

Town of Superior
Ordinance Number O-4
Series 2026

**An Ordinance of the Town Council of the Town of Superior
amending various sections of Chapter 16 of the Superior
Municipal Code regarding outdoor lighting standards**

Whereas, the Town desires to amend the Superior Municipal Code (the "Code") to adopt certain regulations regarding outdoor lighting standards in the Town;

Whereas, on February 17, 2026, the Planning Commission considered the changes to the Code contained herein and recommended adoption; and

Whereas, after giving due consideration to the issue, the Town Council finds it is in the best interest of the public health, safety and welfare to adopt the following changes to the Code.

Now, therefore, be it ordained by the Town Council of the Town of Superior, Colorado:

Section 1. Section 16-20-30 of the Superior Municipal Code is hereby repealed in its entirety and reenacted as follows:

Sec. 16-20-30. – Outdoor lighting requirements.

(a) *Purpose.* The purpose of this Section is to prevent the trespass of artificial light in the Town in ways that constitute a hazard to public safety or interfere with the quiet enjoyment of private property, preserve the visual quality of the night sky, curtail light pollution, reduce skyglow, and promote energy conservation in the Town.

(b) *Definitions.* For purposes of this Section, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

Luminaire means a complete lighting unit, including the light source, housing, optics, electronics, and other necessary components for the purpose of providing outdoor illumination.

Nighttime hours means the time between 9:00 p.m. and sunrise or 8:00 a.m., whichever comes earlier. For businesses and events with operating hours later than 9:00 p.m., nighttime hours will begin thirty (30) minutes after closing.

Non-essential lighting means decorative or aesthetic outdoor lighting that is not necessary for the safety or security of individuals and property, including without limitation landscape lighting, decorative lighting, illuminated signage or advertising after business hours, and façade lighting.

(c) *Applicability.* This Section shall apply to all sources of outdoor lighting installed or replaced within the Town, except for the following:

- (1) Lighting within a public right-of-way or easement for the purpose of illuminating streets, roads, or sidewalks;
- (2) Underwater lighting in swimming pools and other water features;
- (3) Temporary lighting from November 15 through January 15, provided that individual lamps have a light output of seventy (70) lumens or less;
- (4) Lighting required by state or federal law; and
- (5) Lighting approved by the Town for special events, provided the lighting meets the light trespass requirements in Section 16-20-30(d)(5).

(d) *Standards.*

- (1) Outdoor luminaires shall be shielded so that no light is emitted above a horizontal plane running through the lowest point of the luminous elements.
- (2) There shall be no single outdoor luminaire brighter than one thousand six hundred (1600) lumens.
- (3) Outdoor luminaires located on buildings shall not be located above the eave line or above the top of the parapet wall.
- (4) Outdoor luminaires that are mounted on a building wall facing a lot line adjacent to a residential use or public right-of-way shall be fitted with a shield on the side facing the residential use or public right-of-way to minimize any light trespass.
- (5) Light trespass leaving properties within residential zone districts or planned development zone districts with a primarily residential use shall measure no greater than one (1) lux. Light trespass leaving properties within any other zone district shall measure no more than three (3) lux. Light trespass is measured at any location along a property line both horizontally at the ground plane facing upward and vertically at one-point-five (1.5) meters above grade with the meter aimed toward a luminaire.

(6) Non-essential lighting shall be extinguished during nighttime hours

(7) Luminaires activated by motion detection shall automatically turn off or return to their dimmed state no more than five (5) minutes after activity is no longer detected.

(e) *Legal nonconforming situations.*

(1) Any outdoor luminaire that was lawfully installed prior to March 6, 2026, but that does not comply with the requirements of this Section is declared to be a legal nonconforming luminaire.

(2) A legal nonconforming luminaire may continue to be used and maintained after the adoption of this Section, provided that no luminaire shall be used or changed in a way that increases or exacerbates its nonconformity.

(3) All legal nonconforming luminaires shall be brought into compliance with the requirements of this Section upon the replacement of the legal nonconforming luminaire.

Section 2. Sections 16-20-50(a)(4), 16-20-60(a)(5), 16-20-70(c) and 16-20-90(c) of the Superior Municipal Code are hereby repealed in their entirety.

Section 3. Safety. This Ordinance is deemed necessary for the protection of the health, welfare and safety of the community.

Section 4. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall take effect 10 days after publication following adoption.

Introduced, read, passed and ordered published this 23rd day of February, 2026.

Mark Lacis, Mayor

Attest:

Shannon Dujardin, Town Clerk