

**IN THE CITY COUNCIL  
FOR THE CITY OF HOOD RIVER, OREGON**

**ORDINANCE NO. 2081**

**An Ordinance Amending the Hood River Municipal Code by adding a new Title 18 (Signs and Related Regulations) Chapter 18.03 (Original Art Murals) to permit and encourage murals on a content-neutral basis on certain terms and conditions**

The Hood River City Council finds as follows:

**WHEREAS**, murals in public spaces can provide a number of benefits, including making public spaces areas more visually appealing and attractive, preserving and reflecting cultural heritage, providing a forum for local artists and residents to collaborate, deterring vandalism, and supporting economic development by increasing foot traffic for businesses in the City; and

**WHEREAS**, the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitutional limits any such program and its regulations to content neutral time, place and manner regulations; and

**WHEREAS**, the City received interest from several community entities and individuals requesting that the City adopt regulations that would allow murals on buildings, that would also distinguish them from billboards and other types of signs regulated under Chapter 18.02 (Sign Regulations); and

**WHEREAS**, through multiple workshops and public hearings on August 15, 2023; August 29, 2023; November 8, 2023; November 27, 2023; February 12, 2024; and March 25, 2024, the community provided input on a variety of content neutral time, place and manner regulations that could be adopted to all and regulate the creation and display of murals in certain places in the City; and

**WHEREAS**, the City desires that, whatever regulations it adopts by way of a mural code, such a program should be consistent with, yet separate from, the City's sign code in HRMC Chapter 18.02; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council considered one such proposal at its regular meeting on March 25, 2024, at which time it again accepted public testimony on the proposal attached hereto as Exhibit 1, and incorporated herein by this reference, and the concept of a mural code generally, and continued the matter to its regular meeting on April 22, 2024 for a first reading.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the Hood River City Council ordains as follows:

**Section 1. Adoption.** The Original Art Murals code attached hereto as Exhibit 1 is hereby adopted and added to the Hood River Municipal Code as Title 18 (Signs and Related Regulations) Chapter 18.03 (Original Art Murals).

**Section 2. Severability:** If any portion, provision, section or subsection of this ordinance is found to be invalid or unenforceable for any reason, such finding shall not affect the validity or enforceability of any other provision, section or subsection of the ordinance.

Read for the first time on April 22, 2024 and read for the second time and adopted May 13, 2024. This ordinance shall take effect on the 31<sup>st</sup> day following the second reading.

AYES: \_\_\_\_\_

NAYS: \_\_\_\_\_

ABSTAIN: \_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Paul Blackburn, Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jen Gray, City Recorder

Approved as to form:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Daniel Kearns, Hood River City Attorney