



CITY COUNCIL MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council

FROM: Matthew R. Schmitz, MPA - City Manager

DATE OF MEETING: October 23, 2023

ITEM TITLE: First Reading - Ordinance Amendment Article 17 of Zoning Code

BACKGROUND:

In February of 2023, Chapter 17 of the Zoning Ordinance for the City of Independence was modified to repeal all provisions that allowed for the construction or erection of "Billboards" and/or "Ground Signs", as then defined by the Zoning Ordinance.

DISCUSSION:

The attached Ordinance is ready for adoption and makes several modifications to the existing Article 17 of the Zoning Code. These changes have been reviewed and recommended for approval by the Planning Commission, and legal staff has reviewed them.

RESULTS:

The City has established priorities during strategic planning sessions. This item supports the Vision from that session of Engaging and Catalyzing Community and Developing and Reviving Independence. This item helps achieve that vision by responding to citizen concerns about billboards in town and modifying regulations to deny the construction of billboards moving forward. This helps to Develop and Revive beautifying Independence by disallowing obstructions like billboards to be constructed within the city limits.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION:

There will be publication costs related to the ordinance summary being published and then costs to Simmering-Cory Iowa Codification when the next code supplement is done. While the Zoning Code is a separate book, it is referenced in the City of Independence Code of Ordinances (Chapter 170).

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends a motion to approve the first reading, waive the second and third readings, adopt the ordinance change during this meeting, and to authorize the Mayor to sign the Ordinance. The changes will be effective upon the ordinance summary being published in the newspapers.