
INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MINUTES

A Committee of the Chico City Council: Councilmembers Bennett, Winslow, and Chair O'Brien

Meeting of October 6, 2025 – 1:00 p.m.

Council Chamber Building, 421 Main Street, Council Chambers

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Chair O'Brien, with all Committee members present.

A. CHICO MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 5.44 AMENDMENTS - MESSAGE ORDINANCE (WAIVERS)

At its meeting of 9/16/25 the City Council voted to direct staff to continue to receive public feedback regarding the proposed ordinance and report back at the October Internal Affairs Committee meeting with any additional proposed changes to the ordinance for further discussion. **(Report – Charlene Durkin, Code Enforcement Supervisor)**

Supervisor Durkin reported that the newly contracted legal team at Civica reviewed the ordinance and has proposed some changes to clean up the language, formatting, and organization of the document to provide Council with a more polished, legally compliant ordinance. She stated that City staff focused on the exemption portion of the ordinance as that was the area of greatest concern to the Council. She provided the Committee with a page of proposed amendments (Exhibit A) for the exemption portion of the ordinance, based on further research and public feedback.

Addressing the Committee on this item were Sierra Sisk, Dan Hays, Candi Williamson, and Gene Rotter.

The Committee continued discussion of the proposed amendments to the exemption portion of the message ordinance, clarifying staff's intention to work with practitioners on an individual basis if needed to bring them into compliance. Supervisor Durkin informed the Committee that the discussion of fees associated with the permit process would be brought before the Council for discussion after the ordinance was passed.

A motion by Vice-Mayor Bennett was seconded by Chair O'Brien to recommend to the Council to direct staff to bring the revised ordinance to the Council for discussion. The motion passed (3-0).

B. PUBLIC COMMENT - None

C. ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING

The meeting was adjourned at 1:34 p.m. to the next regular Internal Affairs Committee meeting scheduled for Monday, November 3, 2025, at 1:00 p.m.

Prepared by:



Stina Cooley, Administrative Specialist

Code Enforcement's new law firm, Civica, has reviewed the ordinance and made some minor changes. These changes do not effect the structure of the ordinance, but make it compliant with preemptive state laws and reduce redundancy. Per the committee's request, changes were made to the permanent exemption as follows:

1. Qualified Practitioner Exception.

- a. Evidence that he or she has been working as a massage therapist, massage practitioner, or structural integrator for a period of at least five years ~~in the city on a continuous basis~~ prior to the passage of this chapter; and
- b. Evidence that he or she has certification or proof of training in the field of massage from a school or another entity comparable to the CAMTC or the IASI or has received through an alternative method of training in the field of massage acceptable to the director; ~~and~~
- c. Compliance with other terms of this chapter for massage establishment owners that are not certified by the CAMTC or IASI, including, but not limited to, the background check described in Section 5.44.080(J) of this chapter.

Based on feedback received, these sections have been removed:

Notwithstanding, massage or structural integration of the female breasts by the massage or structural integration professional is permissible with the written consent of the client.

~~and delivery to the massage or structural integration professional by the client of a written referral from a licensed health care provider.~~

~~8. All payments for massage or structural integration therapy services, including gratuities or tips, shall be made only in the designated reception and waiting area and not in the massage or structural integration therapy room. Any gratuities or tips that are solicited from the client in violation of this provision shall be presumed to be for the purpose of committing a sexually related act and may be grounds for the suspension or revocation of the owner's massage or structural integration establishment permit.~~