MEMO

PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

To: Plan Commission

From: Dave Kittel, Director of Planning and Community Development

Date: 11/13/2026

Re: Fence Height

Over the past few years staff have received numerous inquires on fence heights in front yards for residential properties. Currently the ordinance on fence height is found in 17.32(3) and states:

Permanent fences and hedges in areas zoned residential.

1. Fences and hedges in front yard.
    1. Height. Fences and hedges in front yards shall have a maximum vertical height of 42 inches.
    2. Visibility. Fences in front yards shall be constructed to provide a minimum of 50 percent through-visibility.
    3. Additional requirements. Additional requirements, as required under section 8.11 of this Code, to include streets, alleys, and driveways.

Many residents question the height requirement of 42inches. While it is still possible to find fencing in this height it is often a special order or must be made/customized from existing fencing products. This leads to many requests to update this provision from 42inches to 48inches, which is much easier to find fencing products for. Below

is a table to show the front yard height restrictions in some of our neighboring municipalities:

Municipality	**Front Yard Fence Height**
City pf Appleton	3ft
Village of Little Chute	48in
Village of Kimberly	48in
Village of Greenville	48in
Town of Grand Chute	42in
Town of Buchanan	48in

Many other communities do allow 48in height for front yard fencing with some type of requirement for vision such as 50% open to vision and all have provisions on no fencing in vision triangles.

The City has provisions in place for 50% open to vision and vision triangles. Changing the front yard fence height from 42inches to 48inches would allow for greater ease of fence installation and affordability for our residents. There appears to be minimal impact to this but, with any possible change, the impact on public health, safety and welfare must be taken into consideration. The increase in height may make it more difficult to see pedestrians, particularly children, on the sidewalks when vehicles are pulling in/out of driveways. Current ordinance requires 50% of the front yard fence to be open for vision and that provision would continue to help mitigate any issues with seeing pedestrians on the sidewalk. This is currently only up for discussion and direction.

Recommendation:
For discussion/direction

THE CITY OF
EST 1885
KAUKAUNA
WISCONSIN