November 17, 2021
CHANGES/MODIFICATIONS TO
PLANNING COMMISSION AGENDA

Agenda Item No. 1

PN 19-051: Zoning Code Update - Home Occupations Ordinance Revisions

Amendment of the Draft Home Occupations Ordinance

The Police Department requested that specific conditions be included in the Ordinance that regulate any home-based business that sells firearms and ammunition.

In addition, City Planning staff recommends adding language related to the prohibition on animal kennels, which clarifies that pet sitting and training are allowed as a home-based business type.

Finally, clarification was made regarding the appeal process since staff is proposing that appeals of home occupation permits only be heard by the Commissions and not the City Council.

All changes are noted in underline/strikeout in Exhibit 1. A clean version of the revised ordinance is included in Exhibit 2.

Amendment to Recommendation

Recommend to the City Council to repeal and replace Chapter 17.61 (Home Occupations) of the Folsom Municipal Code (FMC) with the new Home Occupation Ordinance as amended in Exhibit 2.
EXHIBIT 1
ORDINANCE NO. _____
AN ORDINANCE REPEALING AND RE-ENACTING
CHAPTER 17.61 OF THE FOLSOM MUNICIPAL CODE
PERTAINING TO HOME OCCUPATIONS
[Underline/Strikeout Version]
EXHIBIT 1
ORDINANCE NO. _____
AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF FOLSOM
REPEALING AND RE-ENACTING
CHAPTER 17.61 OF THE FOLSOM MUNICIPAL CODE
PERTAINING TO HOME OCCUPATIONS

The City Council of the City of Folsom hereby does ordain as follows:

SECTION 1 PURPOSE

The purpose of this Ordinance is to amend the Folsom Municipal Code to update the home occupation permit regulations to clarify the standards for the operation of home-based businesses in residential neighborhoods in Folsom.

SECTION 2 REPEAL AND RE-ENACTMENT TO CODE

Chapter 17.61 of the Folsom Municipal Code is hereby repealed and re-enacted to read as follows:
Chapter 17.61
HOME OCCUPATIONS

Sections:

17.61.010 Purpose
17.61.015 Definitions
17.61.020 Applicability
17.61.025 Business License Certificate
17.61.030 Home Occupation Permit
17.61.035 Prohibited Uses
17.61.040 Standards
17.61.045 Permit Application and Procedure
17.61.050 Fees
17.61.055 Appeals
17.61.060 Permit Revocation
17.61.065 Enforcement
17.61.070 Penalties
17.61.075 Enforcement Procedures
17.61.080 Time Limit.

17.61.010 Purpose

The purpose of this chapter is to recognize the residence as a viable location for certain types of occupations and to ensure the compatibility of home occupations with principal residential uses, protecting the integrity and character of the residential neighborhood by minimizing negative impacts of commercial uses being conducted in residential areas.

In support of that purpose, this chapter provides locational, developmental, and operational standards for the conduct of home occupations to ensure that home occupations are compatible with, and do not have an adverse effect on, adjacent residential properties; ensure that public and private services and utilities are not burdened by the home occupation; and preserve the character and livability of residential areas.

17.61.015 Definitions

"Home occupation" means any business-related use carried on within a residential structure or accessory structure by the residents of the property, which use is secondary to the residential use of the structure, and involves the sale or storage of goods or the provision of services on the property. The home occupation must not substantially or materially change the residential character of the surrounding neighborhood.
17.61.020 Applicability

The provisions of this chapter shall apply to home occupations as defined in Section 17.61.015 subject to the issuance of a home occupation permit in compliance with the standards in Section 17.61.040. A home occupation shall only be allowed as an accessory use on a parcel with a residential dwelling unit.

17.61.025 Business License Certificate

If a business license certificate is required for the occupation to operate within the City, the home occupation may not begin operation until a business license certificate has been obtained as required by Chapter 5.04 (Business Licenses).

17.61.030 Home Occupation Permit

A. No person shall conduct a home occupation without first obtaining a permit from the director of the community development department or the director’s designee. The home occupation permit is personal to the resident named on the permit and specific to the occupation to be conducted and the location stated on the permit. The permit is not transferable.

B. A home occupation permit is not required for any resident to work at their residence, so long as that work does not involve the sale or storage of goods or providing services to customers on the property.

17.61.035 Prohibited Uses

The following uses and similar activities, as determined by the director of the community development department, are prohibited as home occupations:

A. Adult entertainment activities/businesses.

B. Alcohol beverage manufacturing or on-site sales business.

C. Animal kennels except for pet sitting and training businesses that have no more than three dogs or cats over the age of four months old at the home at any one time.

D. Automobile/vehicle service, repair or paint shops.

E. Ammunition sales or storage.

F. Ammunition manufacture or reload.

G. Gun-Firearm sales involving the sale of more than two firearms to a customer
at one time.

G.H. Medical offices, clinics, and laboratories, except that counseling is allowed when no more than one client visit or group session is held at one time.

H.1. Metal working or welding shops.

I.J. Storage, repair, reconditioning or manufacture of large equipment on-site

J.K. Tobacco or electronic cigarette shop involving on-site sales.

17.61.040 Standards

Home occupations shall comply with all of the following standards in order to be granted a home occupation permit:

A. Visibility.

1. No exterior modification to the residential structure or accessory structure that results in a change to the residential character of the home shall be permitted for the home occupation; and

2. Aside from visiting clients and pick-ups or deliveries to the home occupation business, the home occupation activity shall not be conspicuously visible from a public right-of-way or from neighboring residential properties such that it results in a change to the residential character of the home.

B. Maximum Size. The space exclusively devoted to the home occupation (including any associated storage) shall not exceed 25 percent of the residential unit’s floor area. In calculating the amount of space devoted exclusively to the home occupation, all storage and activities associated with the home occupation shall be included. Rooms used for both residential uses and the home occupation shall be considered dedicated to the home occupation for purposes of this calculation.

C. Signage. The operator of a home occupation may display signage with the business name and address at the residence or accessory structure, provided that the signage is less than one square foot in area, is not illuminated, and is attached flat against the building or in the window on the front of the residence or accessory structure facing the street or alley.

D. Employees. Employment is limited to the resident permit holder, other residents in the residence, and no more than two non-resident employees on-site. The home occupation may not have more non-resident employees than resident employees.

E. Client/Customer Visits. No more than four clients shall be present at the home
occupation business at any one time, and no more than ten clients shall visit the home occupation business per day. Clients are allowed at the home occupation business location only from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

F. Vehicles. One commercial vehicle is allowed, not to exceed a one-ton capacity. Regardless of the number of home occupations at a residence, only two additional vehicles (including commercial, employee, and client vehicles) can be present at any one time. One off-street parking space shall be provided for any vehicle associated with the home occupation.

G. Pickups and Deliveries. The home occupation shall not have more than a total of four (4) pickups or deliveries each day. All pickups and deliveries shall occur during the hours of operation of the home occupation identified Section 17.61.040(E). The type of commercial vehicle(s) used for pickup or delivery of materials to or from the home occupation business location shall be similar in size and type to those typically used for pickup and delivery in residential neighborhoods.

H. Off-Site Effects. No home occupation activity shall create dust, electrical interference, fumes, gas, glare, light, noise, odor, smoke, toxic/hazardous materials, vibration, or other hazards or nuisances.

I. Storage or Display of Materials. Storage, operation, or display of materials, goods, supplies, or equipment related to the operation of a home occupation, may not be visible from outside the residence, with the exception of office equipment and supplies inside the residential structure.

J. Storage of Hazardous Materials. On-site storage of hazardous materials (including toxic, explosive, combustible or flammable materials) associated with the home occupation is prohibited unless the storage of such materials has been reviewed and approved by the Folsom Fire Department.

K. Storage of Guns/Firearms. Unless prohibited by Section 17.61.035(F), a home occupation involving the sale or storage of firearms is subject to review and approval of the Folsom Police Department and shall comply with the following conditions:

1. All firearms shall be stored in a locked, fireproof safe or vault located on the premises. Under no circumstances shall firearms be stored in a structure detached from the main structure of the residence. All windows, doors, and entry points to the location where firearms are stored must be securely locked and equipped with an operable alarm and camera. All locks shall be secured, and the alarm shall be activated whenever an individual listed as a responsible person, or an individual authorized by him/her, under the Federal Firearms License is not present.

a. Minimum safe requirements: 60-minute at 1200-degree fire-rating and a TL-15 security rating.
b. Minimum alarm requirements: 24 hour/7 days per week monitoring with exterior and interior audible. Smart home alarm systems do not satisfy this requirement.

c. Minimum Camera Requirements: 1080 p High Definition (HD) video with at least 7 days (168 hours) of recording capability.

2. No firearms shall be delivered to a purchaser or sold from the premises before 8 am or after 8 pm. Upon sale, all firearms shall be packaged separately. All firearms must be delivered to the purchaser unloaded and securely wrapped.

3. No signage advertising the presence of firearms shall be displayed on or in the premises if it can be seen from the outside.

4. All authorized employees of the City shall have the right to enter the premises upon reasonable notification to inspect for compliance of these conditions. If these conditions are not met, notification will be given to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

5. Permittee shall comply with all other applicable state and federal law and city ordinances.

6. Permittee shall file a report with the Folsom Police Department within twenty-four (24) hours of any criminal activity that occurs on the premises and provide video recorded during the timeframe of the crime.

7. Violation of these provisions shall constitute ground for revocation.

K-L. Storage of Inventory. Rooms used for both residential uses and the home occupation shall be considered dedicated to the home occupation for purposes of the maximum size calculation in Section 17.61.040(B). Storage of inventory shall not occupy any of the parking required in Section 17.61.040(F).

L-M. Other Conditions. The director of the community development department may place additional conditions on the permit in order to carry out the intent of this chapter.

17.61.045 Permit Application and Procedure

A. Application for a home occupation permit shall be made to the community development department on a form provided by the department. A home occupation permit shall be issued where the director of community development department or the director’s designee finds that the home occupation applied for can be conducted pursuant this chapter.
B. State and Federal Licenses. When the federal government or the State of California requires a state or federally-issued license, permit or certification in association with any occupation, such as a masseuse, gunfirearm seller, or a barber/hair stylist, the state or federal license, permit or certification shall be obtained prior to and submitted for verification in conjunction with an application for a home occupation permit. Such state or federally-issued license, permit or certification must be maintained at all times for the home occupation permit to be valid.

17.61.050 Fees

Upon approval of the home occupation permit by the community development department, the applicant shall pay the designated current fee amount established to cover administrative costs, as well as any other applicable fees established by city resolution.

17.61.055 Appeals

Notwithstanding the provisions of Chapter 17.04, the decision of the community development department concerning the issuance or denial of a home occupation permit shall be final unless an appeal is submitted in writing to the director of the community development department accompanied by the current nonrefundable appeal fee within 10 days of the decision. The appeal shall be heard by the planning commission or the historic district commission, as appropriate.

17.61.060 Permit Revocation

A home occupation permit may be revoked or modified by the director of the community development department if any of the standards for approval listed in Section 17.61.040 are not met by the home occupation.

17.61.065 Enforcement

A. This chapter shall be enforced pursuant to the provisions of Chapters 1.08 through 1.10, inclusive, of the Folsom Municipal Code.

B. The director of community development department and the code enforcement officer shall enforce the provisions of this chapter.

17.61.070 Penalties

The penalties set forth in Section 17.03.020 of this title shall not apply and the following penalties shall be applicable for any violation of this chapter:

A. A violation of this chapter shall be an administrative violation as defined in
Section 1.08.020.

B. Each of the sanctions for administrative violations identified in Section 1.09.013 shall be available for enforcement of the provisions of this chapter.

C. Based upon the criteria for the imposition of administrative sanctions set forth in Section 1.09.014, a violation of this chapter shall be deemed a Level C violation, as that term is described in Section 1.09.012. The range of monetary sanctions available for a violation of this chapter shall be as set forth in Section 1.09.012(A)(3).

17.61.075 Enforcement Procedures

A. Prior to the suspension, revocation or denial of any home occupation permit, or the assessment of any monetary sanction, penalty or fine, or the commencement of any other enforcement action pursuant to this chapter, the director of the community development department and the code enforcement officer shall follow the procedures set forth in Sections 1.09.020 through 1.09.048. The rights to judicial review set forth in Sections 1.09.050 through 1.09.052 shall apply.

B. A notice to correct shall be served in accordance with the provisions of Section 1.09.023.

17.61.080 Time Limit

All home occupation permits shall be valid for a period of one (1) year from the date of approval. Requests for renewal shall be submitted to the finance department in writing on a form provided by the finance department, accompanied with the appropriate fee.

SECTION 3: SCOPE

Except as set forth in this ordinance, all other provisions of the Folsom Municipal Code shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 4: NO MANDATORY DUTY OF CARE

This ordinance is not intended to and shall not be construed or given effect in a manner that imposes upon the City or any officer or employee thereof a mandatory duty of care towards persons and property within or without the City, so as to provide a basis of civil liability for damages, except as otherwise imposed by law.

SECTION 5: SEVERABILITY

If any section, subsection, clause, phrase, or portion of this ordinance is for any reason held to be invalid or unconstitutional by the decision of any court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance. The City
Council hereby declares that it would have adopted this ordinance and each section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase or portion thereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, clauses, phrases or portions be declared invalid or unconstitutional.

SECTION 6: EFFECTIVE DATE

This ordinance shall become effective thirty (30) days from and after its passage and adoption, provided it is published in full or in summary within twenty (20) days after its adoption in a newspaper of general circulation.

This ordinance was introduced and the title thereof read at the regular meeting of the City Council on _____________, 2021, and the second reading occurred at the regular meeting of the City Council on _____________, 2021.

On a motion by Council Member _____________, seconded by Council Member _____________, the foregoing ordinance was passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Folsom, State of California, this __ day of _____________, 2021 by the following vote, to wit:

AYES: Council Member(s)

NOES: Council Member(s)

ABSENT: Council Member(s)

ABSTAIN: Council Member(s)

______________________________
Michael D. Kozlowski, MAYOR

ATTEST:

______________________________
Christa Freemantle, CITY CLERK
EXHIBIT 2
ORDINANCE NO. _____
AN ORDINANCE REPEALING AND RE-ENACTING
CHAPTER 17.61 OF THE FOLSOM MUNICIPAL CODE
PERTAINING TO HOME OCCUPATIONS
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D. Automobile/vehicle service, repair or paint shops.

E. Ammunition sales or storage.

F. Ammunition manufacture or reload.

G. Firearm sales involving the sale of more than two firearms to a customer at one
time.

H. Medical offices, clinics, and laboratories, except that counseling is allowed when no more than one client visit or group session is held at one time.

I. Metal working or welding shops.

J. Storage, repair, reconditioning or manufacture of large equipment on-site

K. Tobacco or electronic cigarette shop involving on-site sales.

17.61.040 Standards

Home occupations shall comply with all of the following standards in order to be granted a home occupation permit:

A. Visibility.

1. No exterior modification to the residential structure or accessory structure that results in a change to the residential character of the home shall be permitted for the home occupation; and

2. Aside from visiting clients and pick-ups or deliveries to the home occupation business, the home occupation activity shall not be conspicuously visible from a public right-of-way or from neighboring residential properties such that it results in a change to the residential character of the home.

B. Maximum Size. The space exclusively devoted to the home occupation (including any associated storage) shall not exceed 25 percent of the residential unit's floor area. In calculating the amount of space devoted exclusively to the home occupation, all storage and activities associated with the home occupation shall be included. Rooms used for both residential uses and the home occupation shall be considered dedicated to the home occupation for purposes of this calculation.

C. Signage. The operator of a home occupation may display signage with the business name and address at the residence or accessory structure, provided that the signage is less than one square foot in area, is not illuminated, and is attached flat against the building or in the window on the front of the residence or accessory structure facing the street or alley.

D. Employees. Employment is limited to the resident permit holder, other residents in the residence, and no more than two non-resident employees on-site. The home occupation may not have more non-resident employees than resident employees.

E. Client/Customer Visits. No more than four clients shall be present at the home
occupation business at any one time, and no more than ten clients shall visit the home occupation business per day. Clients are allowed at the home occupation business location only from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

F. Vehicles. One commercial vehicle is allowed, not to exceed a one-ton capacity. Regardless of the number of home occupations at a residence, only two additional vehicles (including commercial, employee, and client vehicles) can be present at any one time. One off-street parking space shall be provided for any vehicle associated with the home occupation.

G. Pickups and Deliveries. The home occupation shall not have more than a total of four (4) pickups or deliveries each day. All pickups and deliveries shall occur during the hours of operation of the home occupation identified Section 17.61.040(E). The type of commercial vehicle(s) used for pickup or delivery of materials to or from the home occupation business location shall be similar in size and type to those typically used for pickup and delivery in residential neighborhoods.

H. Off-Site Effects. No home occupation activity shall create dust, electrical interference, fumes, gas, glare, light, noise, odor, smoke, toxic/hazardous materials, vibration, or other hazards or nuisances.

I. Storage or Display of Materials. Storage, operation, or display of materials, goods, supplies, or equipment related to the operation of a home occupation, may not be visible from outside the residence, with the exception of office equipment and supplies inside the residential structure.

J. Storage of Hazardous Materials. On-site storage of hazardous materials (including toxic, explosive, combustible or flammable materials) associated with the home occupation is prohibited unless the storage of such materials has been reviewed and approved by the Folsom Fire Department.

K. Storage of Firearms. Unless prohibited by Section 17.61.035(F), a home occupation involving the sale or storage of firearms is subject to review and approval of the Folsom Police Department and shall comply with the following conditions:

1. All firearms shall be stored in a locked fireproof safe or vault located on the premises. Under no circumstances shall firearms be stored in a structure detached from the main structure of the residence. All windows, doors, and entry points to the location where firearms are stored must be securely locked and equipped with an operable alarm and camera. All locks shall be secured, and the alarm shall be activated whenever an individual listed as a responsible person, or an individual authorized by him/her, under the Federal Firearms License is not present.

   a. Minimum safe requirements: 60-minute at 1200-degree fire-rating and a TL-15 security rating.
b. Minimum alarm requirements: 24 hour/7 days per week monitoring with exterior and interior audible. Smart home alarm systems do not satisfy this requirement.

c. Minimum Camera Requirements: 1080 p High Definition (HD) video with at least 7 days (168 hours) of recording capability.

2. No firearms shall be delivered to a purchaser or sold from the premises before 8 am or after 8 pm. Upon sale, all firearms shall be packaged separately. All firearms must be delivered to the purchaser unloaded and securely wrapped.

3. No signage advertising the presence of firearms shall be displayed on or in the premises if it can be seen from the outside.

4. All authorized employees of the City shall have the right to enter the premises upon reasonable notification to inspect for compliance of these conditions. If these conditions are not met, notification will be given to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

5. Permittee shall comply with all other applicable state and federal law and city ordinances.

6. Permittee shall file a report with the Folsom Police Department within twenty-four (24) hours of any criminal activity that occurs on the premises and provide video recorded during the timeframe of the crime.

7. Violation of these provisions shall constitute ground for revocation.

L. Storage of Inventory. Rooms used for both residential uses and the home occupation shall be considered dedicated to the home occupation for purposes of the maximum size calculation in Section 17.61.040(B). Storage of inventory shall not occupy any of the parking required in Section 17.61.040(F).

M. Other Conditions. The director of the community development department may place additional conditions on the permit in order to carry out the intent of this chapter.

17.61.045 Permit Application and Procedure

C. Application for a home occupation permit shall be made to the community development department on a form provided by the department. A home occupation permit shall be issued where the director of community development department or the director's designee
finds that the home occupation applied for can be conducted pursuant this chapter.

D. State and Federal Licenses. When the federal government or the State of California requires a state or federally-issued license, permit or certification in association with any occupation, such as a masseuse, firearm seller, or a barber/hair stylist, the state or federal license, permit or certification shall be obtained prior to and submitted for verification in conjunction with an application for a home occupation permit. Such state or federally-issued license, permit or certification must be maintained at all times for the home occupation permit to be valid.

17.61.050 Fees

Upon approval of the home occupation permit by the community development department, the applicant shall pay the designated current fee amount established to cover administrative costs, as well as any other applicable fees established by city resolution.

17.61.055 Appeals

Notwithstanding the provisions of Chapter 17.04, the decision of the community development department concerning the issuance or denial of a home occupation permit shall be final unless an appeal is submitted in writing to the director of the community development department accompanied by the current nonrefundable appeal fee within 10 days of the decision. The appeal shall be heard by the planning commission or the historic district commission, as appropriate.

17.61.060 Permit Revocation

A home occupation permit may be revoked or modified by the director of the community development department if any of the standards for approval listed in Section 17.61.040 are not met by the home occupation.

17.61.065 Enforcement

C. This chapter shall be enforced pursuant to the provisions of Chapters 1.08 through 1.10, inclusive, of the Folsom Municipal Code.

D. The director of community development department and the code enforcement officer shall enforce the provisions of this chapter.

17.61.070 Penalties

The penalties set forth in Section 17.03.020 of this title shall not apply and the following penalties shall be applicable for any violation of this chapter:
D. A violation of this chapter shall be an administrative violation as defined in Section 1.08.020.

E. Each of the sanctions for administrative violations identified in Section 1.09.013 shall be available for enforcement of the provisions of this chapter.

F. Based upon the criteria for the imposition of administrative sanctions set forth in Section 1.09.014, a violation of this chapter shall be deemed a Level C violation, as that term is described in Section 1.09.012. The range of monetary sanctions available for a violation of this chapter shall be as set forth in Section 1.09.012(A)(3).

17.61.075 Enforcement Procedures

C. Prior to the suspension, revocation or denial of any home occupation permit, or the assessment of any monetary sanction, penalty or fine, or the commencement of any other enforcement action pursuant to this chapter, the director of the community development department and the code enforcement officer shall follow the procedures set forth in Sections 1.09.020 through 1.09.048. The rights to judicial review set forth in Sections 1.09.050 through 1.09.052 shall apply.

D. A notice to correct shall be served in accordance with the provisions of Section 1.09.023.

17.61.080 Time Limit

All home occupation permits shall be valid for a period of one (1) year from the date of approval. Requests for renewal shall be submitted to the finance department in writing on a form provided by the finance department, accompanied with the appropriate fee.

SECTION 3: SCOPE

Except as set forth in this ordinance, all other provisions of the Folsom Municipal Code shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 4: NO MANDATORY DUTY OF CARE

This ordinance is not intended to and shall not be construed or given effect in a manner that imposes upon the City or any officer or employee thereof a mandatory duty of care towards persons and property within or without the City, so as to provide a basis of civil liability for damages, except as otherwise imposed by law.

SECTION 5: SEVERABILITY

If any section, subsection, clause, phrase, or portion of this ordinance is for any reason held to be invalid or unconstitutional by the decision of any court of competent jurisdiction, such
decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance. The City Council hereby declares that it would have adopted this ordinance and each section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase or portion thereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, clauses, phrases or portions be declared invalid or unconstitutional.

SECTION 6: EFFECTIVE DATE

This ordinance shall become effective thirty (30) days from and after its passage and adoption, provided it is published in full or in summary within twenty (20) days after its adoption in a newspaper of general circulation.

This ordinance was introduced and the title thereof read at the regular meeting of the City Council on ____________, 2021, and the second reading occurred at the regular meeting of the City Council on ______________, 2021.

On a motion by Council Member __________________, seconded by Council Member __________________, the foregoing ordinance was passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Folsom, State of California, this ____ day of ________________, 2021 by the following vote, to wit:

AYES: Council Member(s)

NOES: Council Member(s)

ABSENT: Council Member(s)

ABSTAIN: Council Member(s)

Michael D. Kozlowski, MAYOR

ATTEST:

______________________________
Christa Freemantle, CITY CLERK