



CITY OF
LONG LAKE

Planning Commission Agenda Report

City of Long Lake

450 Virginia Avenue, PO Box 606

Long Lake, MN 55356

MEETING DATE / May 13, 2025

SUBJECT: Public Hearing: Amending Section 19 of the Zoning Ordinance to Update Requirements for Residential, Business, and Swimming Pool Fences

Prepared By: Jeanette Moeller, City Clerk

Report Date: 5/7/2025

Planning Commission Action

Upon conclusion of the public hearing, the Planning Commission should discuss the draft ordinance and consider the following action:

Motion to recommend the City Council adopt an ordinance amending Section 19 of the City's Zoning Ordinance to update requirements for residential, business, and swimming pool fences.

Overview / Background

City staff has been aware for some time that zoning code pertaining to residential fences and swimming pools was outdated and perhaps overly restrictive compared to more current fence standards. A recent request by a resident to tie in to a property line fence prompted staff to move forward with a review and update of the City's existing fence language set forth in Zoning Code.

The attached draft ordinance proposes amending Section 19 of the City's Zoning Ordinance to include the following updates:

- Temporary erosion control and construction fences are required for new construction. Though not previously recognized in fence code, the proposed ordinance includes language providing exemptions for temporary erosion control, construction, new landscaping, snow, and seasonal-only garden fences; and includes safeguards to prevent these types of temporary fences from remaining in place year-round.
- Current fence code requires a survey for submission with a fence permit application. Staff has found that a detailed site plan is often adequate to document a fence's location and can typically be generated by a permit applicant at no cost.
- Existing residential fence requirements state that all residential fences must be set back at least one foot from all property lines; however, businesses are allowed to erect a property line tie-in fence. The one-foot residential fence setback requirement has been a source of regular objection by residents considering a fencing project, particularly because it doesn't allow for adjoining properties to share boundary line fencing. Consistent with current fence standards, staff's proposed ordinance language would allow boundary line fences for residential, business and industrial district fences to be shared if the location is agreed to by notarized signature of all adjoining property owners. Additionally, rather than a one foot setback, fences would be required to be located entirely upon the private property of the person or business constructing/causing construction of the fence.

- Rather than the current (and outdated) requirement that swimming pools be surrounded by a six foot fence, the proposed ordinance would allow the more typical four foot safety fence equipped with safeguards. To assure that swimming pool related zoning requirements are addressed comprehensively and for ease of ordinance applicability/use, pool setback standards have also been included in the updated language within the same subdivision.

Staff requests the Planning Commission review the attached draft ordinance, hold the required public hearing, and discuss whether to make a recommendation that the City Council adopt the draft ordinance as presented.

Supporting Information

- Ordinance amending Section 19 of the City's Zoning Ordinance
- Email from resident requesting the City consider allowing boundary line tie-in fences