

Agenda Item 22-0402 (Tim Acklin)

AN ORDINANCE to create Subsections 115-398 (f)(2) and (3) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of La Crosse regarding fences on City owned property.

General Location

City Wide. Only parcels used for City owned and operated campgrounds and on parcels used for the City Utility.

Background Information

The subject Ordinance would permit the following:

- 1) Any fence proposed for City owned and operated campgrounds is reviewed by the Board of Public Works who would also have authority over height of the fence, fence materials and location. Fence Permits would still be required.
- 2) Fences for City Utility property could be screened with any materials subject to approval by the Board of Public Works. Fence Permits would still be required.

The ordinance for fences for City owned and operated campgrounds was proposed solely for the anticipated acquisition of Maple Grove Motel in order to permit fencing for safety and security as zoning severely limited the types of fencing allowed. Due to the City no longer interested in acquiring Maple Grove Motel, and no interest in providing fencing for any other existing campgrounds, this ordinance should no longer be considered.

The ordinance for fences for the City Utility was proposed primarily for the Wastewater Treatment Facility for safety and security. Currently, fences in the Light and Heavy Industrial zoning districts are required to be an open type similar to woven wire, chain link or wrought iron fencing. This ordinance allows for fences to use materials to screen or shield the interior premises from public view upon approval from the Board of Public Works.

Recommendation of Other Boards and Commissions

N/A

Consistency with Adopted Comprehensive Plan

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Planning staff discussed the ordinance for fences around campgrounds with the Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department and have agreed that this proposed ordinance is no longer needed. **Staff recommends denial of proposed Ordinance 115-398(f)(2) regarding fences for city owned and operated campgrounds.**

Planning staff is typically not in favor of changing an ordinance to benefit a specific property owner, in this case the City of La Crosse. Staff suggests that the option for fences to be screened be considered for all properties in the Light and Heavy Industrial zoning districts. That being said staff understands the Wastewater Treatment Plant's immediate need for a privacy fence for safety and security, especially as they are in the middle of their expansion project. **Staff recommends approval of proposed Ordinance 115-398(f)(3) regarding the screening of fences for City Utility property.**

Routing J&A 5.3.2022