

AN ORDINANCE OF THE NIXA CITY COUNCIL PROPOSING AMENDMENTS TO CHAPTER 117 ARTICLE VII OF THE NIXA CODE OF ORDINANCES RELATING TO BUILDING HEIGHT AND REQUIRED SETBACKS

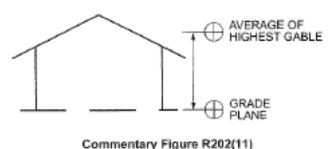
Background:

Prior to a code amendment in July of 2021 there was a uniform building height limit of 35' in all zoning districts. The passage of an amendment in July '21 removed building height restrictions in all Commercial & Industrial zoning districts and left the 35' limit in place for residential districts. Several discussions among staff and the Planning & Zoning commission resulted in re-evaluating allowable building height in all zoning districts, as well as the addition of sensible regulations to increase setbacks when exceeding 35' in height.

Terms:

Building Height – Is measured using the adopted code language from the 2018 IBC & IRC (Building Codes). Which is the vertical distance from the grade plane to the average height of the highest roof surface.

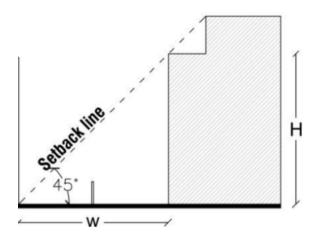
HEIGHT OF BUILDING IS THE VERTICAL DISTANCE ABOVE GRADE PLANE MEASURED TO:



HEIGHT OF BUILDING

Bulk Plane – The proposed amendment would establish bulk plane regulations. These regulations, when required, would increase the building setback line to the height of the building measured at a 45° angle from any property line. Essentially the building setback would be equal to the height of the building. Thus, the size of the lot is the mechanism that dictates the maximum allowable height.





Analysis:

Residential

The proposed amendment would keep the established setbacks for buildings in residential zoning districts that are less than 35' in height. It would allow for structures in R-1 (single-family), R-4 (two-family), and R-5 (medium density multifamily) zoned districts to exceed 35' in height, however the setbacks would be subject to the Bulk Plane regulations.

Example:

Proposed building 34' tall. Current adopted setbacks would apply. Proposed building 36' tall. Building must be setback 36' from all property lines.

The same regulations are applied to R-3 (high-density multi-family) zoning districts, with one caveat. If the building exceeds 35' **and** shares a property line with low density residential (R-1, R-4) zoning districts, a setback of at least 1.5x the height of the building along the shared property line would be required. This extra measure was considered in order to offer some protection from the impact of higher density development when immediately adjacent to a low-density development.

Example:

Proposed building 40' tall with a shared property line with R-1 zoned property. Setback will be subject to the bulk plane regulation, which will result in a 40' setback from all property lines except the shared property line with the R-1



zoned property, which will require the building be setback 60' from the property line.

Commercial/Industrial

The proposed amendment would keep the established setbacks for buildings less than 35' in height. It would allow for structures in Office (O), City Center (CC), and Neighborhood Commercial (NC) zoned districts to exceed 35' in height, however the setbacks would be subject to the Bulk Plane regulations.

The same regulations are applied to General Commercial (GC), Highway Commercial (HC), Industrial (M-1, M-2) zoning districts, with the same caveat. If the building exceeds 35' **and** shares a property line with low density residential (R-1, R-4) zoning districts, a setback of at least 1.5x the height the building along the shared property line would be required. This extra measure was considered in order to offer some additional protection from the impact of higher intensity development when immediately adjacent to a low-density development.

The proposed code amendment would dispatch the language requiring a meeting on the 1st Monday of every month at 7pm. However, meetings will still be held on a regular schedule as consistently as possible. This amendment would also allow for the scheduling of Special Meetings without a majority vote from the commission. As the code is currently written the commission is required to meet and vote on scheduling a special meeting.

Planning and Zoning Commission:

A public hearing for this item was held at the December 2nd Planning and Zoning Commission meeting. No one approached the Commission to speak on this item. The P&Z Commission voted unanimously (7-0) to recommend approval to the Nixa City Council.

Recommendation:

Building code requires more stringent fire safety measures (non-combustible building materials, sprinkler systems, etc.) for buildings over 3 stories, the Nixa Fire Protection District feels comfortable with their ability to provide service for buildings taller than 35'.



While there are no known current plans for a structure in excess of 35', this code amendment would provide a path for such a development. Bulk Plane is a common regulation nationwide as it is easy to understand and enforce. Consideration was given to low density land uses, while still offering development-friendly guardrails. Staff recommend approval of this code amendment.

MEMO SUBMITTED BY:

Scott Godbey | Director of Planning and Development sgodbey@nixa.com | 417-725-5850



AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NIXA AMENDING CHAPTER 1 117, ARTICLE VII, SECTION 117-277 OF THE NIXA CITY CODE FOR THE PURPOSE 2 OF MODIFYING PROVISIONS RELATED TO BUILDING HEIGHT AND BUILDING 3 SETBACKS. 4 5 WHEREAS City staff desire to modify the current regulations regarding building 6 height and building setbacks; and 7 8 **WHEREAS** to that end, staff have drafted proposed amendments to the City Code; 9 and 10 11 WHEREAS the Planning and Zoning Commission held a public hearing on these 12 amendments at the December 2, 2024, regular meeting; and 13 14 WHEREAS the Planning and Zoning Commission, after holding a public hearing 15 on the amendments issued a recommendation of approval; and 16 17 WHEREAS the City Council desires to adopt the amendments contained herein. 18 19 20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NIXA, AS FOLLOWS, THAT: 21 22 **SECTION 1:** Chapter 117, Article VII, Section 117-277 of the Nixa City Code is 23 hereby amended by repealing said Section in its entirety and adopting in lieu thereof a 24 new Section 117-277, which said Section shall read as follows (Explanation: Language 25 26 in bold-face type (e.g., thus) is language to be to be added. Language in bold-faced brackets (e.g., [thus]) is not enacted and is intended to be omitted or deleted.): 27 28 Sec. 117-277. – Minimum dimensional standards. 29 30 (a) The following minimum dimensional standards shall apply in each respective zoning 31 district: 32 33 (1) Lots zoned as AG district (agricultural) shall comply with the following dimensional 34 requirements: 35 36 37 a. The minimum lot area shall be no less than 20,000 square feet[-]. 38 39 b. The minimum lot width shall be no less than 100 feet[-]. 40 c. No building shall be constructed or placed which exceeds 35 feet in height[-]. 41 42 d. Buildings constructed or placed shall have a front yard setback of at least 25 43 feet[-]. 44

- e. Buildings constructed or placed shall have a rear yard setback of at least 25 feet[-].
- f. Buildings constructed or placed shall have a side yard setback of at least seven feet as measured from the nearest point on the foundation wall to the property line[,].
- g. When the side yard of any building on a lot is adjacent to a street the building shall be setback at least 12 feet from the property line adjacent to the street[-].
- h. The maximum allowed number of dwelling units shall not exceed 2.18 dwelling units per acre.
- (2) Lots zoned as R-1 district (single-family residential) shall comply with the following dimensional requirements:
 - a. The minimum lot area shall be no less than 6,600 square feet[-,].
 - b. The minimum lot width shall be no less than 60 feet[,].
 - c. [No building] Buildings which are [shall be] constructed or placed which [exceeds] exceed 35 feet in height shall be subject to the bulk plane regulations set forth in section 117-277(c) of the Nixa City Code. Buildings which are constructed or placed which do not exceed 35 feet in height shall comply with the following:
 - [d-] 1. Buildings constructed or placed shall have a front yard setback of at least 25 feet[-,].
 - [e.] 2. Buildings constructed or placed shall have a rear yard setback of at least 20 feet[,].
 - [f-] 3. Buildings constructed or placed shall have a side yard setback of at least seven feet as measured from the nearest point on the foundation wall to the property line. [However, buildings constructed or placed on a lot which was approved on a valid preliminary plat existing on or before May 24, 2021, may have a side yard setback of at least five feet provided that said building fully complies with the city's adopted building code,]
 - [g.] **d.** When the side yard of any building on a lot is adjacent to a street the building shall be setback at least 12 feet from the property line adjacent to the street[.].
 - [h.] e. The maximum allowed number of dwelling units shall not exceed 6.60 dwelling units per acre.

92 93	(3) Lots zoned as R-4 district (two-family) shall comply with the following dimensional requirements:
94	requirements.
95	a. The minimum lot area shall be no less than 8,000 square feet for two-family
96	residential dwellings ("duplexes") and no less than 4,000 square feet for
97	attached single-family residential dwellings ("townhomes" or "zero lot line")[-,].
98	h. The minimum let width shall be no lose than 60 feet.
99	b. The minimum lot width shall be no less than 60 feet[-,].
100	a. [No building] Puildings which are [shall ha] constructed or placed which
101	c. [No building] Buildings which are [shall be] constructed or placed which
102	[exceeds] exceed 35 feet in height shall be subject to the bulk plane
103	regulations set forth in section 117-277(c) of the Nixa City Code.
104	Buildings which are constructed or placed which do not exceed 35 feet
105	in height shall comply with the following:
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107	[d.] 1. Buildings constructed or placed shall have a front yard setback of at
108	least 20 feet[,].
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110	[e.] 2. Buildings constructed or placed shall have a rear yard setback of at
111	least 15 feet[,].
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113	[f.] 3.Buildings constructed or placed shall have a side yard setback of at least
114	seven feet as measured from the nearest point on the foundation wall to
115	the property line. [However, buildings constructed or placed on a lot which
116	was approved on a valid preliminary plat existing on or before May 24,
117	2021, may have a side yard setback of at least five feet provided that said
118	building fully complies with the city's adopted building code,]
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120	[g.] d. When the side yard of any building on a lot is adjacent to a street the
121	building shall be setback at least 12 feet from the property line adjacent to the
122	street[-,].
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124	[h.] e. The maximum allowed number of dwelling units shall not exceed 5.45
125	dwelling units per acre.
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127	(4) Lots zoned as R-5 district (medium density multifamily) shall comply with the
128	following dimensional requirements:
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130	a. [No building] Buildings which are [shall be] constructed or placed which
131	[exceeds] exceed 35 feet in height shall be subject to the bulk plane
132	regulations set forth in section 117-277(c) of the Nixa City Code.
133	Buildings which are constructed or placed which do not exceed 35 feet
134	in height shall comply with the following:
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136	[b-] 1. Buildings constructed or placed shall have a front yard setback of at
137	least 20 feet[-].

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[e.] 2. Buildings constructed or placed shall have a rear yard setback of at least 12 feet[-].

- [d.] 3. Buildings constructed or placed shall have a side yard setback of at least [eight] 12 feet as measured from the nearest point on the foundation wall to the property line [-,].
- [e. When the side yard of any building on a lot is adjacent to a street the building shall be setback at least 12 feet from the property line adjacent to the street.]
- [f.] b. The maximum allowed number of dwelling units shall not exceed 8.71 dwelling units per acre.
- (5) Lots zoned as R-3 district (multifamily) shall comply with the following dimensional requirements:
 - a. [No building] Buildings which are [shall be] constructed or placed which [exceeds] exceed 35 feet in height shall be subject to the bulk plane regulations set forth in section 117-277(c) of the Nixa City Code. Buildings which are constructed or placed which do not exceed 35 feet in height shall comply with the following:
 - [b.] 1. Buildings constructed or placed shall have a front yard setback of at least 20 feet[-].
 - [e.] 2. Buildings constructed or placed shall have a rear yard setback of at least 12 feetI-1.
 - [d.] 3. Buildings constructed or placed shall have a side yard setback of at least [eight] 12 feet as measured from the nearest point on the foundation wall to the property line[-].
 - [e. When the side yard of any building on a lot is adjacent to a street the building shall be setback at least 12 feet from the property line adjacent to the street.]
 - [f.] b. The maximum allowed number of dwelling units shall not exceed 14.52 dwelling units per acre.
 - c. In the case where a building is constructed or placed on a lot and the building exceeds 35 feet in height and is located on a lot that is adjacent to a lot or lots which are zoned single-family (R-1) or single-family attached housing (R-4) or which are utilized as a single family residence then the minimum setback shall be 1.5 times the height of the building from the shared property line of any adjacent lot which is zoned R-1, R-4, or utilized as a single family residence.

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(6) Lots zoned as R-MHS district (residential modular home) shall comply with the following dimensional requirements:

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7 8 a. The minimum lot area shall be no less than 6,000 square feet[-].

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b. The minimum lot width shall be no less than 60 feet[-].

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c. The minimum lot depth shall be no less than 100 feet[-].

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d. No building shall be constructed or placed which exceeds 35 feet in height[,].

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e. Buildings constructed or placed shall have a front yard setback of at least six feet[-,].

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f. Buildings constructed or placed shall have a rear yard setback of at least six feet[-,].

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g. Buildings constructed or placed shall have a side yard setback of at least six feet[-].

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h. When the side yard of any building on a lot is adjacent to a street the building shall be setback at least 12 feet from the property line adjacent to the street[-].

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i. The maximum allowed number of dwelling units shall not exceed 7.26 dwelling units per acre.

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(7) Lots zoned as R-MHC district (residential manufactured home community) shall comply with the following dimensional requirements:

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a. The minimum lot area shall be no less than 4,000 square feet[,].

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b. The minimum lot width shall be no less than 40 feet[,].

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c. No building shall be constructed or placed which exceeds 35 feet in height[,].

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d. Buildings constructed or placed shall have a front yard setback of at least six feet[,].

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e. Buildings constructed or placed shall have a rear yard setback of at least six feet[-].

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f. Buildings constructed or placed shall have a side yard setback of at least six feet[-1.

g. When the side yard of any building on a lot is adjacent to a street the building 229 shall be setback at least 12 feet from the property line adjacent to the street[-]. 230 231 h. The maximum allowed number of dwelling units shall not exceed 10.89 232 dwelling units per acre. 233 234 (8) Lots zoned as CC district (center city commercial) shall comply with the following 235 dimensional requirements: 236 237 a. Buildings which are constructed or placed which exceed 35 feet in 238 height shall be subject to the bulk plane regulations set forth in section 239 117-277(c) of the Nixa City Code. Buildings which are constructed or 240 placed which do not exceed 35 feet in height shall comply with the 241 242 following: 243 1. Buildings constructed or placed shall have a front yard setback of at least 244 [25] **15** feet[-]. 245 246 [b.] 2. Buildings constructed or placed shall have a rear yard setback of at 247 least [20] **15** feet[-]. 248 249 [e-] 3. Buildings constructed or placed shall have a side yard setback of at 250 least ten feet[-]. 251 252 [d.] b. When the side yard of any building on a lot is adjacent to a street the 253 building shall be setback at least 15 feet from the property line adjacent to the 254 street. 255 256 (9) Lots zoned as O district (transitional office) shall comply with the following 257 dimensional requirements: 258 259 a. Buildings which are constructed or placed which exceed 35 feet in 260 261 height shall be subject to the bulk plane regulations set forth in section 117-277(c) of the Nixa City Code. Buildings which are constructed or 262 placed which do not exceed 35 feet in height shall comply with the 263 following: 264 265 **1.** Buildings constructed or placed shall have a front yard setback of at least 266 267 15 feet[-]. 268 [b.] 2. Buildings constructed or placed shall have a rear yard setback of at 269 least 15 feet[-]. 270 271 [e.] 3. Buildings constructed or placed shall have a side yard setback of at 272 273 least ten feet[-]. 274

275 276 277	[d.] b. Who building street.
278 279 280	(10) Lots zone following di
281 282 283 284 285	a. Buildin height : 117-277 placed
286	followi
287 288 289	1. Build 15 fe
290 291 292 293	[b.] 2. Bu 15 fe
294 295 296	[c.] 3. Bu ten fe
297 298 299	[d.] b. Who building street.
300 301 302 303	(11) Lots zone dimensiona
304 305 306 307 308	a. Buildin height 117-277 placed followi
309 310 311	1. Build 20 fe
312 313 314	[b.] 2. leas
315 316 317 318	[c.] 3. E leas

- [d.] **b.** When the side yard of any building on a lot is adjacent to a street the building shall be setback at least 15 feet from the property line adjacent to the street.
- (10) Lots zoned as NC district (neighborhood commercial) shall comply with the following dimensional requirements:
 - Buildings which are constructed or placed which exceed 35 feet in height shall be subject to the bulk plane regulations set forth in section 117-277(c) of the Nixa City Code. Buildings which are constructed or placed which do not exceed 35 feet in height shall comply with the following:
 - 1. Buildings constructed or placed shall have a front yard setback of at least 15 feet[-].
 - [b.] 2. Buildings constructed or placed shall have a rear yard setback of at least 15 feet[-].
 - [e.] 3. Buildings constructed or placed shall have a side yard setback of at least ten feet[,].
 - [d.] **b.** When the side yard of any building on a lot is adjacent to a street the building shall be setback at least 15 feet from the property line adjacent to the street.
- (11) Lots zoned as GC district (general commercial) shall comply with the following dimensional requirements:
 - a. Buildings which are constructed or placed which exceed 35 feet in height shall be subject to the bulk plane regulations set forth in section 117-277(c) of the Nixa City Code. Buildings which are constructed or placed which do not exceed 35 feet in height shall comply with the following:
 - 1. Buildings constructed or placed shall have a front yard setback of at least 20 feet[-].
 - [b.] 2. Buildings constructed or placed shall have a rear yard setback of at least 20 feet[-].
 - [e-] 3. Buildings constructed or placed shall have a side yard setback of at least ten feet[-].

[d-] b. When the side yard of any building on a lot is adjacent to a street the 319 building shall be setback at least 15 feet from the property line adjacent to the 320 street. 321 322 c. In the case where a building is constructed or placed on a lot and the 323 building exceeds 35 feet in height and is located on a lot that is adjacent 324 to a lot or lots which are zoned single-family (R-1) or single-family 325 attached housing (R-4) or which are utilized as a single family residence 326 then the minimum setback shall be 1.5 times the height of the building 327 from the shared property line of any adjacent lot which is zoned R-1, R-328 4, or utilized as a single family residence. 329 330 (12) Lots zoned as HC district (highway commercial) shall comply with the following 331 dimensional requirements: 332 333 a. Buildings which are constructed or placed which exceed 35 feet in 334 height shall be subject to the bulk plane regulations set forth in section 335 117-277(c) of the Nixa City Code. Buildings which are constructed or 336 placed which do not exceed 35 feet in height shall comply with the 337 following: 338 339 1. Buildings constructed or placed shall have a front yard setback of at least 340 20 feet[-1. 341 342 [b.] 2. Buildings constructed or placed shall have a rear yard setback of at 343 least 20 feet[-]. 344 345 [e-] 3. Buildings constructed or placed shall have a side yard setback of at 346 least ten feet[$\frac{1}{2}$]. 347 348 [d.] b. When the side yard of any building on a lot is adjacent to a street the 349 building shall be setback at least 20 feet from the property line adjacent to the 350 351 street. 352 c. In the case where a building is constructed or placed on a lot and the 353 building exceeds 35 feet in height and is located on a lot that is adjacent 354 to a lot or lots which are zoned single-family (R-1) or single-family 355 attached housing (R-4) or which are utilized as a single family residence 356 357 then the minimum setback shall be 1.5 times the height of the building from the shared property line of any adjacent lot which is zoned R-1, R-358 4, or utilized as a single family residence. 359 360 (13) Lots zoned as M-1 district shall comply with the following dimensional 361 requirements: 362

- a. Buildings which are constructed or placed which exceed 35 feet in height shall be subject to the bulk plane regulations set forth in section 117-277(c) of the Nixa City Code. Buildings which are constructed or placed which do not exceed 35 feet in height shall comply with the following:
 - 1. Buildings constructed or placed shall have a front yard setback of at least 20 feet[-].
 - [b.] 2. Buildings constructed or placed shall have a rear yard setback of at least 20 feet[-,].
 - [e.] **3.** Buildings constructed or placed shall have a side yard setback of at least ten feet[-].
- [d.] b. When the side yard of any building on a lot is adjacent to a street the building shall be setback at least ten feet from the property line adjacent to the street.
- c. In the case where a building is constructed or placed on a lot and the building exceeds 35 feet in height and is located on a lot that is adjacent to a lot or lots which are zoned single-family (R-1) or single-family attached housing (R-4) or which are utilized as a single family residence then the minimum setback shall be 1.5 times the height of the building from the shared property line of any adjacent lot which is zoned R-1, R-4, or utilized as a single family residence.
- (14) Lots zoned as M-2 district shall comply with the following dimensional requirements:
 - a. Buildings which are constructed or placed which exceed 35 feet in height shall be subject to the bulk plane regulations set forth in section 117-277(c) of the Nixa City Code. Buildings which are constructed or placed which do not exceed 35 feet in height shall comply with the following:
 - 1. Buildings constructed or placed shall have a front yard setback of at least 25 feet [-1.
 - [b.] 2. Buildings constructed or placed shall have a rear yard setback of at least 25 feet[,].
 - [e-] 3. Buildings constructed or placed shall have a side yard setback of at least 25 feet[-,].

- [d.] **b.** When the side yard of any building on a lot is adjacent to a street the building shall be setback at least 25 feet from the property line adjacent to the street.
- c. In the case where a building is constructed or placed on a lot and the building exceeds 35 feet in height and is located on a lot that is adjacent to a lot or lots which are zoned single-family (R-1) or single-family attached housing (R-4) or which are utilized as a single family residence then the minimum setback shall be 1.5 times the height of the building from the shared property line of any adjacent lot which is zoned R-1, R-4, or utilized as a single family residence.
- (b) Residential side yards adjacent to a collector, arterial, expressway or freeway class thoroughfare shall be setback 20 feet.
- (c) *Bulk Plane Regulations*. No building or structure, which is subject to the provisions of this section 117-277(c), shall be placed [in an M-1 or M-2 district] such that the height of said building or structure is greater than the slope measured from a 45-degree angle from any property line [adjoining a residential district].
- (d) Whenever a lot in a nonresidential district has a common boundary line with a lot in a residential district, and the property line setback requirement applicable to the residential lot is greater than that applicable to the nonresidential lot, then the lot in the nonresidential district shall be required to observe the property line setback requirement applicable to the adjoining residential lot.
- (e) Structural features normally located on the roof of a building and not intended or used as places of occupancy or storage are exempt from the height limitations provided for in this section.
- (f) Building Height How Measured. For purposes of the provisions of this section 117-277, building height shall be measured as provided in the adopted building codes of the City of Nixa.
- **SECTION 2:** The City Attorney, when codifying the provisions of this Ordinance, is authorized to provide for different section numbers, subsection numbers, and different internal citation references than those provided herein when such section numbers, subsection numbers, or internal citation references are in error or are contrary to the intent of this Ordinance.
- **SECTION 3:** Savings Clause. Nothing in this Ordinance shall be construed to affect any suit or proceeding now pending in any court or any rights acquired, or liability incurred nor any cause or causes of action occurred or existing, under any act or ordinance repealed hereby.

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454	SECTION 4: Severability Clause. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, or				
455	phrase of this Ordinance is for any reason held to be invalid, such decision shall not affect				
456 457		the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance. The Council hereby declares that it would have adopted the Ordinance and each section, subsection, sentence, clause, or			
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459	phrase thereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, sentences, clauses, or phrases be declared invalid.				
460	principles, diageout, or principle are deciding	· ·····································			
461	SECTION 5: This Ordinance shall be	e in full force and effect fron	n and after its final		
462	passage by the City Council and after its approval by the Mayor, subject to the provisions				
463	of section 3.11(g) of the City Charter.				
464					
465	ADORTED BY THE COUNCIL THIS	DAYOF	2024		
466 467	ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL THIS	DAT OF	2024.		
468		ATTEST:			
469		,,,,,,,			
470					
471	PRESIDING OFFICER	CITY CLERK			
472					
473 474	APPROVED BY THE MAYOR THIS	DAY OF	2024.		
475					
476		ATTEST:			
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478	MAYOD	CITY OF EDIA	 		
479 480	MAYOR	CITY CLERK			
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482	APPROVED AS TO FORM:				
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485	CITY ATTORNEY				