

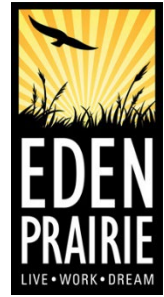
City Council Agenda Cover Memo

Date: January 7, 2025

Section: Ordinances and Resolutions

Item Number:

Department: Community Development / Planning
Julie Klima / Jeremy Barnhart



ITEM DESCRIPTION

An amendment to Chapter 9 related to fences and intersection impacts, establishing permissible fence height, materials, and locations within the city. The ordinance also defines prohibited materials, and provides for barbed wire in certain uses.

REQUESTED ACTION

Move to approve the 1st reading of the Ordinance to Amend Chapter 9 relative to fences and vision impacts

SUMMARY

In August, 2024, the City Council directed staff to research an amendment to regulate electrified and barbed wire fencing in the city. This type of fencing can be an attractive nuisance to children and cause harm when placed inappropriately.

Research of peer cities indicates that many cities regulate barbed wire fencing. Many prohibit barbed wire below a certain height (Edina 8 ft) or below a certain height in non-residential districts (Bloomington, St. Louis Park, Minneapolis).

There are a handful of known areas in Eden Prairie that use barbed wire fencing. They include the airport, electric transfer facilities, industrial storage yards, and at least 2 private agricultural areas.

The proposed ordinance consolidates fence regulations from the zoning code into one location in Chapter 9, (Public Protection, Crimes and Offenses), for user clarity. The ordinance provides definitions, height limitations, permitting requirements. The ordinance also outlines permitted and prohibited materials, consistent with current practice. The ordinance allows barbed wire and above ground electric wire fencing in certain areas and situations, including government and infrastructure uses, the airport, and in agricultural areas, or temporarily invasive species mitigation. The regulations are generally consistent with those of peer cities.

ATTACHMENTS

Ordinance