

**Business of the City Council
City of Ruston, WA**

Subject: Ordinance #1593 – Amending Ordinance No. 1585 to repeal the Sunset Clause thereon making the changes to RMC 9.02.010 permanent

Dept. Origin: Clerk’s Office
Prepared by: Jennifer Robertson, City Attorney’s Office
For Agenda of: October 21, 2025
Exhibits: Ordinance No. 1593

Proposed Council Action:

This matter is on for First Reading. Unless Directed otherwise, this matter will Return for Second Reading and Action on November 4, 2025.

	Initial & Date
Concurred by Mayor:	_____
Approved/form by City Atty:	<u>10-17-25/JSR</u>
Approved by City Engineer:	_____
Approved by Department Head:	_____

INFORMATION / BACKGROUND

Due to increased incidents and community reports related to public intoxication, leading to disruptions of the peace, offenses including public urination and fighting, damage to personal property, littering, and driving under the influence, the City Council passed Ordinance No. 1585 to reduce the hours of liquor sales in Ruston. This was an effort to curb the occurrences of public intoxication and create a safer and more peaceful community.

Since passage, one business has continued to generate a significant number of nightlife noise complaints from residents. The City looked at receipts of the three businesses that serve liquor in Ruston from January to July 2025 and compared that to the same period in 2024. The raw numbers and business identities are not being shared due to taxpayer privacy. Of those three businesses, one has increased receipts since the ordinance took effect and two have decreased receipts. When all businesses are looked at together, the business reduction is a single digit percentage reduction when compared from 2024. While the cause is not known, this could be caused by the economy or other factors apart from the liquor service hours ordinance. In addition, the businesses would likely have reduced hourly overhead costs if they are closing earlier, but the City does not have that data.

While there still are nightlife complaints, the City administration believes that the ordinance has made life in Ruston a bit more peaceful with the nightlife complaints occurring during earlier hours than before the Ordinance. Therefore, the administration recommends keeping the ordinance in place.

Ordinance No. 1585 included a Sunset Clause at Section 3 which provided, “Unless the City Council passes an ordinance extending or amending this Ordinance No. 1585, this Ordinance shall expire and no longer be in effect as of November 16, 2025, at 6:00 AM.” Section 4 of the

Ordinance directed the City Clerk to place this matter onto a Council Agenda no later than the first Regular City Council Meeting in October of 2025 for Council review and direction. However, the first meeting in October was cancelled, therefore, this is being brought forward at the October 21st meeting.

The proposed Ordinance No. 1593 repeals the Sunset Clause and makes the new liquor sale hours permanent.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no direct fiscal impact of adopting this ordinance.

RECOMMENDATION / MOTION

This matter is on for First Reading. Unless directed otherwise, this matter will return for Second Reading and Action on November 4, 2025.

ORDINANCE NO. 1593

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF RUSTON, REGARDING THE HOURS OF SALE OF LIQUOR, AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 1585 TO REMOVE THE SUNSET CLAUSE AT SECTION 3 TO MAKE PERMANENT THE CHANGES TO RUSTON MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 9.02.010; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND CORRECTIONS; AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City of Ruston had been experiencing an increase in incidents related to public intoxication, leading to disruptions of the public peace, offenses of public urination and assault, damage to property, littering, driving under the influence, speeding, and general disregard for other local laws; and

WHEREAS, the City Council determined that it was in the public interest, health, and safety to pass legislation in an effort to reduce the impacts of public intoxication on the community; and

WHEREAS, after much study, public comment and careful consideration, the City Council passed Ordinance No. 1585 which updated RMC 9.02.010 and limited the hours in Ruston where liquor could be sold; and

WHEREAS, the passage of Ordinance No. 1585 was with the goal of reducing the effects of public intoxication on the larger community; and

WHEREAS, Ordinance No. 1585 contained a “sunset clause” (Section 3) which stated that “Unless the City Council passes an ordinance extending or amending this Ordinance No. 1585, this Ordinance shall expire and no longer be in effect as of November 16, 2025, at 6:00 AM”; and

WHEREAS, during the time since the passage of Ordinance No. 1585, the City has enjoyed improved quality of life without the loss of significant revenue from late-night liquor

sales; and

WHEREAS, the Ruston City Council finds that the passage of this Ordinance supports and furthers the interest in the public health, safety and welfare; and

WHEREAS, the Ruston City Council held first reading of this Ordinance on October 21, 2025 and adopted this Ordinance at Second Reading on November 4, 2025; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RUSTON, WASHINGTON, DOES HEREBY ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Findings. The findings and recitals set forth above are hereby adopted and incorporated herein by this reference.

Section 2. Ordinance No. 1585 is hereby amended as follows:

A. Section 3 of Ordinance No. 1585 “Sunset of Legislation” is hereby repealed. Thus, Ordinance No. 1585 shall become permanently effective as of the effective date of this Ordinance.

Section 3. Severability. If any section, sentence clause, or phrase of this Ordinance should be held to be unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect the validity or unconstitutionality of any other section, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance.

Section 4. Publication. This Ordinance shall be published by an approved summary consisting of the title.

Section 5. Corrections. Upon the approval of the city attorney, and/or the city clerk, the code publisher is authorized to make any necessary technical corrections to this ordinance,

including but not limited to the correction of scrivener's/clerical errors, references, ordinance number, section/subsection, and any reference thereto.

Section 6. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall be effective five days after publication as provided by law.

ADOPTED by the City council of the City of Ruston and attested by the City Clerk in authentication of such passage on this ____ day of _____, 2025.

APPROVED by the Mayor this ____ day of _____, 2025.

Bruce Hopkins, Mayor

ATTEST/AUTHENTICATED:

Mario Ortega, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Jennifer S. Robertson, City Attorney

FILED WITH THE CITY CLERK: _____

PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL: _____

PUBLISHED: _____

EFFECTIVE DATE: _____

ORDINANCE NO.: 1593