the subdivision, or one duplex per 20,000 square feet of gross area of the subdivision in a subdivision served by city water	One single family dwelling per lot	One single family dwelling or one duplex per lot	No limit
Maximum number of residential ly developed lots	One lot per 20,000 square feet of gross area of the subdivision	One lot per 10,000 square feet of gross area of the subdivision	One lot per 10,000 square feet of gross area of the subdivision	One lot per 10,000 square feet of gross area of the subdivision

For the purposes of this subsection, "gross area" of a subdivision means the entire area within the exterior boundaries of the subdivision. The maximum number of lots permitted in a conservation subdivision is determined without taking into account lots that either have been set aside for open space under this section, or on which habitable structures are not allowed and whose sole purpose is to contain utilities. Where state law or the borough code requires that residential density be less than the maximum residential density permitted under this subsection or that the minimum area of a lot be greater than the minimum permitted under this subsection, the requirement of state law or the borough code shall govern.

- C. Purpose. The purpose of a conservation subdivision is to preserve the environment and promote public recreation values on private land by establishing standards that allow greater flexibility in subdivision design, allowing smaller lot sizes in exchange for dedicating portions of the subdivision to protect water quality and wetlands and to provide for trails, gardens, parks, and other uses that promote conservation of the environment and outdoor recreation while not increasing the overall number of housing units.
- D. Conservation Design. The city strongly supports the use of conservation design in the creation of subdivisions. A conservation design subdivision complies with the purpose and

intent of the Wasilla comprehensive development plan as such a design encourages the most appropriate use of space, providing adequate open space for light and air, improving the city's appearance, providing for orderly growth in the city, facilitating adequate provisions for community utilities and facilities such as water, sewage and electrical distribution systems, and promoting the health, safety, and general welfare of the public. Conservation subdivisions provide subdividers alternative ways to preserve nature and encourage community development.

E. Delineation of Open Space. A conservation subdivision design and any open space must be delineated and identified on the plat and shall be subject to subdivision approval under Chapter 16.30. Examples of acceptable uses of open space include neighborhood parks and playground areas; picnic areas; gardens and grass fields; nature trails for summer and/or winter activities; ponds or lakes; wetlands or forest areas.

#### F. Preservation of Open Space.

1. Open space shall be set aside by the subdivider through a conveyance to a homeowners' association, the residential lot owners as tenants in common, or a nonprofit or municipal corporation where such nonprofit or municipal corporation agrees in writing to accept the conveyance.

- The subdivider shall convey the open space by a deed approved by the city planner and recorded at the time of recording of the final plat for the conservation subdivision. Where the property is deeded to an entity, that entity shall have provisions in its organizational document for the transfer of the property to another qualified entity in the event that the entity owning the property ceases to exist. The deed conveying the open space shall require the preservation of natural vegetation and other natural features and prohibit structures in the open space except as shown on a site plan that is approved by the city planner. After preliminary plat approval, any change to the site plan shall be subject to approval by the city planner in the same manner as changes to the preliminary plat. After recording of the final plat for the subdivision, the approved site plan may be changed only with the approval of the city planner and the owner or owners of the open space property.
- 3. The deed conveying the open space shall state the permitted use(s) of the open space, and provide standards for scheduled maintenance of the open space.
- G. Minimum Open Space Dimensions. The smallest dimension of each lot that is to be open space under this section shall not be less than 100 feet. Exceptions to this 100 foot minimum may be permitted for linear features such as stream and trail corridors which extend over the length of the property or where there

are unusual topographical constraints or irregularly shaped property boundaries which the subdivider could not reasonably be expected to change. The minimum area of any single open space lot is one acre unless the area of the lot plus that of all contiguous open space is at least one acre.

### H. General Open Space Guidelines.

- 1. No portion of the land dedicated as open space may be located within the boundaries of a road right-of-way.
- 2. Community wells and community septic systems
  shall only be permitted on open space dedicated to the subdivision
  lot owners. Protective well radii may be allowed in open space.
- 3. No structure shall be permitted on a lot dedicated to open space unless it does not conflict with the use of the lot as open space and the structure is included in the approved site plan for the open space. Only structure(s) or building(s) that do not conflict with the intent of this section shall be permitted within the open space and each such structure or building must be approved by the city planner.
- 4. The city planner may require open space within a conservation subdivision to adjoin with open space within the same or another conservation subdivision(s) or with any other land restricted from development.

Maintenance of Open Space. The owner(s) of open space shall be responsible for the maintenance and management of such space. The maintenance and management requirements for a specific conservation subdivision shall be included in the approved site plan for that open space. Open space that is conveyed to a nonprofit corporation shall be maintained by the nonprofit corporation. Open space that is conveyed to a municipal corporation shall be maintained by the municipal corporation. Open space that is conveyed to a homeowners' association shall be maintained by the homeowners' association. Open space that is conveyed to lot owners as tenants in common shall be maintained by a homeowners' association or nonprofit corporation formed by the subdivider for that purpose. The entity responsible for maintaining open space shall have a perpetual existence, have provisions in its organizational document for transfer of the maintenance responsibility to another qualified entity in the event that the entity becomes unwilling or unable to continue maintaining the open space, and shall enter into an agreement to manage and maintain the open space that is approved by the city planner and is enforceable by the city and by lot owners in the subdivision.

J. Approval Process. The site plan and the preliminary and final plats for a conservation subdivision shall be subject to review and approval by the city under Chapter 16.30.

**Section 5. Effective date.** This ordinance shall take effect upon adoption by the Wasilla City Council.

DEFEATED by the Wasilla City Council on May 11, 2009.

<u>Vote</u>

Yes: Hall, Holler and Woodruff

No: Cox and Harris



## CITY OF WASILLA LEGISLATION STAFF REPORT

ORDINANCE 09-12, AN ORDINANCE OF THE WASILLA CITY COUNCIL WMC 16.24.010 **REGARDING** DENSITY AND DIMENSIONAL AMENDING **REQUIREMENTS: AMENDING WMC** 16.24.020 REGARDING **MAXIMUM** RESIDENTIAL DENSITY AND MINIMUM LOT AREA; AND ENACTING WMC 16.24.025 TO PERMIT DEVIATIONS FROM THE RESIDENTIAL DENSITY AND DIMENSIONAL REQUIREMENTS WHERE ADDITIONAL OPEN SPACE IS CREATED APPROVED CONSERVATION SUBDIVISION DESIGN. ESTABLISHING THE PROCEDURE FOR APPROVAL OF A CONSERVATION SUBDIVISION.

Agenda of: May 11, 2009 Date: April 22, 2009

Originator: Office of Community & Economic Development - Planning

Route to:	Department	Signature/Date
	Police Chief	
	Youth Court, Dispatch, Code Compliance	
	Culture and Recreation Services Director	
	Library, Museum, Sports Complex	<i>f</i>
X	Public Works & Recreation Facility	A/22/09
	Maintenance Director	
~	Finance, Risk Management & MIS Director	00001 / 4/10/0
^	Purchasing	1 Am Kassy Wy
X	Deputy Administrator	
	Planning, Economic Development,	
	Human Resources	Mankygol
X	City Clerk	from He
L	<u> </u>	1 2 7 7 3

REVIEWED BY MAYOR VERNE E. RUPRIGHT:

FISCAL IMPACT: ☐ yes or ☒ no Funds Available ☐ yes ☐ no

Account name/number:

Attachments: Proposed Ordinance No. 09-12 (8pp)

WPC Resolution No. 09-01 (9pp)

### **SUMMARY STATEMENT:**

The City Planning Commission, at their meeting of January 13, 2009 adopted Resolution Serial No. 09-01 which recommends changes to density and dimensional requirements for subdivisions within the City; and that the City Council adopt the proposed amendments to allow conservation subdivision design. The City Attorney made a minor change to clarify the concept of density.

#### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

The Wasilla Planning Commission has recommended in Resolution Serial No. 09-01 that the City Council adopt the amendments to WMC to allow amendments to density and dimensional standards and to allow conservation subdivision design as stated in Ordinance Serial No. 09-12.

By: Planning

Introduced: 11/25/08 Public Hearing: 01/13/09

Adopted: 01/13/09

# WASILLA PLANNING COMMISSION RESOLUTION SERIAL NO. 09-01

A RESOLUTION OF THE WASILLA PLANNING COMMISSION APPROVING A REQUEST TO FORWARD A RECOMMENDATION OF APPROVAL TO CITY COUNCIL REGARDING ADOPTION OF AMENDMENTS TO WMC 16.24.010 REGARDING DENSITY AND DIMENSIONAL REQUIREMENTS: AMENDING WMC 16.24.020 REGARDING MAXIMUM RESIDENTIAL DENSITY AND MINIMUM LOT AREA: AND ENACTING WMC 16.24.025 TO PERMIT DEVIATIONS FROM THE DENSITY AND DIMENSIONAL REQUIREMENTS RESIDENTIAL WHERE SPACE UNDER OPEN IS CREATED APPROVED ADDITIONAL AN CONSERVATION SUBDIVISION DESIGN, AND ESTABLISHING THE PROCEDURE FOR APPROVAL OF A CONSERVATION SUBDIVISION.

WHEREAS, the City of Wasilla ("City") strongly supports development within its boundaries that conserves the City's natural resources, promotes outdoor recreation, and improves the community's appearance; and

WHEREAS, the Wasilla Planning Commission formed a special subdivision rewrite committee in November of 2006 made up of two surveyors, an engineer, a realtor, a homebuilder, and a concerned citizen who were asked to meet regularly and discuss needed code amendments and new code for adoption by the City; and

WHEREAS, the subdivision rewrite committee met regularly twice per month until a draft subdivision code, including a section on conservation subdivision design, was drafted; and

WHEREAS, the creation of the conservation subdivision code gives a nonrequired option to subdividers that can result in the creation of private and public open space that promotes the goals of the City Comprehensive Plan and of the City Council; while benefiting the developer and future lot owners by providing an open space amenity; and

WHEREAS, the Wasilla Planning Office mailed notices for the initial request to property owners within 1,200 radial feet of the proposed development; and

WHEREAS, the public hearing date and time was publicly advertised; and

WHEREAS, on January 13, 2009, the Wasilla Planning Commission held a public hearing on this request; and

WHEREAS, the Wasilla Planning Commission deliberated on this request taking into account the information and recommendations of the staff, public testimony - both written and verbal comments, the applicable provisions of the City Comprehensive Plan, and other pertinent information brought before them; and

WHEREAS, on January 13, 2009, after due consideration, the Wasilla Planning Commission determined that the proposed code amendments and enactment of new code is consistent with the goals and policies of the City Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS, WMC 16.24.010, Density and dimensional requirements, is hereby amended to read as follows:

16.24.010 Density and Dimensional Requirements.

A. This chapter states [THE FOLLOWING ARE THE] requirements governing density of residential development, building height, building setback requirements, [FOR BUILDINGS FROM LOT LINES] and parking.

B. Where [IN CALCULATING] the number of dwelling units that is permitted [ALLOWED] on a lot or the number of parking, loading or storage spaces that is required under the provisions of this chapter is not a whole number, the number

shall be expressed in decimal form, truncated at two digits to the right of the decimal point, and rounded:

- 1. To the next larger whole number where the digits to the right of the decimal are .50 or greater.
- 2. To the next smaller whole number where the digits to the right of the decimal are less than .50.

For example, in calculating the maximum residential density of a lot with an area of 13,478 square feet where a maximum of one dwelling unit is permitted for every 10,000 square feet of lot area, the resulting fraction of 1.3478 would be truncated to 1.34, and rounded to 1.0 permitted dwelling units [THE PLANNER SHALL ROUND FRACTIONAL UNITS ABOVE TWO UP TO THE NEXT WHOLE NUMBER IF THAT FRACTION EQUALS OR EXCEEDS. (EXAMPLE: FOUR UNITS ARE REQUIRED IF THE DENSITY CALCULATION YIELDS 3.50 UNITS. IF THE DENSITY CALCULATION YIELDED 3.48 UNITS, ONLY THREE UNITS WOULD BE ALLOWED)].; and WHEREAS, WMC 16.24.020, Density, is hereby amended to read as follows: 16.24.020 Maximum residential density; Minimum lot area.

A. In addition to any limitation on the number of dwelling units on a lot under WMC 16.20.020, the maximum number of dwelling units per square foot of lot area, and the minimum area of a lot, permitted in the RR, R1, R2, RM and C zoning districts shall be as stated in the following table:

	<u>DISTRICTS</u>			
	RR	<u>R1</u>	<u>R2</u>	RM, C
Maximum residential density	1/20,000, or duplex/20,000 with City water	1/Lot	1/10,000	No Limit
Minimum lot area	20,000 square feet	10,000 square feet	10,000 square feet	10,000 square feet

- B. Subsection A of this section does not apply to a conservation subdivision approved under WMC 16.24.025.
- C. Where state law or the borough code requires that the residential density of a lot be less than the maximum residential density permitted under subsection A of this section, or that the minimum area of lot be greater than the minimum permitted under subsection A of this section, the requirement of state law or the borough code shall govern; and

WHEREAS, WMC, 16.24.025, Conservation Subdivision Design, is hereby adopted to read as follows:

## 16.24.025 Conservation Subdivision Design.

A. Authorization. A subdivision conforming to the requirements of this section may be approved as a conservation subdivision. All lots in a conservation subdivision shall be used only for residential uses, open space, or supporting utility facilities. In a conservation subdivision, a lot may be smaller than permitted under WMC 16.20.020. A only when the square footage by which the lot is being reduced becomes a part of an open space area within the subdivision and the lots within that subdivision meet the area requirements in subsection B. For purposes of this chapter, "Open Space" is a lot in a

subdivision that complies with the requirements for open space in this section, has been set aside by the subdivider for common use and enjoyment, and has been approved by the City Planner through the procedures in Chapter 16.30.

B. Maximum Number of Lots. The maximum number of lots per square foot of the gross area of a conservation subdivision shall be as stated in the table and shall not violate state law or borough code:

Maximum number of lots per square foot of gross area			
<u>DISTRICTS</u>			
RR	<u>R1</u>	<u>R2</u>	RM/C
1/20,000	1/10,000	1/10,000	<u>1/10,000</u>

For the purposes of this subsection, "gross area" of a subdivision means the entire area within the exterior boundaries of the subdivision. The maximum number of lots permitted in a conservation subdivision is determined without taking into account lots that either have been set aside for open space under this section, or on which habitable structures are not allowed and whose sole purpose is to contain utilities.

- C. Purpose. The purpose of a conservation subdivision is to preserve the environment and promote public recreation values on private land by establishing standards that allow greater flexibility in subdivision design, allowing smaller lot sizes in exchange for dedicating portions of the subdivision to protect water quality and wetlands and to provide for trails, gardens, parks, and other uses that promote conservation of the environment and outdoor recreation while not increasing the overall number of housing units.
  - D. Conservation Design. The City strongly supports the use of

subdivision complies with the purpose and intent of the Wasilla comprehensive development plan as such a design encourages the most appropriate use of space, providing adequate open space for light and air, improving the City's appearance, providing for orderly growth in the City, facilitating adequate provisions for community utilities and facilities such as water, sewage and electrical distribution systems, and promoting the health, safety, and general welfare of the public. Conservation subdivisions provide subdividers alternative ways to preserve nature and encourage community development.

E. Delineation of Open Space. A conservation subdivision design and any open space must be delineated and identified on the plat and shall be subject to subdivision approval under Chapter 16.30. Examples of acceptable uses of open space include neighborhood parks and playground areas; picnic areas; gardens and grass fields; nature trails for summer and/or winter activities; ponds or lakes; wetlands or forest areas.

## F. Preservation of Open Space.

- 1. Open space shall be set aside by the subdivider through a conveyance to a homeowners' association, the residential lot owners as tenants in common, or a nonprofit or municipal corporation where such nonprofit or municipal corporation agrees in writing to accept the conveyance.
- 2. The subdivider shall convey the open space by a deed approved by the City Planner and recorded at the time of recording of the final plat for the conservation subdivision. Where the property is deeded to an entity,

that entity shall have provisions in its organizational document for the transfer of the property to another qualified entity in the event that the entity owning the property ceases to exist. The deed conveying the open space shall require the preservation of natural vegetation and other natural features and prohibit structures in the open space except as shown on a site plan that is approved by the City Planner. After preliminary plat approval, any change to the site plan shall be subject to approval by the City Planner in the same manner as changes to the preliminary plat. After recording of the final plat for the subdivision, the approved site plan may be changed only with the approval of the City Planner and the owner or owners of the open space property.

- 3. The deed conveying the open space shall state the permitted use(s) of the open space, and provide standards for scheduled maintenance of the open space.
- G. Minimum Open Space Dimensions. The smallest dimension of each lot that is to be open space under this section shall not be less than one hundred (100) feet. Exceptions to this one hundred (100) foot minimum may be permitted for linear features such as stream and trail corridors which extend over the length of the property or where there are unusual topographical constraints or irregularly shaped property boundaries which the subdivider could not reasonably be expected to change. The minimum area of any single open space lot is one acre unless the area of the lot plus that of all contiguous open space is at least one acre.
  - H. General Open Space Guidelines.

- 1. No portion of the land dedicated as open space may be located within the boundaries of a road right-of-way.
- 2. Community wells and community septic systems shall only be permitted on open space dedicated to the subdivision lot owners. Protective well radii may be allowed in open space.
- 3. No structure shall be permitted on a lot dedicated to open space unless it does not conflict with the use of the lot as open space and the structure is included in the approved site plan for the open space. Only structure(s) or building(s) that do not conflict with the intent of this section shall be permitted within the open space and each such structure or building must be approved by the City Planner.
- 4. The City Planner may require open space within a conservation subdivision to adjoin with open space within the same or another conservation subdivision(s) or with any other land restricted from development.
- I. Maintenance of Open Space. The owner(s) of open space shall be responsible for the maintenance and management of such space. The maintenance and management requirements for a specific conservation subdivision shall be included in the approved site plan for that open space. Open space that is conveyed to a nonprofit corporation shall be maintained by the nonprofit corporation. Open space that is conveyed to a municipal corporation shall be maintained by the municipal corporation. Open space that is conveyed to a homeowners' association shall be maintained by the homeowners' association. Open space that is conveyed to lot owners as tenants in common

shall be maintained by a homeowners' association or nonprofit corporation

formed by the subdivider for that purpose. The entity responsible for maintaining

open space shall have a perpetual existence, have provisions in its organizational

document for transfer of the maintenance responsibility to another qualified

entity in the event that the entity becomes unwilling or unable to continue

maintaining the open space, and shall enter into an agreement to manage and

maintain the open space that is approved by the City Planner and is enforceable

by the city and by lot owners in the subdivision.

J. Approval Process. The site plan and the preliminary and final plats

for a conservation subdivision shall be subject to review and approval by the City

under Chapter 16.30.; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wasilla Planning Commission

approves of these code amendments and enactment of the proposed new code and

hereby forwards their support for adoption of this code to the Wasilla City Council.

ADOPTED by the Wasilla Planning Commission on January 13, 2009.

APPROVED:

Stan Tucker, Chairman

ATTEST:

Jim Holycross, City Planner

VOTE:

YES: Wall, Laub-Elkins, Tucker, Webb

NO: Kelly, Buswell