



City Waves

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City Hall (269) 637-0700

December 2018

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Short-Term Rental Amendments Adopted

The City Council recently adopted new regulations that require short-term rental (STR) owners immediate attention. If you are the owner of a short-term rental unit, you need to select whether to designate the unit as a “personal STR” or a “business STR” under the new regulatory scheme. This designation needs to be received by the City’s zoning department no later than December 17, 2018.

The designation of a currently registered STR unit is each property owner’s choice. The owner may designate a unit as a business STR even if they live there. The chosen designation will be “grandfathered” for zoning purposes, and the owner will be able to transfer the designation when the property is sold, so long as the owner continues to renew the registration and pay the applicable fees each year.

A complete copy of the ordinance is available in the Document Center on the city’s website at www.south-haven.com. In brief summary, the regulations for the two classes of STRs are as follows:

Personal STRs

1. Can be rented up to 6 terms per year for a total of up to 28 days.
2. Must pass inspection every 2 years.
3. Must pay a fee every 2 years to cover the cost of inspection. Staff is proposing a biannual fee of \$100 (\$50 per year). That proposal is subject to City Council approval.
4. A property owner may only register one personal STR in the City. Any other dwelling units in the City may only be registered as business STRs.
5. The maximum occupancy of a personal STR is calculated based on the formula in the City Code, but cannot exceed 12 persons even if the formula would provide for a higher occupancy.

Business STRs

1. Can be rented an unlimited number of times per year.
2. Must pass inspection every year.
3. Must pay an annual fee designed to offset the cost of the City’s regulation of STR program. Staff is proposing an annual fee of \$500. That proposal is subject to City Council approval.
4. Once the owners of currently registered STRs make their designations, there will be a number of “saturation controls” that limit the creation of new business STRs. These saturation controls do not apply to the initial designation of existing STRs.

A designation form has been mailed out on November 30, 2018. If you have a short-term rental, please complete the form and return it to the Building Department at City Hall 539 Phoenix Street South Haven. Additionally, forms may be emailed to David Wright, Zoning Administrator, at dwright@south-haven.com. If you have any questions, please contact David Wright at 269-637-0760.

THIS MONTH



December:

Meetings

| | | |
|----|-------------------------|----------|
| 3 | City Council | 7:00 pm |
| 5 | DDA | 12:00 pm |
| 6 | Planning Commission | 7:00 pm |
| 10 | L DFA/Brownfield | 4:00 pm |
| 11 | Parks Commission | 7:00 pm |
| 17 | City Council | 7:00 pm |
| 17 | Zoning Board of Appeals | 7:00 pm |
| 18 | Harbor Commission | 5:30 pm |

**Please confirm dates, times
& location before attending.

CITY HALL CLOSED:

24 - CHRISTMAS EVE

25 - CHRISTMAS DAY

NEXT MONTH



January:

Meetings

| | | |
|----|-------------------------|-----------|
| 2 | DDA | 12:00 pm |
| 3 | Planning Commission | 7:00 pm |
| 7 | City Council | 7:00 pm |
| 8 | Parks Commission | 7:00 pm |
| 14 | L DFA / Brownfield | 4:00 pm |
| 15 | Harbor Commission | 4:00 pm |
| 21 | City Council | 7:00 p.m. |
| 28 | BPU / SHAWSA | 4:00 pm |
| 28 | Zoning Board of Appeals | 7:00 pm |

**Please confirm dates, times
& location before attending.

CITY HALL CLOSED:

1 - NEW YEAR'S DAY

Winter is Coming!

The Department of Public Works is responsible for clearing snow and salting of 40 miles of City streets. Our staff and equipment operators work together to improve every aspect of our snow removal program. Keeping our City's streets and sidewalks clean and safe during the winter is a big job. It can't happen without the cooperation of all our residents, businesses and agencies. The following is information that will help us do our job.

PLOWING & SALTING OF STREETS: When snow depth exceeds 2 inches on State trunklines and major streets, crews will start plowing on all City streets. The City is split into two sections. Two truck teams move in each section with designated major streets (streets surrounding area schools and police and fire complex) and trunklines given first priority. Also, crews will salt 20 miles of designated City streets (State trunklines and major streets) and continue until snow accumulates up to 2 inches deep.

SIDEWALKS: Residents have several responsibilities when it snows. The occupant (or owner of an unoccupied parcel) must remove snow and ice from the sidewalk within 72 hours after the snow has fallen. The City is responsible for plowing sidewalks in the downtown business district and various residential areas. The plow will remove the heavy snow but merchants are responsible to keep the sidewalks clean. When you clear your sidewalks and drives, you should know that snow and ice cannot be piled or pushed into the street or the shoulder of the road, and snow and ice cannot be piled in the public Right-of-Way so as to impair vehicular or pedestrian traffic, or obstruct the view of a driver.

PARKED CARS: Parked cars hamper our snow plowing efforts. A City ordinance prohibits parking on City streets between 2:30 am and 6:00 am daily. The City will increase enforcement of this ordinance this winter.

MAILBOX DAMAGE: If there is damage done to your mailbox or if you need any further information regarding the snow removal program please call the Department of Public Works at (269) 637-0737.

Visit the City of South Haven website at www.south-haven.com