



Memorandum

To: Mayor Nelson and Members of the City Council
From: Daniel R. Buchholtz, MMC, Administrator, Clerk/Treasurer
Date: September 7, 2023
Subject: Carport Discussion

Councilmember Goodboe-Bisschoff asked that a discussion about carports be added to the work session agenda.

I received additional clarification from Councilmember Goodboe-Bisschoff regarding her discussion request. An excerpt of her email is included with this memorandum.

A carport is a covered structure designed to provide shelter for vehicles, typically automobiles. Carports are typically open-sided or partially enclosed and are usually attached to a house or built as a freestanding unit. They are primarily intended to protect vehicles from various weather elements such as rain, snow, sunlight, and hail, providing a level of protection while allowing for ventilation and easy access. Carports come in various designs, materials, and sizes, making them a flexible and cost-effective option for vehicle protection compared to fully enclosed garages. As with any structure, carports may not blend well with existing architecture in some neighborhoods, leading to potential visual clutter and a less cohesive streetscape. In addition, if they are not properly cared for, they could become an eyesore and decrease property values.

Carports are permitted in the City, but they must be constructed in accordance with the State Building Code, meet all setbacks, and have an approved surface underneath to accommodate parking a vehicle underneath. This means that the metal carport kits sold at home improvement stores are not allowed in the City.

The carport proposed by the resident would be permitted under the Zoning Code, so long as the requirements outlined under the zoning code are met.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 763-784-6491.

Excerpt of Email from Councilmember Goodboe-Bisschoff

From: Barbara Goodboe-Bisschoff <bisschoff@comcast.net>

Sent: Thursday, September 7, 2023 3:45 AM

To: Daniel Buchholtz <dbuchholtz@slpmn.org>

Subject: Carports

Hi Dan,

The gentleman who asked about the carport has not contacted me since we spoke during 'Nite to Unite,' so if you need to move this to a later workshop, go ahead. He already has a garage, but felt adding this unto the side of his home would be a great addition. On the plus side, carports are less expense to construct than garages and can be used during inclement weather to entertain in. Since SLP wishes to remain its own unique entity, having a few of these around town would add to that. So many new developments have the sameness element about them, like a row of army barracks. On the negative side, they could also become a dumping area for the homeowner. I would never be in favor of the shed-type kit that is for sale, but something attached to the home or garage and anchored to a ground cement slab. There are many great looking designs including those that resemble pergolas more than carports. The element of design should always be left up to the discretion of the city. Thank you. See you next week. Barbara