

EUGENE CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY



Action: An Ordinance Concerning Deer Fencing; and Amending Sections 9.2750 and 9.2751 of the Eugene Code, 1971, and Section 4.996 of that Code. (City File CA 14-1)

Meeting Date: June 23, 2014
Department: Planning & Development
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Agenda Item Number: 5
Staff Contact: Kristie Brown
Contact Telephone Number: 541-682-6041

ISSUE STATEMENT

The City Council will take action on land use code amendments related to deer fencing standards within the city limits.

BACKGROUND

Last year, the City Council initiated code amendments related to deer fencing at the request of residential property owners in south Eugene who asked that the City consider allowing for higher fences to prevent deer from destroying vegetable and flower gardens. While fencing is currently allowed in residential zones, this amendment is intended to increase the allowable height of fencing in front and interior yard setbacks to prevent damage to gardens from deer, while still addressing neighborhood livability issues. These amendments will help to implement strategies of the City of Eugene Food Security Scoping and Resource Plan, Envision Eugene, and the Climate and Energy Action Plan. More specifically, these amendments remove barriers to the development of home-grown food sources.

Specifically, the amendments propose the following in the R-1 Low Density Residential zone:

- Increase the fence height allowance in the front yard from 3.5 feet to eight feet.
- Increase the fence height allowance in the interior yard from six feet to eight feet.
- The increased height allowance would be limited to a wire fencing material to allow for a clear (unobstructed) view through the fence.

The formal public process began with a Planning Commission public hearing on May 6, 2014, to consider the proposed amendments, where two people provided testimony in support of the amendments. Subsequently, the Planning Commission voted unanimously (5-0) to recommend approval of the land use code amendments, as modified through their deliberations. The attached ordinance, Attachment A, represents the Planning Commission's recommendation. On June 16, 2014, the City Council held a public hearing to consider the proposed amendments. At the public hearing, two people spoke in support of the amendments.

RELATED CITY POLICIES

Findings addressing consistency with related City policies, including provisions of the Metro Plan and applicable refinement plans, are included as an Exhibit A to the draft ordinance. These are also consistent with the City of Eugene Food Security Scoping and Resource Plan and support a strategy in Envision Eugene under the Climate Change and Energy Resiliency pillar and the Climate and Energy Action Plan.

COUNCIL OPTIONS

The City Council may consider the following options:

1. Approve the ordinance
2. Approve the ordinance with specific modifications as determined by the City Council
3. Deny the ordinance

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION

The City Manager recommends that the City Council approve the ordinance as provided in Attachment A.

SUGGESTED MOTION

Move to adopt Council Bill 5118, an ordinance concerning deer fencing contained in Attachment A.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Proposed Ordinance and Findings

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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