



## **City of Smithville, Missouri**

### **Board of Aldermen - Work Session Agenda**

**January 17, 2023**

**6:00 p.m. – City Hall Council Chambers and Via Videoconference**

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Anyone who wishes to view the meeting may do so in real time as it will be streamed live on the City's FaceBook page through FaceBook Live.

For Public Comment via Zoom, please email your request to the City Clerk at [ldrummond@smithvillemo.org](mailto:ldrummond@smithvillemo.org) prior to the meeting to be sent the meeting Zoom link.

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Discussion of Electric Fence for Industrial Zoned Property**
- 3. Discussion of Wayfinding Signage Guidelines**
- 4. Adjourn**

Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84692746415>

Meeting ID: 846 9274 6415  
Passcode: 476283



<b>Date:</b>	December 29, 2022
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Jack Hendrix
<b>Subject:</b>	Electric Fence Regulations

On November 1, 2022, the owner of GT Towing came to the Board of Aldermen meeting to provide comment on potentially changing the electric fence regulations. As a result of that request and the fact that the Planning Commission was already scheduled to discuss the regular fence ordinance, the item was placed on the Planning & Zoning Commission agenda for November 8. At that meeting, the matter was discussed. The recommendation of the Commission was to send the item to the Board of Aldermen to review the current ordinance since it was not a zoning ordinance, but instead a health and safety type matter. Discussion of this matter was then placed on the January 17, 2023, Board of Aldermen Work Session agenda to allow time for staff to conduct research into other communities regulations and to provide a staff report of the issues associated with electric fences. This staff report will present those issues.

### **Current City Code**

Current code regulating electric fences is included in Section 525.040, which is included below.

*Section 525.040. Regulations Concerning Electric Fences.*

*A. Installation of electric fences shall be prohibited in zoning categories "R-1," "R-2," "R-3," "B-1," "B-2," "B-3," "B-4," "I-1," and "I-2."*

*B. Any electric fences installed in compliance with Subsection (A) and adjacent to lands upon which electric fences are prohibited shall be installed at least seventy-five (75) feet from the nearest property line.*

This ordinance was adopted on July 15, 1997 and bans electric fences in all zoning categories except agricultural zones, with an additional restriction that if the agricultural property is adjacent to a property that is not agricultural, then the fence must be 75' from the property line.

### **Regulations in Other Cities**

Staff reviewed the regulations related to electric fences in surrounding communities.

*Platte City* ordinances do not mention electric or barbed wire fences specifically, but do identify that all fences "shall be constructed of wood pickets, wrought iron, chain link or

other materials of quality and appearance. . .” It also requires a conditional use permit for a fence on Commercial lands.

*Kearney's* ordinance bans barbed wire and electric fences in all districts except agricultural.

*Liberty's* ordinance is similar to that of Platte City in that it identifies similar materials (chain link, wood, wrought iron, etc.) of fence materials.

*Gladstone* specifically prohibits electric fences.

*Excelsior Springs* regulates them similar to Platte City, with a specific list of materials and design, with no mention of electric being allowed.

*North Kansas City* specifically bans electric fences except at the NKC Reservoir.

*Riverside* is also similar to Platte City, with specific design and materials identified, with no mention that electric fences are allowed. It also requires a special use permit for any fence in a commercial or industrial district.

*Parkville* also identifies the materials and design of allowed fences, with no mention of electric fences in any district.

*Kansas City's* ordinance bans electric fences, with exceptions for agricultural and commercial or heavy industrial districts, subject to certain performance standards. In agricultural districts, electric fences must be at least five feet from any public street or sidewalk. In the commercial or heavy industrial zones the same five foot restriction is in place, along with several other provisions:

- cannot be located less than 300 feet from a residence, school, day care, church or park;
- the system must not exceed 12 volts;
- the energizing system MUST be listed by a testing agency such as UL or ETL;
- the entire electric fence MUST be located inside a primary non-electric perimeter security fence at least six (6) feet tall; and,
- warning signs must be displayed every 50 feet clearly identifying the fence as an electric fence.

It appears that of the communities near our jurisdiction and that are of similar size and nature all ban electric fences in a similar fashion as Smithville's ordinance (or more stringent) and the largest city allows them with significant restrictions as shown above.

Staff seeks direction from the Board on any potential changes to our current code.

BILL NO. 1343-97

ORDINANCE NO. 1742-97

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF SMITHVILLE BY INSERTING A NEW SECTION 525.040 REGARDING ELECTRIC FENCES**

WHEREAS, electric fences have been known to cause serious injury; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Aldermen deems it in the best interest of public safety to regulate the location and installation of electric fences;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF SMITHVILLE, MISSOURI AS FOLLOWS:


Section 1. Chapter 525 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Smithville entitled Miscellaneous Construction Regulations is hereby amended by inserting a new section 525.040 to read as follows:

**SECTION 525.040 REGULATIONS CONCERNING ELECTRIC FENCES**

- A. Installation of electric fences shall be prohibited in zoning categories R-1, R-2, R-3, B-1, B-2, B-3, B-4, I-1, and I-2.
- B. Any electric fences installed in compliance with Section 525.040 Subsection A. and adjacent to lands upon which electric fences are prohibited shall be installed at least seventy-five (75) feet from the nearest property line.

Section 2. This ordinance shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage according to law.

PASSED THIS 15 DAY OF July, 1997

  
Mayor

ATTEST:

  
City Clerk

<b>Date:</b>	January 17, 2023
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Gina Pate, Assistant City Administrator
<b>Subject:</b>	Wayfinding & Design Guidelines Update

## Background Information

Last year, the City partnered with the Smithville Main Street Association to apply for a Clay County ARPA Tourism Marketing Matching Grant (TMMG) for a wayfinding and signage design guideline project to be completed by a third-party design company. The application requested \$10,000, with an anticipated \$10,000 local match by the City. On July 28, 2022, notification was received that the grant request had been approved in the amounts requested.

In October 2022, the City awarded RFQ #22-20 to KMA Design to develop the wayfinding and signage design guidelines. Once selected, the pricing submitted by KMA Design was found to be higher than the budgeted amount. Staff negotiated with KMA Design to reduce the cost. A modified cost of \$19,390 was achieved by reducing the number of site visits and shifting the responsibility of action items to staff.

## Progress Update

In November, Main Street and the City developed a working committee to help accomplish the tasks for the City. We want to take a moment to thank the committee members for all their hard work, and the time they dedicate for the biweekly meetings.

The committee is comprised of the following members:

Board of Aldermen: Damien Boley, Marv Atkins, Dan Ulledahl

City Staff: Gina Pate, Matt Denton, and Mayra Toothman

Main Street: Alyssa Sanders

Chamber of Commerce: Alex Porter and Erika Winston

School District: Susan Whitacre and Robert Hedgecorth

Over the past few months, the committee has created a signage inventory of current signage throughout Smithville. Additionally, the committee took photos and videos throughout the city for KMA to become more familiar with the City of Smithville.

Part of the committee's duties included the establishment of a destination list. During this process, the committee was tasked with sorting destinations into the category of primary, secondary, or tertiary destinations. The committee met over multiple meetings to discuss the destinations, and sort them in the appropriate category. At this time, the committee and KMA does not recommend including private businesses to the project. As the City continues to grow,

the Board could add private businesses in the future to the wayfinding destinations, but a qualifying number of visitors per year would need to be established.

KMA has been making progress on the wayfinding location guideline, this document provides the locations for signage placement throughout the City. Staff will be able to use this guideline in future decisions for sign placements.

We anticipate the project being completed by late March or early April based on the current schedule provided by KMA.

### **Items for Feedback**

During the progress meetings, KMA asked questions that the committee would like feedback from the Board.

The purpose of this project is to create a wayfinding and design guideline. This guideline outlines the locations and specifications for future construction. Staff recommends phasing the signage for specific destinations, and the destinations would be determined in the budget process that occurs each fiscal year. Staff would collaborate with Main Street on any potential grant opportunities for signage. We would like to confirm this recommendation with the Board, and the committee is open to any other recommendations.

In the downtown area, there are multiple parking lots. Does the Board wish to name the lots or keep them as public parking lots without names?

A significant number of destinations are in the downtown area, so the committee would like feedback from the Board on what to name the area. Some ideas that have been discussed are Main Street District, Historic Downtown, and Downtown Smithville. The committee is open to other ideas from the Board and would like direction on what to name the area for signage purposes to signify the arrival into downtown.

The committee would like feedback on the destination list that is included in the packet. Is there anything missing from this list, and is there agreement in the placement of the destinations in the categorization?

Wayfinding signage design concepts were presented to the committee on January 12. After discussion with the committee, KMA will provide three updated designs for the Board to review. An online form will be created for online feedback from the public, and the committee will review the feedback during the final design decision. The committee would like feedback from the Board on the design options.

**City of Smithville, MO**  
**Destination Hierarchy**

<p><b>Primary</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Smithville High School</li><li>● Smith's Fork Sports Complex</li><li>● Smith's Fork Campgrounds</li><li>● Heritage Park</li><li>● Courtyard Park</li></ul> <p><b>Primary (Wayfinding Only)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Smithville Lake</li></ul> <p><b>Secondary</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Smithville School District Campus (Smithville R-11 Schools)</li><li>● Smithville Splash Pad</li><li>● City Hall</li><li>● Police Station</li><li>● Senior Center</li><li>● Chamber of Commerce</li></ul> <p><b>Secondary (Wayfinding Only)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Jerry Litton Visitor Center</li></ul>	<p><b>Tertiary</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Smithville Maple Elementary School</li><li>● Eagle Heights Elementary School</li><li>● Smithville Horizon Elementary School</li><li>● Smithville Middle School</li><li>● Helvey Park</li><li>● Main Street Trail</li><li>● Lake Trail</li><li>● River Walk Trail</li><li>● Lake Remote Trail</li><li>● Lake Remote Park and Nature Area</li></ul> <p><b>Tertiary (Wayfinding Only)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Little Platte South Trailhead &amp; Dog Park</li></ul> <p><b>Destination</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Water Plant</li><li>● Wastewater Plant</li><li>● City of Smithville Parks Department</li><li>● Smithville City Street Department</li><li>● Public Works</li></ul>
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