



NEW BUSINESS – ORDINANCE AMENDMENT, FLAGPOLE HEIGHT DISCUSSION

Agenda Item: 6 (b)

Background Information: At their May 7, 2019 meeting, the City Council directed the Planning Commission to review the maximum height for flagpoles. This request was the result of the denial for a Variance for an 80-foot flagpole in the Commercial zone. The Minutes of that meeting are included as Agenda Item 8 (a).

Flagpole Heights:

City of Princeton	60 feet; Flagpoles located in a Business or Industrial District
City of Baxter	50 feet or 10 feet above the actual building height, whichever is less.
City of Nisswa	25 feet; structure height
City of Pequot Lakes	25 feet; structure height in the Commercial Zone

In addition to flagpole height, discussion included lighting of the American Flag at night.

“It is the universal custom to display the flag only from sunrise to sunset on buildings and on stationary flagstuffs in the open. However, when a patriotic effect is desired, the flag may be displayed 24 hours a day if properly illuminated during the hours of darkness.” (CRS Report for Congress 2008)

“The Flag Code states it is the universal custom to display the flag only from sunrise to sunset on buildings and on stationary flag staffs in the open. However, when a patriotic effect is desired, the flag may be displayed 24 hours a day if properly illuminated during the hours of darkness. The American Legion interprets “proper illumination” as a light specifically placed to illuminate the flag (preferred) or having a light source sufficient to illuminate the flag so it is recognizable as such by the casual observer.” (American Legion website)

Downward directional lighting is required in the Commercial, Light Industrial, Recreation, and Public zones. There are no lighting standards in the Forest Management, Agriculture, Rural Residential, Transition Residential, Shoreline Residential, or Shoreline Commercial. The lighting standards for the Downtown Mixed Use zone are below.

Applicable Regulations:

Section 17-5.10 COMMERCIAL (C)

Building height – feet, maximum	25
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4. Performance Standards. The following performance standards apply to all development in this zone:

E. Lighting. Lighting shall be minimal. Lighting shall be downward directional and shall be compatible with the surrounding development. Lights approved with signs must be turned off at the close of business each day.

Section 17-5.12 DOWNTOWN MIXED USE (DMU)

Building height – feet, maximum

25

4. Performance Standards. The following performance standards apply to all development in this zone:

C. Lighting. All building entrances, pathways and other pedestrian areas shall be lit to two-foot candles with pedestrian-scale lighting including wall mounted, sidewalk lamps, bollards, or landscape up-lighting.

Planning Commission Direction: The Planning Commission should come prepared to discuss flagpole height and lighting. The Planning Commission should give Staff specific direction for any proposed ordinance amendment.



CITY HALL FLAG POLE - 25' TALL
CHOPPED POLE TOP OFF IN PHOTO - SORRY



HIGH SCHOOL
FLAG POLE 30' TALL



TDS FLAG POLE
50' TALL



ANDERSON - BOAT STORAGE
FLAG POLE: 60' HEIGHT