


COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

	Number:	19-179	Meeting:	April 22, 2019
	Agenda Item:	42	Roll Call:	19-0661
	Submitted by:	Steven L. Naber, P.E., City Engineer Jonathan A. Gano, P.E., Public Works Director		

AGENDA HEADING:

Amending Chapter 102 of the Municipal Code regarding border area maintenance and administrative penalties.

SYNOPSIS:

Recommend approval of staff recommendations and the ordinance regarding border maintenance and administrative penalties.

FISCAL IMPACT: NONE

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- At the August 20, 2018 Council Meeting, a citizen requested that the Municipal Code be amended to allow other types of vegetation, such as flowers, within the border area. At that meeting, Council directed staff to review the current Municipal Code and propose changes to allow plantings within the border area. Staff met with the citizen who made the original request as well as neighbors to review the proposed revisions and incorporate any requested changes. The proposed changes to Section 102-2 of the Municipal Code include the allowance of vegetation within the border area with the following exceptions:
 - No noxious weeds allowed (as defined by Iowa Code).
 - Vegetation cannot obstruct sidewalks or roadways.
 - Vegetation cannot block signage.
 - Vegetation cannot interfere with access to utilities or fire hydrants.
 - Turf grass cannot exceed 12-inches in height. Vegetation cannot exceed 3-feet in height. Flower stalks of plants listed in the Municipal Code are exempt from this height requirement.
 - Current vision clearance requirements still apply.
- The proposed changes also include a new section providing for the imposition of administrative penalties for violation of Section 102-2 border area maintenance requirements. The penalty amount will be set by City Council resolution following adoption of the proposed amendment.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S): NONE

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE

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