



MEMORANDUM

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DATE: March 4, 2019

TO: Mayor Eveleth and Owosso City Council members

FROM: Amy Cyphert, Assistant City Manager & Community Development Director

SUBJECT: Industrial Zoning District Screening Amendments

RECOMMENDATION:

The Planning Commission recommends setting a public hearing for March 18, 2019 to receive citizen comment regarding the adoption of amendments to the City's existing zoning ordinances related to industrial zoning district and use screening requirements.

BACKGROUND:

A public hearing was held by the Planning Commission on Monday, February 25, 2019 at its regularly scheduled meeting to receive citizen comment regarding draft ordinance language to amend the zoning ordinances related to industrial zoning district screening requirements.

No public comments were made.

FISCAL IMPACTS: None

Document originated by: Amy Cyphert, Assistant City Manager & Community Development Director

Attachment:

RESOLUTION NO.

AUTHORIZING SETTING A PUBLIC HEARING TO AMEND VARIOUS SECTIONS OF CHAPTER 38, ZONING, OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF OWOSSO ESTABLISHING INDUSTRIAL ZONING DISTRICT SCREENING REQUIREMENTS

WHEREAS, Sec. 38-292, Sec. 312, Sec. 38.389, and Sec. 38-393 provide screening requirements for industrial zoning properties and uses; and

WHEREAS, the Owosso Planning Commission has met, discussed and authored amendments to the screening requirements for industrial zoning districts and uses; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission held a public hearing on February 25, 2019 at its regularly scheduled meeting regarding the proposal to amend various sections of Chapter 38, Zoning, in which no public comments was received; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission further recommends adoption of the following amendments to the Zoning Ordinance for screening requirements for industrial zoning districts and uses; and

WHEREAS, the City Council is required to hold a public hearing to receive citizen comment regarding any and all proposed ordinance amendments.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT THE CITY OF OWOSSO ORDAINS THAT:

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT. That Section 38-292, Principal uses permitted, of Chapter 38, Zoning, Article XIII. *I-1 Light Industrial Districts*, of the Code of Ordinances is hereby amended to read:

Sec. 38-292. - Principal uses permitted.

In an I-1 district, no building or land shall be used and no building shall be erected except for one (1) or more of the following specified uses unless otherwise provided in this chapter and subject further to the review and approval of the site plan by the planning commission in accordance with [section 38-390](#):

- (1) Any use charged with the principal function of basic research, design and pilot or experimental product development when conducted within a completely enclosed building;
- (2) Any of the following uses when the manufacturing, compounding or processing is conducted wholly within a completely enclosed building. That portion of the land used for open storage facilities for materials or equipment ~~used in the manufacturing, compounding, or processing shall be totally obscured by a wall on those sides abutting any residential, office or business districts, and on any front yard abutting a public thoroughfare except as otherwise provided in shall meet the requirements of section 38-389section 38-289 or section 38-393. In I-1 districts, the extent of such a wall may be determined by the planning commission on the basis of usage. Such a wall shall not be less than four (4) feet six (6) inches in height and may, depending upon land usage, be required to be eight (8) feet in height, and shall be subject further to the requirements of article XVII, general provisions. A chain link fence, with intense evergreen shrub planting, shall be considered an obscuring wall. The height shall be determined in the same manner as the wall height as above set forth.~~
 - a. Warehousing and wholesale establishments, and trucking facilities;

- b. The manufacture, compounding, processing, packaging or treatment of such products such as, but not limited to, bakery goods, candy, cosmetics, pharmaceuticals, toiletries, food products, hardware and cutlery, tool, die, gauge and machine shops;
 - c. The manufacture, compounding, assembling, or treatment of articles or merchandise from previously prepared materials: bone, canvas, cellophane, cloth, cork, elastomers, feathers, felt, fibre [fiber], fur, glass, hair, horn, leather, paper, plastics, rubber, precious or semi-precious metals or stones, sheet metal, shell, textiles, tobacco, wax, wire, wood and yarns;
 - d. The manufacture of pottery and figurines or other similar ceramic products using only previously pulverized clay, and kilns fired only by electricity or gas;
 - e. Manufacture of musical instruments, toys, novelties and metal or rubber stamps, or other molded rubber products;
 - f. Manufacture or assembly of electrical appliances, electronic instruments and devices, radios and phonographs;
 - g. Laboratories—Experimental, film or testing;
 - h. Manufacturing and repair of electric or neon signs, light sheet metal products, including heating and ventilating equipment, cornices, eaves and the like;
 - i. Central dry cleaning plants or laundries provided that such plants shall not deal directly with consumer at retail;
 - j. All public utilities, including buildings, necessary structures, storage yards and other related uses.
- (3) Warehouses, storage and transfer and electric and gas service buildings and yards; public utility buildings, telephone exchange buildings, electrical transformer stations and substations, and gas regulator stations; water supply and sewage disposal plants; water and gas tank holders; railroad transfer and storage tracks; railroad rights-of-way; freight terminals;
- (4) Storage facilities for building materials, sand, gravel, stone, lumber, storage of contractor's equipment and supplies, provided such is enclosed within a building or within an ~~obscuring solid~~ wall or fence **that meets the requirements of section 38-389 or section 38-393.**~~on those sides abutting all residential, office, or business districts, and on any yard abutting a public thoroughfare. In any "I-1" district, the extent of such fence or wall may be determined by the planning commission on the basis of usage. Such fence or wall shall not be less than five (5) feet in height, and may, depending on land usage, be required to be eight (8) feet in height. A chain link type fence, with heavy evergreen shrubbery inside of said fence, shall be considered to be an obscuring fence;~~
- (5) Municipal uses such as water treatment plants, and reservoirs, sewage treatment plants, and all other municipal buildings and uses, including outdoor storage;
- (6) Commercial kennels;
- (7) Greenhouses;
- (8) Other uses of a similar and no more objectionable character to the above uses;
- (9) Accessory buildings and uses customarily incident to any of the above permitted uses;
- (10) Residential structures existing as of January 1, 2012.
- (11) A marihuana provisioning center, grower, processor, safety compliance facility or secure transporter as authorized by the city's medical marihuana facilities licensing — police power authorizing ordinance.
- a. Any uses or activities found by the state or a court with jurisdiction to be unconstitutional or otherwise not permitted by state law may not be permitted by

the city. In the event that a court with jurisdiction declares some or this entire article invalid, then the city may suspend the acceptance of applications for medical marihuana facilities licenses pending the resolution of the legal issue in question.

- b. The use or facility must be at all times in compliance with all other applicable laws and ordinances of the city and state.
- c. The city may suspend or revoke a medical marihuana facilities license based on the finding that the provisions of the Medical Marihuana Facilities Licensing Act, all other applicable provisions of this zoning ordinance, the city's police power authorizing ordinance, or the approved site plan are not met.
- d. A marihuana facility, or activities associated with the licensed growing, processing, testing, transporting, or sales of marihuana, may not be permitted as a home business or accessory use nor may they include accessory uses except as otherwise provided in this chapter.
- e. Signage requirements for marihuana facilities, unless otherwise specified, are as provided in [chapter 26](#) — signs.

(12) Marihuana growers and marihuana processors shall be subject to the following standards:

- a. *Minimum yard depth/distance from lot lines.* Minimum yard depth/distance from lot lines shall adhere to measurement requirements as listed in article XVI — schedule of regulations for each zoning designation as listed.
- b. *Indoor growing and processing.* In the I-1 light industrial district, marihuana growing shall be located entirely within a fully enclosed, secure, indoor facility or greenhouse with rigid walls, a roof, and doors. Marihuana processing shall be located entirely within one (1) or more completely enclosed buildings.
- c. *Maximum building floor space.* The following maximum building floor space shall apply in the I-1 light industrial district:
 - 1. If only a portion of a building is authorized for use in marihuana growing or processing, a partition wall at least seven (7) feet in height, or a height as required by the applicable building codes, whichever is greater, shall separate the marihuana growing or processing space from the remainder of the building. A partition wall must include a door, capable of being closed and locked, for ingress and egress between the marihuana growing or processing space and the remainder of the building.
- d. *Lighting.* Lighting shall be regulated as follows:
 - 1. Light cast by light fixtures inside any building used for marihuana growing or marihuana processing shall not be visible outside the building from 7:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. the following day.
 - 2. Outdoor marihuana grow lights shall not be illuminated from 7:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. the following day.
- e. *Odor.* As used in this subsection, building means the building, or portion thereof, used for marihuana growing or marihuana processing.
 - 1. The building shall be equipped with an activated carbon filtration system for odor control to ensure that air leaving the building through an exhaust vent first passes through an activated carbon filter.
 - 2. The filtration system shall consist of one (1) or more fans and activated carbon filters. At a minimum, the fan(s) shall be sized for cubic feet per minute (CFM) equivalent to the volume of the building (length multiplied by width multiplied by height) divided by three (3). The filter(s) shall be rated for the applicable CFM.

3. The filtration system shall be maintained in working order and shall be in use. The filters shall be changed a minimum of once every three hundred sixty-five (365) days.
 4. Negative air pressure shall be maintained inside the building.
 5. Doors and windows shall remain closed, except for the minimum length of time needed to allow people to ingress or egress the building.
 6. An alternative odor control system is permitted if the applicant submits and the municipality accepts a report by a mechanical engineer licensed in the state of Michigan demonstrating that the alternative system will control odor as well or better than the activated carbon filtration system otherwise required. The municipality may hire an outside expert to review the alternative system design and advise as to its comparability and whether in the opinion of the expert it should be accepted.
- f. *Security cameras.* Security cameras must be used and shall be directed to record only the subject property and may not be directed to public rights-of-way as applicable, except as required to comply with licensing requirements of the state. Recordings shall be kept for ninety (90) days.

SECTION 2. AMENDMENT. That Section 38-312, Principal uses permitted, of Chapter 38, Zoning, Article XIV. *I-2 General Industrial Districts*, of the Code of Ordinances is hereby amended to read:

Sec. 38-312. - Principal uses permitted.

In an I-2 district, no building or land shall be used and no building shall be erected except for one (1) or more of the following specified uses unless otherwise provided in this chapter:

- (1) Any principal use first permitted in an I-1 district;
- (2) Onsite heating and electric power generating plants using conventional fuels or renewable resources;
- (3) Gasoline or petroleum storage;
- (4) Railroad yards;
- (5) Any of the following production or manufacturing uses (not including storage of finished products) provided that they are located not less than eight hundred (800) feet distant from any residential district and not less than three hundred (300) feet distant from any other district:
 - a. Junkyards, provided such are entirely enclosed within a building or ~~within an eight (8) foot obscuring wall~~ the site meets **Sec. 38-389 wall requirements** and provided further that one property line abuts a railroad right-of-way.
- (6) Foundry operations within a closed building;
- (7) Any other use which shall be determined by the council after recommendation from the planning commission, to be of the same general character as the above permitted uses in this section. The council may impose any required setbacks and/or performance standards so as to ensure public health, safety and general welfare;
- (8) Accessory buildings and uses customarily incident to any of the above permitted uses.

Additional uses allowed by special use permit:

- (1) Grain elevators;
- (2) Any of the following production or manufacturing uses (not including storage of finished products) provided that they are located not less than eight hundred (800) feet distant from any residential district and not less than three hundred (300) feet distant from any other district:

- a. Incineration of garbage or refuse when conducted within an approved and enclosed incinerator plant;
- b. Blast furnace, steel furnace, blooming or rolling mill;
- c. Manufacture of corrosive acid or alkali, cement, lime, gypsum or plaster of Paris;
- d. Petroleum or other inflammable liquids, production or refining;
- e. Smelting of copper, iron or zinc ore.

SECTION 3. AMENDMENT. That Section 38-389, Walls, of Chapter 38, Zoning, Article XVII. *General Provisions*, of the Code of Ordinances is hereby amended to read:

Sec. 38-389. - Walls.

- (a) For those use districts and uses listed below, there shall be provided and maintained on those sides abutting or adjacent to a residential district, or a single-family detached residential use, an obscuring wall as required below, except otherwise required in subsection (d):

Use Requirements

- (1) P-1 Vehicular parking district—Four (4) foot six (6) inch high wall. Off-street parking area (other than P-1 districts) four (4) foot six (6) inch high wall.
 - (2) B-1, B-2, B-3, B-4, and OS-1 districts—Four (4) foot, six (6) inch high wall.
 - (3) I-1 and I-2 districts—Open storage areas, loading or unloading areas, service areas—Four (4) foot, six (6) inch to eight (8) foot high wall ~~or fence. Wall H~~ height shall **be one (1) foot above the height of the open storage items, piles, etc.** ~~provide the most complete obscuring possible.~~ See subsection (d) of this section.
 - (4) Auto wash. Drive-in restaurants—Six (6) foot high wall.
 - (5) Utility buildings, stations and/or substations—Six (6) foot high wall.
- (b) Required walls shall be located on the lot line except where underground utilities interfere and except in instances where this chapter requires conformance with front yard setback lines in abutting residential districts. Upon review of the site plan, the board of appeals or planning commission may approve an alternate location for the wall or may waive the wall requirement if in specific cases it would not serve the purposes of screening the area effectively. Required walls may, upon approval of the board of appeals, be located on the opposite side of an alley right-of-way from a nonresidential zone that abuts a residential zone when mutually agreeable to affected property owners. The continuity of the required wall on a given block will be a major consideration of the board of appeals in reviewing such request.
 - (c) Such walls and screening barrier shall have no openings for vehicular traffic or other purposes, except as otherwise provided in this chapter and except such openings as may be approved by the police chief and the building inspector. All walls herein required shall be constructed of materials approved by the building inspector to be durable, weather resistant, rust proof and easily maintained. ~~Masonry walls may be constructed with openings which do not in any square section (height and width) exceed twenty (20) percent of the surface. Where walls are so pierced, the openings shall be so spaced as to maintain the obscuring character required, and shall not reduce the minimum height requirement. The arrangement of the openings shall be reviewed and approved by the building inspector.~~
 - ~~(d) The requirement for an obscuring wall between off-street parking areas, outdoor storage areas, and any abutting residential district, or single family detached residential use, shall not be required when such areas are located more than two hundred (200) feet distant from such abutting residential district.~~
 - ~~(e)~~**(d)** The ~~board of appeals or~~ planning commission may waive or modify the foregoing requirements where cause can be shown that no good purpose would be

served, provided that in no instance shall a required wall be permitted to be less than four (4) feet six (6) inches in height, except where [section 38-388](#) applies. In certain consideration of request to waive wall requirements between nonresidential and residential districts, or single-family detached residential use, the planning commission shall determine ~~or the board shall refer the request to the planning commission to determine~~ whether or not the residential district or single-family detached residential use, is considered to be an area in transition and will become nonresidential in the future. In such cases as the planning commission determines the residential district or single-family detached residential use, to be a future nonresidential area, ~~the board or~~ commission may temporarily waive wall requirements for an initial period not to exceed twelve (12) months. Granting of subsequent waivers shall be permitted, provided that the planning commission shall make a determination as hereinbefore described, for each subsequent waiver prior to the granting of such waiver.

SECTION 3. AMENDMENT. That Section 38-393, Fences and hedges, of Chapter 38, Zoning, Article XVII. *General Provisions*, of the Code of Ordinances is hereby amended to read:

Sec. 38-393. - Fences and hedges.

- (a) A fence is defined as any partition, structure or gate that is erected as a dividing marker, barrier or enclosure (excluding hedges as defined below).
- (b) A hedge is defined as any bush, shrub or any living green screen of any nature that serves as a dividing marker, barrier or enclosure.
- (c) Regulations applicable to R-1, R-2, RM-1, RM-2, OS-1, B-1, B-2, B-3, B-4, C-OS, and P-1.
 - (1) A fence shall not exceed six (6) feet in height in the rear or side lot of any parcel;
 - (2) Front yard fences or hedges must be less than fifty (50) percent solid, impervious, or of an obscuring nature above a height of thirty (30) inches above the curb or centerline of the street, and not exceed four (4) feet in total height;
 - (3) Fences and hedges in front yards that function as exterior side yards must follow front yard restrictions unless the fence or hedge is installed or planted at least nineteen (19) feet back from the right-of-way line or follows the building line of the nearest legal structure. All such fences and hedges must meet clear vision requirements for streets, driveways, and sidewalks.
 - (4) No fence or hedge shall extend across property lines;
 - (5) The finished side of any fence shall face away from the property on which the fence is located;
 - (6) No portion of any fence shall be constructed with or contain barbed wire, electric current or charge of electricity, glass, spikes or other sharp protruding objects;
 - (7) Fences must be maintained so as not to endanger life or property. Any fence which, through lack of maintenance or type of construction which will obstruct vision so to create a hazard to vehicular traffic or pedestrians upon the public streets and/or sidewalks shall be deemed a nuisance;
 - (8) Fences shall not be constructed, in whole or in part, with any of the following materials:
 - a. Junk or other debris.
 - b. Scrap building materials or metals.
 - c. Organic materials known to be poisonous or hazardous to human or animal life.
 - d. Other materials which may be deemed unsafe to person or property by the zoning administrator or building official.
 - (9) No hedge shall be constructed with noxious weeds or grasses, as defined by PA 359 of 1941, being MCL 247.62.
 - (10) Screening walls are required as prescribed in [section 38-389](#).

(d) Regulations applicable to industrial districts.

- (1) Fences, ~~walls and screens~~ are permitted in the required front, side and rear lots provided they do not exceed six (6) feet in the front yard and eight (8) feet in the side and rear lots. To preserve open space and aesthetic character in the front yard, fences higher than four (4) feet must be setback two (2) feet for each additional foot above four (4) feet and all front yard fences must be black vinyl chain link or decorative in nature.**
- (2) Industrial district uses with open storage areas, loading or unloading areas, service areas shall provide and maintain on those sides abutting or adjacent to a residential district, or a single-family detached residential use, a solid fence not to exceed eight (8) foot high. The fence height shall be one (1) foot above the height of the open storage items, piles, etc. A solid gate shall also be provided to screen the open storage from the right of way.**
- ~~(4)~~**(3)** Except as provided below, barbed wire strands and noncoated or decorative chain link are permitted on fences six (6) feet or higher on industrial parcels with the barbed wire tilted in toward the fenced parcel. Barbed wire is not permitted in the front yard except for those located on McMillan Ave, Industrial Drive, South Street, and Aiken Road.
- ~~(2)~~**(4)** On any corner lot, no fence, wall or screen, whether structural or botanical, shall be more than thirty (30) inches above the curb or the centerline of the street pavement, or within twenty-five (25) feet of the intersection of the two (2) right-of-way lines, so as to interfere with motorists' vision across the corner.
- ~~(3)~~**(5)** Screening walls are required as prescribed in [section 38-389](#).

- (e) The zoning administrator or building official may require removal, reconstruction, or repair of any fence or wall which, in their judgment is dilapidated, unsafe, or a threat to the health, safety and welfare of the residents of the City of Owosso.
- (f) A permit shall be required for new fence construction, with a fee to be prescribed by resolution of the council.

SECTION 4. PUBLIC HEARING. A public hearing is set for Monday, March 18, 2019 at 7:30 p.m. for the purpose of hearing citizen comment regarding the proposed ordinance amendment.

SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE. This amendment shall become effective twenty days after passage.

SECTION 6. AVAILABILITY. This ordinance may be purchased or inspected in the city clerk's office, Monday through Friday between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.