

RESOLUTION NO. 19-2022

Adopting Guidelines Regarding the Display of Flags on City Property

WHEREAS, City Council desires to establish clear guidelines regarding the display of all flags flown on City owned property; and,

WHEREAS, City Council declares that flagpoles on property owned by the City of Worthington are not intended to serve as a forum for free expression by the public, but rather as a non-public forum only for the display of flags authorized by City Council either as required by law or as an expression of the City's official government speech.

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

SECTION 1. Flags displayed on City owned property shall be displayed in accordance with Federal and State statutes and regulations, including but not limited to, United States Code, Title 4, Chapter 1 and Ohio Revised Code Section 5.012.

SECTION 2. The City of Worthington flag shall fly at half-staff if either the United States Flag or Ohio Flag is at half-staff. The City Manager may order the City of Worthington Flag to fly at half-staff at the death of a current or former Council Member, current or former City employee, or a historically significant member of the community.

SECTION 3. That Council adopts the following guidelines regarding the display of commemorative flags on City owned property:

1. As used in these guidelines, a "Commemorative Flag" shall mean a flag that identifies with a specific historical event, cause, theme, nation, or group of people that the City Council chooses to honor, recognize, or commemorate consistent with the City's policies and priorities.
2. The City Manager may order the Commemorative Flag of any duly recognized Sister City of the City of Worthington to be flown on property owned by the City of Worthington during official visits of representatives of the Sister City provided that City Council has not authorized another Commemorative Flag for the same location and period of time.
3. The City Manager may order the Commemorative Flag recognizing the City of Worthington as a Tree City USA on property owned by the City of Worthington during the week before and the week following National Arbor Day provided that City Council has not authorized another Commemorative Flag for the same location and period of time.
4. Except as provided above, Commemorative Flags may be displayed only as authorized by resolution of City Council as an expression of the City's official government speech.

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5. City Council shall only consider a request to display a Commemorative Flag made by a member of City Council. Requests to fly a Commemorative Flag made by members of the public will not be considered.
6. City Council shall set forth in the authorizing resolution the specific location and period of time that the Commemorative Flag shall be displayed.
7. Commemorative Flags must be the same size or smaller than the United States or Ohio flags being flown.
8. If any other flag is being flown at half-staff, the Commemorative Flag will also be flown at half-staff.
9. The following are not allowed as Commemorative Flags and will not be considered by City Council:
 - a. Flags of a particular religious movement or creed to avoid the appearance of the City government endorsing religion or a particular religious movement or creed; or
 - b. Flags of a political party or candidate to avoid the appearance of City government endorsing a political party or candidate.

SECTION 3. That the Clerk of Council be and hereby is instructed to record this Resolution in the appropriate record book.

Adopted April 18, 2022

/s/ David Robinson
President of Council

Attest

/s/ D. Kay Thress
Clerk of Council