GLOSSARY OF KEY TERMS

BASE ZONES
New base zones will guide development based on population, neighborhood character, etc., so it better reflects the unique feel of different parts of the city.

RURAL
Wide-open areas preserved for natural landscapes, agriculture, and large-lot rural homes and businesses.

URBAN CORE
Our most active, walkable areas designed for vibrant, mixed-use living with the highest concentration of amenities.

URBAN LOW
Quieter residential areas that allow housing choices and more spacious living opportunities while keeping a familiar neighborhood feel with nearby access to shopping, medical services and community amenities.

URBAN MEDIUM
Neighborhood-friendly zones that blend housing options and small businesses while maintaining comfort, walkability, and neighborhood character.

ZONING
Regulations that guide where homes, shops, parks, and businesses should go. Updated zoning ensures new developments fit the character of each neighborhood and support healthy, well-designed growth.

COMMON PLANNING TERMS

DWELLINGS
Places where people live, ranging from single-family homes to apartments. The updated code allows a variety of high-quality housing types that create more choices for families.

GENTLE DENSITY
Small-scale increases in housing—such as duplexes or small multi-unit homes—that fit seamlessly into residential neighborhoods, providing more options without changing the overall feel of the area.

MIXED USE
Developments that thoughtfully blend homes, shops, and services in one area or structure, making neighborhoods more walkable, convenient, and lively.

NEIGHBORHOOD INFILL
Thoughtful development on vacant or underused lots within existing neighborhoods. Infill strengthens communities by revitalizing empty spaces and supporting local services.

SENSITIVE EDGE BUFFERS
Landscaped or thoughtfully designed spaces that create a smooth, attractive transition between different types of developments. These protect privacy, reduce noise, and help new projects blend naturally with existing homes.

SIMPLIFIED PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENTS (SPUD)
A case-by-case tool developers use when a project can't meet zoning regulations. Updating the code will reduce the need for SPUDs, making development more predictable and consistent for residents. SPUDs may still be necessary if a project has very unique circumstances.