

ORDINANCE NO. 15,775

AN ORDINANCE to amend the Municipal Code of the City of Des Moines, Iowa, 2000, adopted by Ordinance No. 13,827, passed June 5, 2000, as heretofore amended, by amending Sections 102-2, 102-126.07 and 102-128 relating to maintenance of the border area, and by adding and enacting new Section 102-3.5 relating to administrative penalties.

Be It Ordained by the City Council of the City of Des Moines, Iowa:

Section 1. That the Municipal Code of the City of Des Moines, Iowa, 2000, adopted by Ordinance No. 13,827, passed June 5, 2000, as heretofore amended, is hereby amended by amending Sections 102-2, 102-126.07 and 102-128, relating to maintenance of the border area, and by adding and enacting new Section 102- 3.5 relating to administrative penalties, as follows:

Sec. 102-2. Maintenance of border area.

- (a) The abutting property owner shall maintain the border area in a well-kept and safe condition free from defects, garbage, junk, rubbish, debris, solid waste, nuisances, obstructions or any other hazards, except as permitted in section 98-54 or 98-58 of this Code; provided, however the property owner shall not be required to remove diseased trees or dead or fallen tree limbs.
- (b) The abutting property owner may intentionally plant grass, flowers, shrubs, and plants, which shall exclude trees, in the border, subject to the following restrictions:
 - (1) No noxious weeds, as declared in Iowa Code 317.1A, shall be allowed.
 - (2) No turfgrass shall exceed 12 inches in height.
 - (3) No flowers, shrubs, or plants shall exceed 36 inches in height. Flower stalks from the following plants are exempt from the 36 inch height requirement:
 - a. Lily
 - b. Daylily
 - c. Hosta
 - d. Iris
 - e. Coneflower
 - f. Bellflower
 - g. Yarrow
 - h. Astilbe
 - i. Poppy
 - j. Milkweed
 - k. Yucca
 - l. Columbine
 - m. Allium
 - n. Lupine
 - o. Veronica

- p. Larkspur
 - q. Marigold
 - r. Zinnia
 - s. Snapdragon
- (4) Only turfgrass less than 12 inches in height, ground cover only as approved by the Fire Chief or Fire Marshal, or concrete pavement or pavers flush with the surrounding finished grade, shall be located within five (5) feet of any fire hydrant.
 - (5) All grass, flowers, shrubs, and plants planted by the property owner shall be planted at the property owner's sole risk and cost. The city shall not be required to incur any cost associated with such grass, flowers, shrubs, and plants.
 - (6) In the event the city is required to restore any portion of the border area, such restoration shall be limited to turfgrass only.
 - (7) All grass, flowers, shrubs, and plants planted in the border area shall be subject to all requirements of Chapter 122 of this Code.
 - (8) All grass, flowers, shrubs, and plants located within the vision clearance triangle shall be subject to the requirements of Sections 114-14, 114-14.01, and 114-14.02 of this Code.
 - (9) The location of said grass, flowers, shrubs, and plants shall not interfere with access to any utilities located and/or operated within the border area. All grass, flowers, shrubs, and plants placed within the border area shall be subject to existing and future utilities within the border area. In the event said grass, flowers, shrubs, and plants are impacted, removed or damaged for the installation, construction, repair, reconstruction, relocation or maintenance of utilities within the border area, the property owner shall be responsible for replanting said grass, flowers, shrubs, and plants at the property owner's sole expense. All damage to utilities resulting from the planting of said grass, flowers, shrubs, and plants shall be at the sole cost of the property owner.
 - (10) Said grass, flowers, shrubs, and plants shall not encroach upon any portion of the roadway, alley, or sidewalk which decrease the width of a sidewalk to less than four (4) feet or the width of an alley to less than ten (10) feet.
 - (11) Said grass, flowers, shrubs, and plants shall not fully or partially obstruct any portion of any signs or traffic control devices.
 - (12) Said grass, flowers, shrubs, and plants shall not grow on or attach to any signs, signposts, or traffic control devices.
 - (13) Wood mulch is allowed in areas where flowers, shrubs, and plants have been intentionally planted.
- (c) The abutting property owner shall keep the border area free of any structures, materials or objects, except grass, flowers, shrubs, and plants as allowed herein, breakaway mailboxes or other obstructions approved by the city through a process provided for in this Code.
 - (d) The abutting property owner may be liable for damages caused by failure to maintain the border area.
 - (e) This section shall not apply to multi-use recreational trails, traffic control devices, traffic signs, parking meters, newspaper boxes, United States postal boxes or those erected for home delivery, or street trees planted in conformance with city standards that do not constitute a safety hazard, obstruction of view or nuisance.

Sec. 102-3.5. Administrative penalties - notice of violations.

- (a) The director of public works or his or her designated representative or any police officer is authorized to impose an administrative penalty upon any owner or tenant or lessee of any real estate who fails to maintain the border area. The administrative penalty for such violation shall be as provided in the schedule of administrative penalties adopted by the city council by resolution.
- (b) Penalties shall be paid in full within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the notice.
- (c) Notice of violation, with the applicable penalty for such violation noted thereon, shall be issued to the violator by the director of public works or his or her designated representative or any police officer. Service of the notice may be by regular mail or delivery in person. Such notice shall include:
 - (1) a statement that the violator has a right to an administrative hearing regarding the violation;
 - (2) a statement that the violator may file a written request for hearing as set forth in section 102-126.07. The request of hearing shall stay payment of the administrative penalty until the hearing is decided. If issuance of the notice of violation is upheld, the violator shall have 30 days from issuance of the hearing decision to pay the administrative penalty.

Sec. 102-126.07. Administrative hearing.

- (a) A person to whom a notice of administrative penalty has been issued for violation of sections 102-3, 102-124 and/or 102-126 may request an administrative hearing for review of the finding that a violation occurred pursuant to and in conformance with chapter three of this code.
- (b) A request for hearing on a notice of administrative penalty shall be made in writing and filed with the city clerk within ten (10) calendar days of the date of issuance of the notice. Such request shall include the address of the violator and state the basis for the appeal.

Sec. 102-128. Right of city to seek alternative relief.

The city is not precluded from seeking alternative relief from the court, including an order for abatement or injunctive relief, in the event that the city issues an administrative penalty, a notice of violation, and/or files a municipal infraction for the same violation of this chapter.

Section 2. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and publication as provided by law.

FORM APPROVED:

Ann DiDonato, Assistant City Attorney

T. M. Franklin Cownie, Mayor

Attest:

I, Diane Rauh, City Clerk of the City of Des Moines, Iowa, hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true copy of an ordinance (Roll Call No. 19-0817), passed by the City Council of said City at a meeting held May, 20, 2019 signed by the Mayor on May 20, 2019 and published and provided by law in the Business Record on June 7, 2019. Authorized by Publication Order No. 10747.

Diane Rauh, City Clerk