

Ordinance 14 – 22

By: Matt Klingler

An ordinance to Amend Section 1266.14 Solar Panels, in order to provide for consistent regulation and a streamlined approval process for solar panel projects.

Whereas, City staff has been reviewing the City’s solar panel code in light of recommendations provided through the City’s climate action planning process; and

Whereas, This proposed ordinance provides for more streamlined approval of solar panel installations, while simultaneously preserving aesthetic controls; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BEXLEY:

Section 1.

That Section 1266.14 shall be amended as follows:

1266.14 SOLAR PANELS.

A solar photovoltaic panel, or solar hot air or water panel collector device, which relies upon solar radiation as an energy source for the generation of electricity or transfer of stored heat, shall comply with the following restrictions:

(a) Location.

(1) Ground mounted solar panels exceeding two (2) square feet in area shall be located in a side or rear yard only, **with the same setback requirement as accessory structures.** ~~shall maintain a setback of ten (10) feet from property lines.~~

(2) Roof and flush-mounted solar panels shall be allowed, subject to ~~architectural review~~ **staff review.**

~~Architectural~~ **Staff** review will consider the following:

A. Rear and side locations are preferred. Any installations on the front roof facade shall be justified by providing an analysis of why the front facade is necessary in order to generate viable output.

B. The color of the solar panels **and solar panel trim** shall be complementary to roof color as determined by staff ~~the Architectural Review Board.~~ **For the purpose of this provision, “complimentary” does not mean that staff shall require panel or panel trim colors that are not standard selections that are readily available on the market.**

C. The configuration and profile of the assembly shall be complementary to the roof line **and roof façade** as determined by **staff review** ~~the Architectural Review Board.~~ Installations should minimize the number of corners, and should avoid complex and/or nonsymmetrical configurations.

D. Wiring and supporting infrastructure should be designed in such a way as to minimize visibility from the right-of-way.

E. Installations should be sensitive to the property, surrounding properties, and neighborhood context.

(b) Height.

(1) Ground mounted solar panels shall not exceed **the height limit for accessory structures.** ~~six (6) feet in height.~~

(2) Roof and flush-mounted solar panels shall not project vertically above the peak of the roof to which it is attached, or project vertically more than four (4) feet above a flat roof installation.

~~—(c) Aesthetic Consideration. Ground mounted solar panels shall be fully screened at grade from adjacent properties by fencing or structures (detached garages, neighboring accessory structures, etc) or a combination of evergreen and deciduous plantings. Flat roof solar installations shall be appropriately screened, as determined by the Architectural Review Board and applicable design guidelines.~~

~~—(d) Glare. No glare, lights, or reflection shall be permitted which are a nuisance to other property owners or tenants or which could impair the vision of a driver or any motor vehicle or which are detrimental to public health, safety, and welfare.~~

(e) Exemptions.

(1) Solar panels less than two (2) square feet in area and those installed within the right-of-way by the City are not subject to the regulations set forth above.

~~—(2) Solar panels that are not facing an adjacent street right-of-way are exempt from review by the Architectural Review Board and are subject to review and approval by the Zoning Officer, applying the standards set forth in this section.~~

Passed _____, 2022

Troy Markham, President of Council

Attest: _____, 2022
Matt McPeek, Clerk of Council

Approved: _____, 2022

Benjamin Kessler, Mayor

First Reading: April 12, 2022
Second Reading:
Third Reading: