

ORDINANCE NO. 03-2017

Enacting a Moratorium on the Consideration of Certificates of Appropriateness for the Installation of Solar Panels on Structures in the Architectural Review District.

WHEREAS, in an effort to address sustainability and energy conservation measures within the City of Worthington, applications have been made to the Architectural Review Board for Certificates of Appropriateness for the installation of solar panels on structures within the Architectural Review District (the "District"); and,

WHEREAS, in 2010 City Council adopted Resolution 14-2010 amending the Worthington Design Guidelines for the District by adding a sustainability section; and,

WHEREAS, recent requests for the installation of solar panels on residential structures in the District have given rise to discussions by the City Council about the application of the sustainability section of the Design Guidelines as they relate to solar panels; and,

WHEREAS, City Council wishes to study the impact of solar panel installations on structures in architectural review districts and recommends a ninety day moratorium on the consideration of Certificates of Appropriateness for such installations to allow for City staff to research and recommend whether changes to the Design Guidelines or other measures are advisable.

NOW THEREFORE; BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the Municipality of Worthington, County of Franklin, State of Ohio:

SECTION 1. That there be and hereby is enacted a moratorium on any consideration by the Architectural Review Board of requests for a Certificate of Appropriateness for the installation of solar panels on structures within the Architectural Review District, to be in effect until May 31, 2017, or until changes are enacted to amend the Design Guidelines or the Codified Ordinances to address the issues detailed herein, or until City Council approves legislation explicitly revoking this moratorium, whichever occurs first.

SECTION 2. That the City Manager is authorized and directed to facilitate a study by City staff of the impact of the installation of solar panels on structures within districts similar to the Worthington Architectural Review District and to make a recommendation to City Council for the appropriate method to address the concerns of the visual and aesthetic features of those installations while affording the opportunity to property owners in the District to take advantage of the sustainability and energy conservation measures of solar panels.

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SECTION 3. That notice of passage of this Ordinance shall be posted in the Municipal Administration Building, the Worthington Library, the Griswold Center and the Worthington Community Center and shall set forth the title and effective date of the Ordinance and a statement that the Ordinance is on file in the office of the Clerk of Council. This Ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law and by the Charter of the City of Worthington Ohio.

Passed February 6, 2017

/s/ Bonnie D. Michael
President of Council

Attest:

/s/ D. Kay Thress
Clerk of Council

Introduced January 17, 2017
P.H. February 6, 2017
Effective March 2, 2017