

**ORDINANCE NO. 02-2025**

**CITY OF AFTON**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 153.085 OF THE CITY CODE  
REGARDING LIGHTING, LIGHTING FIXTURES AND GLARE TO  
CLARIFY OUTDOOR LIGHTING REGULATIONS**

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AFTON, MINNESOTA DOES HEREBY ORDAIN:

The following sections of the Afton Code of Ordinances shall be amended by **adding** the **bold and underlined** language.

**153.085 LIGHTING, LIGHTING FIXTURES AND GLARE.**

(A) In all zoning districts, any lighting used to illuminate an off-street parking area, or other structure or area, shall be arranged to deflect light away from any adjoining Residential Zoning Districts or from the public streets. Direct or sky-reflected glare, whether from floodlights or from high temperature processes such as combustion or welding shall not be directed onto any adjoining property. The source of light shall be hooded or controlled so as not to light adjacent property. Bare light bulbs shall not be permitted in view of adjacent property or public rights-of-way. No light or combination of lights that cast light on a public street shall exceed one foot-candle meter reading as measured from the centerline of the street nor shall any light or combination of lights that cast light on residential property exceed 0.4 foot-candles **at the property line.**

(B) Lighting standards shall not exceed 35 feet in height.

**(C) Outdoor Lighting Regulations**

**(1) Purpose.**

**The purpose of this section is to regulate outdoor lighting in order to reduce or prevent light pollution. This means, to the extent reasonably possible, the reduction or prevention of glare and light trespass, the conservation of energy, and the promotion of safety and security. This chapter will ensure the aesthetically appropriate outdoor lighting in keeping with the historic character and night sky beauty of the city.**

**(a) Five Principles for Responsible Outdoor Lighting:**

**(Co-authored and published by DarkSky International and the Illuminating Engineering Society)**

**a) Use light only if needed;**

**b) distribute light only where it is needed;**

**c) use light that is no brighter than needed;**

**d) control light so it is on only when needed;**

e) use warmer color light when possible.

**(2) Definitions.**

**As used in this section:**

***Accent lighting.***

**Any directional lighting which emphasizes a particular object or draws attention to a particular area.**

***Disabling glare.***

**Lighting that impairs visibility and creates a potentially hazardous situation for either pedestrians or motorists.**

***Glare.***

**The brightness of a light source that causes eye discomfort.**

***Lamp or bulb.***

**The light producing source installed in the socket portion of a luminaire. Types of bulbs that comply with this chapter and their relative efficiencies are listed in table 1 of this section.**

***Light pollution.***

**General night sky glow caused by the scattering of artificial light in the atmosphere resulting in decreased ability to see the natural night sky.**

***Light trespass.***

**Light emitted by a luminaire that shines beyond the property on which the luminaire is installed.**

***Lumen.***

**A unit of light or illumination from a lamp or bulb.**

***Luminaire or fixture.***

**A complete lighting unit including the lamps or bulbs, together with the parts required to distribute the light, to position and protect the lamps, and to connect the lamps to the power supply. “Wall packs” and “porch lights” are two (2) terms used to describe outdoor fixtures mounted on building structures. Terms used by the industry to identify fixtures that comply with this chapter are:**

**“Full cutoff”.**

**“Night sky or dark sky friendly (or compliant)”.**

**“International Dark Skies Association approved (IDA approved)”.**

**“Ordinance compliant”.**

**Nighttime Hours: The time between 10:00 PM and 30 minutes after sunrise. For businesses and events with operating hours later than 10 PM, nighttime hours will begin one hour after closing.**

*Nuisance glare.*

Light that creates an annoyance or aggravation but does not create a potentially hazardous situation.

*Shielding.*

No light rays emitted by a fixture above the horizontal plane running through the lowest point of the fixture where light is emitted.

*Spotlight or floodlight.*

Any lamp that incorporates a reflector or a refractor to concentrate the light output into a directed beam in a particular direction.

*Watt.*

A unit of electric power flowing into a lamp or bulb.

**(D) Applicability.**

**(1) This chapter does not apply to interior lighting. However, overly bright interior light emitted outdoors from any structure will be subject to control by this chapter if it is determined by the code administrator that it creates a “nuisance glare” or “disabling glare” as defined by this chapter.**

**(2) New installations and modifications to existing nonconforming fixtures in the designated City historic district shall comply with this chapter.**

**(3) Compliance with this chapter shall be administered and enforced by the City zoning administrator.**

**(4) All governmental agencies, federal, state or county, including their security facilities which operate within the City limits, must follow the provisions of this chapter.**

**(5) In the event of a conflict with any other section of this chapter, the more stringent requirement shall apply.**

**(E) General standards.**

**The following general standards shall apply to all outdoor lighting installed after the effective date of the original ordinance which are not covered under exemptions:**

**(1) Outdoor lighting must be hooded, shielded and aimed downward. Such hood or shield shall ensure that no more than 5% of the light emitted shines above the**

**horizontal. Any structural part of the light fixture providing this shield or hood must be permanently affixed.**

**(2) The hood or shield must mask the direct horizontal surface of the light source. The light must be aimed to ensure the illumination is only pointing downward onto the ground surface, with no upward escaping light permitted to contribute to sky glow.**

**(3) Any bright light shining onto adjacent property or streets which results in nuisance glare or disabling glare shall not be permitted.**

**(4) Rather than replacing existing non-compliant fixtures, existing fixtures may be adapted to comply with this chapter by adding a properly designed hood or shield, or by pointing any upward mounted, shielded fixture downward toward the ground surface. Such hood or shield shall ensure that no more than 5% of the light emitted shines above the horizontal. Any structural part of the light fixture providing this shield or hood must be permanently affixed.**

**(5) All outdoor lighting fixtures shall be designed, installed, located and maintained such that glare onto adjacent properties or streets shall be minimized and all direct illumination kept within the boundaries of the fixture owner's property.**

**(6) Accent lighting, when so approved, shall be directed downward onto the building or object and not toward the sky or onto adjacent properties. Direct light emissions shall not be visible above the roofline or beyond the building edge.**

**(7) Spotlighting on landscaping and foliage shall be directed downward onto the object and not toward the sky or onto adjacent properties, and shall not exceed 1200 lumens output. The lamp shall be shielded and not create disabling glare. All landscape lighting shall not exceed 1200 initial light output lumens per fixture, and the light source must be fully shielded from view**

**(8) Light Trespass onto Residential Use property shall measure no greater than 0.4 footcandles at the property line.**

**(9) Unless otherwise specified in this ordinance, the maximum allowable correlated color temperature (CCT) for outdoor light fixtures is 3000 K.**

**(10) Time-of-Day Limits**

**Curfew: Non-essential outdoor lighting, including but not limited to landscape and decorative lighting elements, shall be extinguished during Nighttime Hours.**

**(11) This section shall be enforced on the basis of a formal complaint filed in writing with the administration department.**

**(12) Further restrictions.**

**The City reserves the right to further restrict outdoor lighting, including, but not limited to, searchlights for special events, quartz lighting, laser lights, pole height, and level of illumination, when it is deemed to be in the best public interest and in keeping with the stated purpose of this chapter.**

**(F) Exemptions.**

**The following are exempt from the provisions of this chapter:**

**(1) Traffic control signals and devices.**

**(2) Streetlights installed prior to the effective date of the original ordinance.**

**(3) Temporary emergency lighting (i.e., fire, police, repair workers).**

**(4) Moving vehicle lights.**

**(5) Navigation lights (i.e., airports, heliports, radio/television towers).**

**(6) Seasonal decorations with light displays**

**(7) Sports field outdoor lighting sites existing at the date of passage of the original ordinance (i.e., ball fields, ice rinks, etc.). Any new City sports lighting installations (or any overall, complete replacement) shall be compliant without diminishing adequate illumination and safety.**

**(8) Other special situations approved by the City for temporary or periodic events (i.e., community festivals, emergency or City sanctioned nighttime construction).**

**(9) Security lights not to exceed 2000 lumens per fixture that are controlled by a motion sensor switch and which do not remain on longer than ten (10) minutes after activation.**

**(10) Work-safety lighting for agricultural yards of rural farms**

**(11) Uplighting of US and State of Minnesota flags, Such flags on a pole of 20 feet or less may be illuminated by one upward aimed fully shielded spotlight light fixture, not to exceed 1600 lumens. The light fixture on a flag pole of more than 20 feet and up to 35 feet in height may be illuminated by one to three light fixtures, each of which shall not exceed an initial light output ranging from 1600 to 2200 lumens, based on the amount of light needed to adequately illuminate the flags. The light fixture must be placed as close to the base of the flagpole as reasonably possible and recessed into the ground**

**(G) Severability.**

**The provisions of this chapter are severable and if any paragraph, section, subsection, or part of this chapter is held to be invalid, unenforceable, unconstitutional, or inapplicable to any person or circumstance, such illegality, invalidity, unconstitutionality, or inapplicability shall not affect or impair the remainder of this chapter.**

**(H) Effective date.**

**The provisions of this chapter shall become effective upon publication.**

**(I) Table 1, Light Type Wattage Comparisons.**

**For use in building wall pack and porch light fixtures.**

<b><u>Bulbs Lawful Outdoors</u></b>	<b><u>Wattage of Bulb Allowed (with 1600 Lumens Limit for Residential and Commercial Lights)'</u></b>
<b><u>Incandescent</u></b>	<b><u>100 watts</u></b>
<b><u>High pressure sodium</u></b>	<b><u>35 watts</u></b>
<b><u>Low pressure sodium</u></b>	<b><u>18 watts</u></b>
<b><u>Metal halide (MID)</u></b>	<b><u>39 watts</u></b>
<b><u>LED</u></b>	<b><u>15 watts</u></b>
<b><u>Quartz</u></b>	<b><u>100 watts</u></b>
<b><u>Fluorescent</u></b>	<b><u>30 watts</u></b>