



City of Thief River Falls

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Request for Council Action

DATE: 4/2/2024

SUBJECT: #8.6 Approve to Amend City Code Chapter 152.087.2 Excluded Signs of a governmental body.

RECOMMENDATION: It is respectfully requested that the Council consider the following Planning Commission recommendation:

MOTION TO: Approve an amendment to City Code Chapter 152.087 EXCLUDED SIGNS, Subsection (2) to read as follows:

Traffic signs or similar regulatory devices, legal devices, or warnings at railroad crossings of a duly constituted governmental body. All other signs of a duly constituted governmental body not excluded herein shall be subject to a conditional use permit. And adopting by reference City Code Chapter 10, which, among other things, contain penalty provisions.

BACKGROUND: While researching a concern about the old brick sign at the Challenger School, it was discovered that under Sec. 152.087 – EXCLUDED SIGNS, our current ordinance reads as follows:

Sec. 152.087. - Excluded signs.

The following shall be deemed to be excluded from the definition of sign as it applies to this subchapter:

2. Signs of a duly constituted governmental body, including traffic signs or similar regulatory devices, legal devices, or warnings at railroad crossings;

A Public Hearing was held on March 12, 2024, at the Planning and Zoning Commission Meeting and recommended to Council for Approval. A first reading was held at the March 19, 2024 City Council Meeting and the second reading at the April 2, 2024 City Council meeting.

KEY ISSUES: As it currently reads, signs of a duly constituted governmental body are excluded from our sign ordinance. This allows any governmental unit located in the city proper to erect any sign of their choosing, with no limitations to size, height, or how it is lit. The proposed language change would still allow traffic signs or similar regulatory devices, legal devices, or warnings at railroad crossings to be excluded, but would require all other signs of a governmental body to be subject to a conditional use permit.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

LEGAL CONSIDERATION:

DEPARTMENT/RESPONSIBLE PERSON: Richard Baker, Economic/Community Development Director

ATTACHMENTS:

None

