

Attention Property Owner: A land use proposal has been submitted for property near where you live or near property you own elsewhere. State law requires that the county notify property owners within a certain distance from this property. The proposal and address of the property is described in the "Application" section below. The decision in this case does not directly affect the zoning or use of your property. If you object to the decision, refer to the "Appeal" section. If you have questions, contact the staff person listed at the end of this report.

NOTICE OF DECISION CONDITIONAL USE CASE NO. 24-022

APPLICATION: Application of Mark Nichols and Sue Nichols for a conditional use to change the occupant of a medical hardship dwelling on a 21.55-acre parcel in an EFU (Exclusive Farm Use) zone located at 10067 Siegmund Rd SE Stayton (T9S; R1E; Section 10; Tax lot 200).

DECISION: The Planning Director for Marion County has **APPROVED** the above-described Conditional Use application subject to conditions.

EXPIRATION DATE: This conditional use permit is valid only when exercised by **August 27, 2026** (two years). The effective period may be extended for an additional year subject to approval of an extension (form available from the Planning Division). **Additional extensions may not be granted if the regulations under which this decision was granted have changed since the original approval.**

RENEWAL: This permit may be renewed for successive one-year periods if the applicant submits to the Planning Division, on an annual basis, a new Physician's Certificate which indicates that the hardship situation continues. The Planning Division will mail renewal forms to the property owner approximately two months prior to permit expiration.

CONDITIONS: Once the approved use is established the following conditions must be continually satisfied:

1. All conditions of approval listed in CU18-057 shall remain in effect.
2. The applicants are advised that this permit is granted for a period of one year **and must be renewed for successive one-year periods** upon submittal of a Physician's Certificate verifying that the hardship conditions continue to exist. In addition, every five years the Marion County Building Inspection Division requires a septic evaluation for shared septic systems prior to renewal of hardship conditional uses.
3. The applicant is advised that the Manufactured Dwelling/RV Disconnect Agreement, which specifies that placement of the manufactured dwelling or RV is temporary and that it will be removed/disconnected after the hardship ceases, and the Farm/Forest Declaratory Statement as required in CU18-057, remain in effect.
4. The applicants are advised that all conditions of MCC 17.120.040 – *“Temporary use of mobile home or recreational vehicle during certain hardship conditions”* shall be conditions of approval.

OTHER PERMITS, FEES AND RESTRICTIONS: This approval does not remove or affect covenants or restrictions imposed on the subject property by deed or other instrument. The proposed use may require permits and/or fees from other local, state or federal agencies. This decision does not take the place of, or relieve the responsibility for, obtaining other permits or satisfying restrictions or conditions thereon. It is recommended that the agencies mentioned in Finding #5 below be contacted to identify restrictions or necessary permits. The applicant is advised of the following:

APPEAL PROCEDURE: The Marion County Zone Code provides that certain applications be considered first by the County Planning Director. If there is any doubt that the application conforms with adopted land use policies and regulations the Director must condition or deny the application. Anyone who disagrees with the Director's decision may request that the application be considered by a Marion County hearings officer after a public hearing. The applicant may also request reconsideration (one time only and a fee of \$200) on the basis of new information subject to signing an extension of the 150-day time limit for review of zoning applications.

A public hearing is held on appeals subject to the appellant paying a \$250.00 fee. Requests for reconsideration, or consideration by a hearings officer, must be in writing (form available from the Planning Division) and received in the Marion County Planning Division, 5155 Silverton Rd. NE, Salem, by 5:00 p.m. on **August 27, 2024**. If you have questions about this decision, contact the Planning Division at (503) 588-5038 or at the office. This decision is effective **August 28, 2024**, unless further consideration is requested.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS: Findings and conclusions on which the decision was based are noted below.

1. The subject property is designated Primary Agriculture in the Marion County Comprehensive Plan. The major purpose of this designation is to provide areas for continued practice of commercial agriculture.
2. The property is located west of Siegmund Rd SE, approximately 1,050 feet south of the intersection with Fern Ridge Rd NE. The 21.55-acre parcel identified as tax lot 200 contains an existing dwelling, farm structures, a well and septic system, and an existing conditional use medical hardship dwelling (CU18-057). The property was created by approval of Lot Line Adjustment Case 10-008 (PLA10-0008) and considered a legally created lot.
3. Surrounding properties consist of EFU (Exclusive Farm Use) zoned lots currently being used as large-scale farming and some residential uses.
4. The manufactured dwelling was originally approved as a medical hardship for Margaret M. Heater, under CU18-057. The applicants informed the Planning Office that Margaret M. Heater passed away and no longer occupies the dwelling. The applicants are requesting to use the existing manufactured dwelling so that they can provide daily care for Sue Nichols's mother, Mary Heater.
5. Various agencies were contacted about the proposal and given an opportunity to comment.

Marion County Septic Division commented: "We have reviewed the proposal for Conditional Use 24-022 and our comments are as follows: An authorization is required to connect the medical hardship to the existing system. Authorizations are effective for up to 5 years, but not exceeding the cessation of the hardship."

All other agencies contacted either failed to respond or had no comment.

6. In order to approve a manufactured home/RV under medical hardship the applicant must demonstrate compliance with the specific criteria listed in MCC 17.120.040. Those that apply to this case include:

D. When the aged or infirm person must be provided care so frequently or in such a manner that caregiver(s) must reside on the same premises, the aged or infirm person and/or those caregivers providing care for the aged or infirm person may temporarily reside in the hardship permit dwelling for the term necessary to provide care.

1. Those providing the care must show that they will be available and have the skills to provide the care required, as described by the licensed medical professional.

2. Caregivers may reside within a hardship permit dwelling during periods of absence and medically necessary absence.

3. Caregivers shall not have any financial or expense obligation increased for residing in the hardship dwelling during periods of absence and medically necessary absence.

The owners, Mark and Sue Nichols have stated that they will be caring for the daily needs of Mary Heater. They previously cared for Margaret M. Heater as part of the previous medical hardship on the property, demonstrating their ability to provide the care required. The criterion is met.

E. A temporary absence or medically necessary absence from the property by the aged or infirm person(s) will not result in the revocation or denial of a hardship permit.

1. When a medically necessary absence results in the aged or infirm person(s) living off of the property for more than 165 days in one calendar year or 165 consecutive days they must provide notice of the medically necessary absence to prevent the absence from being considered an extended absence.
2. Notice of a medically necessary absence that will result in the aged or infirm person(s) living off of the property for more than 165 days in one calendar year or 165 consecutive days must be provided within 14 days of learning that the absence from the property will result in the aged or infirm person having to live away from the property for more than 165 days in one calendar year or 165 consecutive days.
3. Notice of a medically necessary absence must:
 - a. Be submitted in writing;
 - b. Include a statement from a licensed medical provider outlining that the absence from the property is necessary for the care or medical treatment of the aged or infirm person;
 - c. Provide an estimate as to when the aged or infirm person(s) will return to the property;
 - d. Include an assessment from the licensed medical professional on whether or not the aged or infirm person(s) will be able to reside on the property again.
 - i. If a licensed medical professional cannot provide an assessment on whether the aged or infirm person will be able to return to the property at the time when notice of a medical necessary absence is due, a hardship permit maybe approved for the amount of time necessary, not to exceed one year, for the licensed medical professional to make the assessment as to whether the aged or infirm person(s) will be able to return to the property.
 - ii. If a licensed medical professional cannot provide an assessment after the period of time described in Section E.3.b.ii then a determination will be made as to whether the hardship permit is still necessary for the care of the aged or infirm person(s).
4. Notice of a medically necessary absence may be submitted by the Owner(s), aged or infirm person(s), caregiver(s) of the aged or infirm person(s), or other agent of the aged or infirm person(s).
5. Caregivers may not be charged any rent or otherwise required to provide financial compensation to live in the hardship dwelling during a temporary absence or medically necessary absence.
 - a. If as a part of any agreement to provide caretaking services, the caregiver was required to provide financial compensation or incur a financial obligation in order to reside within the hardship dwelling then that arrangement will not violate Section E.4, provided that the arrangement existed prior to the temporary absence or medically necessary absence.

The applicants shall adhere to the criteria stated in this section as a condition of approval. This was part of the conditions of approval for case CU18-057.

- F. *Extended absence from the property by the aged or infirm person(s), or caregiver(s) when the hardship permit dwelling is only being inhabited by caregiver(s), creates a rebuttable presumption that the hardship permit is no longer necessary to provide care to the aged or infirm person(s).*
1. *Extended absence from the property may result in revocation of the hardship permit; issuance of a citation pursuant to MCC 1.25.030; and/or initiation of civil action in circuit court pursuant to MCC 1.25.050.*
 2. *Notice will be provided to the owner of any substantiated violation of Section F. 30 days prior to the effective date of a revocation of the hardship permit made pursuant to Section F.1.*

The applicants shall adhere to the criteria stated in this section as a condition of approval.

- G. *A mobile home or recreational vehicle being used as a hardship dwelling shall to the extent permitted by the nature of the property and existing development:*
1. *Be located as near as possible to other residences on the property;*
 2. *On EFU, SA, FT and TC zoned property, be located on the portion of the property that is least suitable for farm or forest use, if it is not feasible to locate it near an existing residence;*
 3. *Not require new driveway access to the street;*

4. *Be connected to the existing wastewater disposal system if feasible. The disposal system shall be approved by the county sanitarian.*

The applicants are proposing to use an existing manufactured home placed on the property as part of the temporary medical hardship approved by CU18-057. The manufactured home was established in compliance with all the points listed in this section as they were made part of the conditions of approval. Therefore, the criterion is met.

H. *For an existing building to be used as a hardship dwelling it must:*

1. *Be suitable for human habitation;*
2. *Comply with all building and specialty codes (for example, but not limited to, electrical, plumbing, and sanitation) applicable to dwellings;*
3. *Not require new driveway access to the street; and*
4. *Be connected to the existing wastewater disposal system if feasible. The disposal system shall be approved by the county sanitarian.*

The applicants stated that the existing manufactured home established for the previous hardship CU18-057 will be used for the new medical hardship. Therefore, this criterion does not apply.

I. *One of the residences shall be removed from the property within 90 days of the date the person(s) with the hardship or the care provider no longer reside on the property.*

1. *In the case of a recreational vehicle, it shall be rendered uninhabitable by disconnection from services.*
 - a. *An agreement to comply with this requirement shall be signed by the applicant, and the owner of the recreational vehicle if different than the applicant.*
 - b. *Oregon Department of Environmental Quality removal requirements also apply.*
2. *In the case of an existing building, the renovations or modifications made to an existing building to be used for inhabitation must be removed.*
 - a. *The existing building shall be returned to similar conditions as its previous use; or*
 - b. *If the existing building is not going to be returned to its previous use, then the building must be used for either a permitted use or a new use application for the existing building must be obtained.*
3. *In the case where an agricultural exemption is sought for an existing building, a new application must be approved regardless of any previously approved agricultural exemption.*

The applicants have not addressed this in the Applicant Statement; however, the applicants shall adhere to the criteria stated in this section as a condition of approval. This was part of the conditions of approval for case CU18-057.

J. *Applicants are responsible for ensuring that all caregivers and/or other persons residing in the hardship dwelling are removed from the hardship dwelling within 90 days of the date that the person with the hardship or the care provider no longer resides in the hardship dwelling or on the property.*

1. *Applications for a hardship dwelling must include a description of how the applicant will ensure this condition is met.*

The applicants are proposing to use an existing mobile home from the previous hardship. This section was part of the conditions of approval for case CU18-057. The condition shall continue to be in effect for the duration of the new medical hardship.

K. *At the time of renewal of a hardship dwelling permit, if the aged or infirm person has been on a temporary absence or medically necessary absence from the property for at least 30 consecutive days prior to submission of the renewal application, the application must include:*

1. *In the event of a medically necessary absence, an assessment by a licensed medical professional stating that it is reasonably likely that the aged or infirm person will return to the property within the renewal period; or*
2. *In the event of a temporary absence, a statement from the owner or aged or infirmed person setting forth the date on which the aged or infirm person will return to the property.*
 - a. *If the aged or infirmed person does not return to the property within the time period described in Section A.6., then the aged or infirm person's absence will be deemed an extended absence*

The applicants shall adhere to the criteria stated in this section as a condition of approval.

- L. *The use of a hardship permit dwelling is intended to be temporary, shall be subject to review every year, and shall continue to meet the above criteria in order to qualify for renewal.*

This section was part of the conditions of approval for case CU18-057. The condition shall continue to be in effect for the duration of the new medical hardship

7. Since the property is located in an EFU (Exclusive Farm Use), the proposal must also satisfy the general criteria in MCC 17.136.060 MCC. Those requirements are:

A. *The following criteria apply to all conditional uses in the EFU zone:*

1. *The use will not force a significant change in, or significantly increase the cost of, accepted farm or forest practices on surrounding lands devoted to farm or forest use. Land devoted to farm or forest use does not include farm or forest use on lots or parcels upon which a non-farm or non-forest dwelling has been approved and established, in exception areas approved under ORS 197.732, or in an acknowledged urban growth boundary.*

The current zoning of the subject property is EFU (Exclusive Farm Use) which has the primary purpose for the continued practice of commercial agriculture. The applicant proposes to use an already established temporary hardship dwelling on the site as an additional residence for a family member requiring extra assistance with daily tasks. The existing use does not cause significant change to the existing land use patterns. The criterion is met.

2. *Adequate fire protection and other rural services are, or will be, available when the use is established.*

The property is serviced by the Stayton Fire District and Marion County Sheriff. Any other necessary rural services, such as well and septic are already present on the property. The criterion is met.

3. *The use will not have a significant adverse impact on watersheds, groundwater, fish and wildlife habitat, soil and slope stability, air and water quality.*

Marion County Planning has not received any complaints about significant adverse impacts to any of the above-listed characteristics of the area since the temporary hardship dwelling was established on the property. The proposed new occupant will be residing in the same manufactured dwelling as the previous occupant. The criterion is met.

4. *Any noise associated with the use will not have a significant adverse impact on nearby land uses.*

Marion County Planning has not received any complaints about noise generated by the previous occupancy of the medical hardship dwelling. The hardship dwelling is not expected to produce noise other than typical residential sounds and no increase from the previous medical hardship occupation is expected. The criterion is met.

4. *The use will not have a significant adverse impact on potential water impoundments identified in the Comprehensive Plan, and not create significant conflicts with operations included in the*

Comprehensive Plan inventory of significant mineral and aggregate sites.

There are no nearby water impoundments or mineral and aggregate sites for the hardship dwelling to adversely affect. The criterion is met.

8. Based on the above findings, it has been determined that the request to amend the approved occupant(s) as listed in CU18-057 meets all applicable criteria and is, therefore, **APPROVED**, subject to conditions.

Brandon Reich
Planning Director/Zoning Administrator

Date: August 12, 2024

If you have any questions regarding this decision contact George Brandt at (503) 588-3981.

Notice to Mortgagee, Lienholder, Vendor or Seller: ORS Chapter 215 requires that if you receive this Notice, it must promptly be forwarded to the purchaser.