



Memorandum

To: Town Council
From: Thomas Dansie, Director of Community Development
Date: September 3, 2020
Re: September 9, 2020 Town Council Meeting
Direction to Planning Commission Regarding Interior Lighting Regulation

Executive Summary

The Planning Commission has requested direction from the Town Council regarding the possibility of regulating interior lighting.

The Town's current lighting ordinance regulates outdoor lighting. Interior lighting is not regulated. Interior lighting can cause light trespass, light pollution, and glare nuisances. The Commission is concerned about these impacts and has discussed adopting policies to both educate and regulate interior lighting.

Before spending significant time on an interior lighting ordinance, the Commission is requesting direction from the Town Council. Is this an issue the Council feels needs to be addressed with regulation?

Lighting Ordinance Background

The Town adopted a comprehensive outdoor lighting ordinance in 2009. The ordinance is intended to help reduce light pollution, protect the Town's dark night skies, reduce glare and nuisance lighting, and contribute to better health for people and wildlife.

The 2009 ordinance only regulates outdoor lighting. It does not regulate interior lighting.

The outdoor lighting ordinance regulates the design of light fixtures, the color temperature of light sources, allowable lighting applications, and (for commercial properties) the total lumens allowed on a property. These regulations help accomplish the ordinance goals listed above.

Poor interior lighting (which is currently not regulated) can counteract the effectiveness of regulations for outdoor lighting. Interior light that is very bright or a harsh color temperature can escape through large or poorly placed windows and create a lighting nuisance.

Although the outdoor lighting ordinance does not regulate interior lighting, there are a few references in the Town Code that do address this issue:

- Section 10-9A-13(B)(6) requires blinds or shades on windows visible from SR9 for "high visual impact" parcels in the FR zone.
- Section 10-11B-13(E) requires all lighting sources in the VC zone (not specifically limited to outdoor lighting) to be aimed or shielded to prevent light trespass.
- Section 10-16-4(B)(4)(b)(9)(A) states that windows should be designed to "limit light trespass" from interior lighting.

These regulations are either limited in application (for example, only impacting high visual impact lots in FR), or fairly broad (windows should be designed to “limit” light trespass).

The Commission is requesting direction from the Council whether or not to modify the Town’s current lighting regulations to more clearly address interior lighting.

When the Commission discussed this issue in their recent meeting, Commissioners agreed education and encouragement regarding quality interior lighting is essential, and should be the primary tool used to correct poor interior lighting. The Commission is requesting direction from the Council whether or not enforceable regulation is necessary in addition to education.

Summary

The Council should give direction to the Planning Commission whether or not to continue work on an ordinance regulating interior lighting.

From: dcd@infowest.com on behalf of tdansie@springdaletown.com
To: ["J Burns"](#); ["Barbara Bruno"](#); mmarriott@springdaletown.com; ["Tyler Young"](#); rrioux@springdaletown.com; scarnahan@springdaletown.com; ["Dawn McComb"](#); ["Stone, Treacy T"](#)
Cc: ["Darci Carlson"](#); kbrown@springdaletown.com
Subject: FW: Interior Lighting Regulations
Date: Monday, August 3, 2020 9:49:47 AM

Commissioners-

Please see the comments below regarding the upcoming discussion on regulation of interior lighting.

Tom

From: Max [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, August 1, 2020 5:00 PM
To: tdansie@springdaletown.com
Subject: Interior Lighting Regulations

Dear Tom, Planning Commission and Town Council,

In regards to the upcoming agenda item about potential regulation on interior lighting, please entertain my input. I would certainly agree with past resident comments when the outdoor lighting ordinance was being crafted that interior lighting regulations is an overreach of government. It really is a bit much to be telling us what we can do or not do in our private homes. Many homes have light spillage and undoubtedly, if you stand in the right place you will see the actual light source from outside of the property. Are you really going to send the light police out at night to catch us breaking the law in our own homes? What's next? Maybe a curtain ordinance that bans bright colors?

As to commercial properties, I would really struggle with the suggestions in Tom's memorandum at our supermarket. In any of the scenarios, we would probably fail, yet already we are under-lit for the type of business we are. I get that you are concerned about the night sky. I am as well, but maybe you could channel your efforts elsewhere.

It seems somewhat ironic that the Town just conducted two surveys and neither had anything about an interior lighting ordinance (that I can remember), yet on the same day that this agenda was published the Town sent out a newsletter saying how they were listening to input of the citizenry. Such an ordinance will have a dramatic effect on the citizenry, shouldn't this type of far reaching regulation at least originate from the people and not a few folks on the Planning Commission?

Thank you for what you do, public service is way under-appreciated.

Max Gregoric



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From: [Barbara Bruno](#)
To: tdansie@springdaletown.com
Cc: [J Burns](#); marrriott@springdaletown.com; [Tyler Young](#); rrieux@springdaletown.com; scarnahan@springdaletown.com; [Dawn McComb](#); [Stone, Treacy T](#); [Darci Carlson](#); kbrown@springdaletown.com; [Teresa Silcox](#)
Subject: Re: Interior Lighting Regulations
Date: Monday, August 3, 2020 1:24:11 PM

From Teresa Silcox:

A couple of weeks ago I raised an issue with Jeff, the town code enforcement guy, about the extraordinarily bright interior lights at the Stagecoach Grille (MajesticView.) I noticed interior lighting is on the Planning Commission agenda so I thought I would mention my concern to you. At night, the illumination coming from the restaurant and chandeliers windows casts a glow reminiscent of driving at night through New Mexico where you can see the lights from Natve American casinos for 10 miles. I suspect the measurable quantity of lumens outside the large, uncovered windows, cast by the interior lighting, are contrary to Springdale"s dark sky initiative. As the nights grow longer, this will be more and more of an issue for the high visibility location.

Sent from my iPad

Barbara Bruno



On Aug 3, 2020, at 9:49 AM, <tdansie@springdaletown.com>
<tdansie@springdaletown.com> wrote:
