

CITY OF UNALASKA
UNALASKA, ALASKA

ORDINANCE 2024-12

AN ORDINANCE OF THE UNALASKA CITY COUNCIL AMENDING TITLE 15 OF THE UNALASKA CODE OF ORDINANCES TO REDUCE THE MINIMUM HEIGHT FOR ADDRESS NUMBERS ON BUILDINGS FROM 5.25 INCHES to 4 INCHES

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF UNALASKA, as follows:

Section 1: Classification. This Ordinance is a Code Ordinance.

Section 2: Amendment of Section 15.12. Section 15.12 of the Unalaska Code of Ordinances is hereby amended to read as follows:

§ 15.12.060 MAINTENANCE OF ADDRESSES.

The City of Unalaska Planning Department will be responsible to assign all building numbers for permanent structures based upon the method outlined in this ordinance. The property owner of a building with an assigned address is responsible for displaying and maintaining the assigned number in a conspicuous location which is clearly visible from the road which the address is assigned, with the numbers being no smaller than 4 inches ~~5¼"~~ high. The number should be placed on the building, and when the building is not visible from the road, the number should be also placed at the primary entry driveway. The property owner is encouraged if possible to place numbers in areas that are not only conspicuous, but that may be lighted when it is dark outside.

§ 15.12.070 Repealed NUMBERS AVAILABLE FOR DISPLAY.

~~*The City of Unalaska Planning Department will for a period of one year only, from the effective date of this ordinance, provide free for the public 5¼" black numbers. If desired, a property owner may choose their own numbers to be displayed.*~~

Section 3: Effective Date. This ordinance is effective upon passage.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by a duly constituted quorum of the Unalaska City Council on October 8, 2024.


Alejandro Bong Tungul
Vice Mayor

ATTEST:


Estkairen P. Magdaong, CMC
City Clerk



MEMORANDUM TO COUNCIL

To: Mayor and City Council Members
From: Cameron Dean, Planning Director
Through: Marjie Veeder, Acting City Manager
Date: September 24, 2024
Re: Ordinance 2024-12 Amending Title 15 of the Unalaska Code of Ordinances to reduce the minimum height for address numbers on buildings from 5.25 inches to 4 inches

SUMMARY: The Aleutian and Pribilof Islands Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) has requested reducing the minimum height for address numbering on buildings to enable a program it will lead to distribute reflective numbering to the community.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION: None.

BACKGROUND: The Planning Department is responsible for assigning address numbers to permanent structures within the City. City code currently requires all numbers be a minimum of 5.25" high (§ 15.12.060).

The Aleutian and Pribilof Islands LEPC notified the City on July 12, 2024 that it received a \$4,500 grant from APICDA to provide reflective address numbers to interested property owners. Because most available interchangeable numbers are 4 inches high, it requested the City consider changing code to reduce the minimum height for numbers to 4 inches.

When the existing code was adopted, the Planning Department provided a set of numbers to property owners for one year. That offer has long expired.

DISCUSSION: Clearly visible house numbers are important to allow emergency responders to quickly find locations. While City code does not require reflective numbering, it does encourage owners to place numbers in lit areas, and reflective numbers would be more visible even during power outages.

A 4-inch minimum height for house numbers is specified by the applicable fire and building codes. Planning staff consulted with Fire, Public Safety and Public Works. All agree with the proposed change.

The Fire Department is additionally working with the LEPC to mark safe addresses outside the tsunami zone on the signs the LEPC distributes. This will help inform residents and first responders of the extent of the tsunami hazard area and discourage those residing in a safe area from unnecessarily evacuating and clogging routes or shelters.

The City Attorney recommended repealing § 15.12.070 as a housekeeping matter. The Planning Department will not be providing numbers at this time.

Regardless of the ordinance change, the LEPC will be responsible for procuring and providing numbers to property owners. Staff will work with them to ensure the numbers they distribute are correct.

ALTERNATIVES: Council could decide to make no change to the existing ordinance, mandate a different size of address numbers or remove the section altogether.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: None at this time.

LEGAL: The City Attorney has reviewed the proposed code change.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends adoption of Ordinance 2024-12.

PROPOSED MOTION: I move to introduce Ordinance 2024-12 and schedule it for public hearing and second reading on October 8, 2024.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS: Providing visible and accurate address numbers on buildings is very important for first responders. LEPC's involvement in this initiative is supported and appreciated by the City. I support the Staff Recommendation.

ATTACHMENTS: Request from LEPC, July 12, 2024

From: Peter Gurney (LEPC) <chairperson@api-lepc.org>
Sent: Friday, July 12, 2024 6:16 PM
To: Bil Homka
Cc: Cameron Dean
Subject: House Numbering project--LEPC

Hi Mr. Homka,

The Aleutian and Pribilof Islands LEPC was just granted \$4,500 from the Aleutian and Pribilof Islands Community Development Association (APICDA) to fund a house numbering project. We have researched different house numbering options to try to find the best possible solution for our community. We've found that the large majority of feasible options for buying reflective house numbers in bulk are 4 inches in height.

Unfortunately, the current city code requires house numbers to be "no smaller than 5.25" high" (15.12.060 Maintenance of Addresses). LEPC requests that the city code be changed to allow house numbers of at least 4 inches in height. Let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,

Peter Gurney
Aleutian and Pribilof Islands LEPC
chairperson@api-lepc.org