

STATE OF MINNESOTA  
COUNTY OF WASHINGTON  
CITY OF AFTON

ORDINANCE NO. 02-2020  
CITY OF AFTON  
WASHINGTON COUNTY, MINNESOTA

AN INTERIM ORDINANCE PLACING A TEMPORARY MORATORIUM ON PERMIT APPLICATIONS FOR NON-RESIDENTIAL AND NON-AGRICULTURAL PRINCIPAL STRUCTURES IN THE AGRICULTURAL, AG PRESERVE AND RURAL RESIDENTIAL ZONES, AND DIRECTING THAT STUDIES OF OFFICIAL CONTROLS RELATED THERETO BE CONDUCTED

The City Council ("Council") of the City of Afton, Minnesota ("City"), does hereby ordain:

**Section 1. Moratorium.**

Section A. Purpose.

1. The City has adopted official zoning controls through the adoption of its Zoning Code, Chapter 12 of the Afton City Code, which regulates structures, including architectural standards, and visual standards.
2. Sections 12-140 to 12-144, and of the City's Code of Ordinances define allowed uses and architectural standards in the City's zoning districts
3. Sections 12-185 and 12-186 of the City's Zoning Code define performance standards for structures within the City.
4. Section 12-209 of the City's Code of Ordinances defines certain visual standards within the City
5. The City has recently reviewed language within its Zoning Code regarding architectural standards for structures in its Agricultural, Ag Preserve and Rural Residential Zones and has found the standards to be substantially inadequate. While the City has general visual standards, it does not have clear architectural standards for the Ag, AP and RR zones.
6. Because of these important zoning and permitting issues, the City and this Council desire to conduct further studies for the purpose of consideration of possible revision and amendments to the City's official controls to address issues related to the lack of clear architectural standards in Ag, AP and RR Zoned areas within the City. The purpose of such revisions and amendments is to create a clearer and more updated regulatory framework.

Those areas of the City currently zoned for Ag, AP and RR uses are identified in the attached document and incorporated herein as Exhibit A.

8. This Council, therefore, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 462.355, Subdivision 4(a), finds that a moratorium is required to protect the permitting and planning process within the City for structures in the Ag, AP and RR zones. The study period required under the moratorium, including all necessary revisions and amendments to the City's Zoning Code is anticipated to be completed by August 18, 2020.

**Section B. Moratorium Established and Scope.**

1. In accordance with the findings set forth within Section 1(A) of this Ordinance and pursuant to the direction of this Council, there is hereby established a moratorium on the consideration of new permit applications for non-residential and non-agricultural principal structures in the Ag, AP and RR zones, as shown on the attached Exhibit A.

2. During the period of the moratorium, permits previously issued shall continue under the existing regulations established by the City Code.

**Section C. Applicability.**

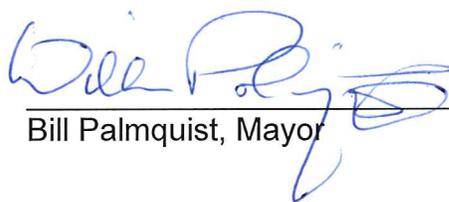
The moratorium shall be applied throughout the City of Afton from the Effective Date.

**Section 2. Effective Date.**

This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and publication according to law and shall remain effective until August 18, 2020 unless further extended by order of this Council.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Afton, Washington County, Minnesota, on this 18th day of February, 2020.

CITY OF AFTON

  
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Bill Palmquist, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

  
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Ronald J. Moorse, City Administrator

(SEAL)

**Document Drafted by:**  
Frederic W. Knaak, Esq.