



MEMORANDUM

Council Agenda
Item No. XI. U
4/21/2026

The City of OKLAHOMA CITY

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Craig Freeman, City Manager

Ordinance to be introduced and adopted with emergency, declaring a moratorium until December 31, 2026, on the acceptance of new applications for processing of and issuance of rezoning requests and permits, including building permits, that would allow construction on, expansion of, or use of property for a data center located in Oklahoma City; providing an exception for certain pending rezoning requests; providing for an appeal process; providing for effective and expiration dates; providing severability; and declaring an emergency.

Background:

An ordinance was prepared to declare a temporary moratorium on the acceptance of new applications for processing of and issuance of rezoning requests and permits, including building permits, that would allow for the construction on, the expansion of, or the use of real property located in the City of Oklahoma City for data centers. The ordinance also provides an exception for certain pending rezoning requests, an appeals process, severability and the declaration of an emergency to make the Ordinance immediately effective.

The Oklahoma City Zoning and Planning Code does not currently have a specific use unit or regulations identified for data centers. With the increase of land use for large-scale data centers, the potential negative impacts need to be fully explored, including water usage, electrical usage, noise issues, infrastructure issues, and various other potential impacts on the citizens of Oklahoma City. Additionally, the City is currently updating the Zoning Code and reviewing the City's zoning use units and regulations, including the addition of a use unit for data centers and associated components.

The declaration of a temporary moratorium will allow the City Council time to evaluate the full scope of the potential impacts of large-scale data centers and to determine the appropriate regulations to be applied to the data centers.

Recommendation: Ordinance be introduced and adopted with an emergency.