

## CHAPTER 6 – LIGHTING STANDARDS AND PLANS

### Sections:

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### Section 7-6-1: Purpose:

The purpose of this Chapter is to provide standards on the types, construction, installation, and uses of outdoor lighting to conserve energy, regulate glare, prevent the creation of a nuisance, and enhance nighttime enjoyment of properties in Elmore County without decreasing safety, utility, or security.

### Section 7-6-2: Applicability:

The requirements of this Chapter shall apply to the following uses and activities:

- A. Any proposed development requiring master site plan approval.
- B. Installation, change, upgrade, expansion, or enlargement of existing outdoor lighting.

### Section 7-6-3: Process:

- A. A lighting plan shall be required as a component of a master site plan.
- B. The Director may approve a lighting plan contained in the master site plan application provided all requirements are satisfied in this Ordinance and those specific master sight plan lighting plan ordinance requirements.
- C. The lighting plan shall show the location, orientation, and height of all proposed exterior light fixtures, both attached and detached, including those that may be exempt from the regulations of this Ordinance.
- D. The lighting plan shall detail the type and extent of shielding including cut off angles and the type of illumination including the watts, luminous area, and photometric test report for each light source.

#### **Section 7-6-4: Exempt Lighting Types:**

The following types of lighting are exempt from the regulations of this Chapter:

- A. Light fixtures that have a maximum output of less than two hundred sixty (260) lumens.
- B. All outdoor lighting produced by the direct combustion of natural gas or other fossil fuels such as kerosene lanterns or gas lamps.
- C. Temporary holiday lighting used for forty (40) calendar days or less per year.
- D. Vehicular lights and all temporary emergency lighting needed for fire protection, police protection, and/or other emergency services.
- E. All hazard warning lights required by federal or state regulatory agencies.

#### **Section 7-6-5: Prohibited Lighting Types:**

The installations of any of the following types of lighting are prohibited:

- A. Mercury vapor lamp fixture and/or lamp.
- B. Laser source light or any similar high intensity light when projected above the horizon, except where approved for temporary uses.
- C. Changing colors, moving lights, or searchlights (for advertising purposes) are prohibited in all districts, except where approved for temporary uses or as otherwise allowed by this Chapter.
- D. Lighting, including holiday lighting, on commercial or private tower structures that exceed the district height limit are prohibited except as required by regulations of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

#### **Section 7-6-6: Lighting Standards:**

- A. Light sources that emit one (1) candela of luminous intensity into a solid angle of one (1) steradian, the total luminous flux emitted into that solid angle is one (1) lumen. Alternatively, an isotropic one-candela light source emits a total luminous flux of exactly  $4\pi$  lumens. A lumen shall be measured as the total "amount" of visible light emitted. **Example, a standard 100 watt (incandescent) light bulb emits approximately 1700 lumens.**

- B. Two Hundred Sixty Lumens or More: Light fixtures that have a maximum output of two hundred sixty (260) lumens or more shall have an opaque top to prevent up lighting.
- C. One Thousand Lumens or More: Light fixtures that have a maximum output of one thousand (1,000) lumens or more per fixture shall have an opaque top to prevent up lighting and the bulb shall not be visible.
- D. One Thousand Eight Hundred Lumens or More: Light fixtures that have a maximum output of one thousand eight hundred (1,800) lumens or more shall have a "full cut off shield" as herein defined.
- E. Floodlight Fixtures: Floodlight fixtures with an output of one thousand seven hundred (1,700) lumens or more shall be located in such a manner as to prevent direct glare into a roadway and to minimize impact on abutting properties and shall:
  - 1. Floodlight fixtures greater than one thousand seven hundred (1,700) lumens shall be set to only go on when triggered by activity on the property (sensor activated) and to go off within five (5) minutes after activation has ceased; and
  - 2. All floodlight fixtures shall be installed so that they do not tilt more than forty-five (45°) degrees from vertical.
- F. Up Lighting: Up lighting shall only be allowed in cases where the fixture and any light it emits are shielded from the sky by a roof overhang or similar structural shield.
- G. Display Lighting: Display lighting shall be turned off within thirty (30) minutes after close of business and shall remain off until sunrise or the opening of the business on the following day, whichever comes first.
- H. Security Lighting: There are no time restrictions regarding security business lighting as to when such lighting shall be turned off.
- I. Installed Height of Fixture:
  - 1. The height of a freestanding light fixture shall not exceed twenty-five (25') feet or the height of the principal permitted structure whichever is less. Light fixtures mounted on a wall may extend to the full height of the structure, but no farther.
  - 2. The following standards shall apply to floodlight fixtures with a maximum output of one thousand seven hundred (1,700) lumens or more and other light fixtures that have a maximum output of one thousand eight hundred (1,800) lumens or more. Streetlights installed by the Applicable highway district or Idaho Department of Transportation shall be exempt from these standards.

- a. Within a commercial or industrial zone, the effective zone of light (as documented by the photometric test report) shall not trespass on abutting residential properties.
- b. Within the Agricultural or residential base zones, the allowed height shall be determined by the setback from the property line as set forth in this Ordinance.
- c. Any lighting type or use not defined in this Chapter may be considered with a conditional use approval. The conditional use application and process shall be in compliance with this Ordinance. See Subsection 7-6-6 (L) Alternative Lighting Plan.

**TABLE 7-6-6  
Height of Light Fixtures Based on Setback**

Height of Pole	Setback from Property Line	Height of Pole	Setback from Property Line
1 foot to 3 feet	0 feet	15 feet	36 feet
4 feet	3 feet	16 feet	39 feet
5 feet	6 feet	17 feet	42 feet
6 feet	9 feet	18 feet	45 feet
7 feet	12 feet	19 feet	48 feet
8 feet	15 feet	20 feet	51 feet
9 feet	18 feet	21 feet	54 feet
10 feet	21 feet	22 feet	57 feet
11 feet	24 feet	23 feet	60 feet
12 feet	27 feet	24 feet	63 feet
13 feet	30 feet	25 feet	66 feet
14 feet	33 feet	Greater than 25 Feet	Prohibited

Note: Table is based on the formula  $H$  (height) =  $3 + D$  (setback distance) / 3.

- J. Underground Electrical Feeds: Electrical feeds to permanent outdoor light fixtures shall be underground, not overhead.
- K. Neon Illumination: Neon illumination shall be prohibited in the Agricultural zone.
- L. Alternative Lighting Plan: The Director, Commission and/or Board may approve, or recommend approval of, an alternative lighting plan when the overall design, as proposed by the applicant, meets or exceeds the intent and the requirements of

this Chapter through a conditional use approval provided the proposed lighting shall not be detrimental to the public health, safety, and welfare.

**Section 7-6-7: Required Finding:**

- A. In order to approve, the Director, Commission and/or Board shall find that the proposed lighting plan complies with the standards listed this Ordinance.
- B. Required Findings:
  - 1. That no restricted or prohibited lights are proposed; and
  - 2. A lighting plan was submitted as a component of a master site plan; and
  - 3. The lighting plan indicated the location, orientation, and height of all proposed exterior light fixtures, both attached and detached, including those that may be exempt from the regulations of this Ordinance; and
  - 4. The lighting plan shall detail the type and extent of shielding including cut off angles and the type of illumination including the watts, luminous area, and photometric test report for each light source; and
  - 5. The lighting plan is in compliance with the lighting standards listed in this Ordinance.

