



Staff Report

CITY COUNCIL MEETING DATE: May 8, 2023

TYPE OF AGENDA ITEM: Second reading

TO: Mayor and City Council
CC: City Manager, City Clerk, Staff and Attorney
FROM: Nicholas Schwendt, Senior Planner, Barry Henderson, Development Services Director
DATE: 5/1/2023
SUBJECT: Ordinance 1930 - Ground Mounted Solar Panels

BACKGROUND:

Typically, solar panels are seen attached to the roofs of houses but as time goes on, more and more individuals are also opting for solar panels attached to structures mounted in the ground. Ground mounted solar systems provide for easier installation and maintenance as well as less potential impact and damage to existing roof structures.

The Land Development Code does not currently contain requirements or restrictions explicitly pertaining to ground-mounted solar panel systems. The City Council directed staff to research and prepare an ordinance providing standards to regulate ground mounted solar systems.

On April 17th, 2023, the Planning and Development Board recommended approval of this Ordinance, and it was approved on first reading by the City Council on April 24th, 2023.

DISCUSSION:

As a starting point, Community Development Services staff reviewed proposed code in other municipalities regarding the same topic. Following further discussion and direction from council, staff then revised the standards to more closely match our existing accessory building requirements. Staff also discussed the standards with building officials from other surrounding jurisdictions to ensure there were no safety concerns pertaining to ground-mounted solar that would require fencing provisions to be included in the code. There were no such concerns.

The proposed additions to the Land Development Code can be found in the attached ordinance.

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

This item is consistent with the goals in A New View Strategic Plan 2020 as follows;

Quality of Life- these areas focus on the overall experience when provided by the city.

Safety- Ensure the continuous safety of citizens and visitors

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no expected financial impact resulting from this ordinance.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Staff requests a motion to adopt Ordinance 1930 on 2nd Reading.

Attachments

None

ORDINANCE: 1930

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CRESTVIEW, FLORIDA, AMENDING SECTION 2.02.00 – DEFINITIONS AND SECTION 7.01.00 – ACCESSORY STRUCTURES, OF THE CITY OF CRESTVIEW LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE TO DEFINE AND PROVIDE STANDARDS FOR GROUND MOUNTED SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEMS; PROVIDING FOR AUTHORITY; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR SCRIVENER’S ERRORS; PROVIDING FOR LIBERAL INTERPRETATION; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF CONFLICTING CODES AND ORDINANCES; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF CRESTVIEW, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1 – AUTHORITY. The authority for enactment of this ordinance is section 166.041, Florida Statutes, and The City of Crestview Land Development Code.

SECTION 2 – AMENDING SECTION 2.02.00 – DEFINITIONS, OF THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE. Section 2.02.00 of the Land Development Code is hereby amended with the addition of the following definition:

Ground-mounted solar energy system: A solar photovoltaic system mounted on a rack or pole that is ballasted on, or is attached to, the ground.

SECTION 3 - AMENDING SECTION 7.01.00 – ACCESSORY STRUCTURES, OF THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE. Section 7.01.00 of the Land Development Code is hereby amended with the addition of Section 7.01.05, as follows:

7.01.05 – Ground Mounted Solar Energy Systems

A. Placement:

1. Lots within recorded subdivisions and un-platted lots with a depth less than 250 feet:
 - a. Systems shall only be permissible in side and rear yards and shall be setback three (3) feet from side and rear property lines.
 - b. Systems located closer than five (5) feet to the principal structure shall meet the same minimum setbacks required for the principal structure.
2. Lots with a depth of 250 feet or greater:
 - a. Systems placed in side and rear yards shall be setback three (3) feet from side and rear property lines.
 - b. Systems placed in any primary or secondary front yard shall not be placed within any required front setback.
 - c. Systems located closer than five (5) feet to the principal structure shall meet the same minimum setbacks required for the principal structure.
3. Systems shall not be located within any required buffer area, required landscape area, required parking lot landscaping, required parking spaces, stormwater management area, wetland buffer, driveway, or easement.
4. If located in a floodplain project must comply with LDC Section 5.05.00.

- B. Height standards. The maximum height of a ground-mounted solar energy system shall not exceed fifteen (15) feet as measured from the natural grade at the base of the structure to the highest point of the array or solar structure.

SECTION 4 - SEVERABILITY. If any word, phrase, sentence, paragraph or provision of this ordinance or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid or unconstitutional, such finding shall not affect

the other provisions or applications of this ordinance which can be given effect without the invalid or unconstitutional provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this ordinance are declared severable.

SECTION 5 - SCIVENER'S ERRORS. The correction of typographical errors which do not affect the intent of this Ordinance may be authorized by the City Manager or the City Manager's designee, without public hearing, by filing a corrected or re-codified copy with the City Clerk.

SECTION 6 - ORDINANCE TO BE LIBERALLY CONSTRUED. This Ordinance shall be liberally construed in order to effectively carry out the purposes hereof which are deemed not to adversely affect public health, safety, or welfare.

SECTION 8 - REPEAL OF CONFLICTING CODES, ORDINANCES, AND RESOLUTIONS. All Charter provisions, codes, ordinances and resolutions or parts of charter provisions, codes, ordinances and resolutions or portions thereof of the City of Crestview, in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

SECTION 9 – EFFECTIVE DATE. This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

Passed and adopted on second reading by the City Council of Crestview, Florida on the ____ day of _____, 2023.

Approved by me this ____ day of _____, 2023.

J. B. Whitten
Mayor

ATTEST:

Maryanne Schrader
City Clerk