

**TOWN OF NORWOOD, COLORADO
PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION**

RESOLUTION NO 0615 Series 2026

**A RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING APPROVAL OF AMENDMENTS TO
THE NORWOOD LAND USE CODE TO ADOPT THE UPDATED 2026
DARKSKY INTERNATIONAL OUTDOOR LIGHTING STANDARDS**

WHEREAS, the Town of Norwood was designated an International Dark Sky Community in 2019, recognizing the exceptional quality of the community's night skies and the Town's commitment to preserving them; and

WHEREAS, protecting dark skies promotes public health, safety, welfare, energy conservation, environmental stewardship, wildlife protection, tourism, and the rural character of the Town of Norwood; and

WHEREAS, the current outdoor lighting regulations contained within the Norwood Land Use Code are based upon earlier DarkSky standards; and

WHEREAS, DarkSky International released its updated **2026 U.S. Municipal Code for Outdoor Lighting** on February 20, 2026, representing the first comprehensive update to its municipal lighting standards and incorporating revised lighting zone classifications, updated definitions, enhanced compliance procedures, and enforcement provisions; and

WHEREAS, the Norwood Dark Sky Advocates have requested that the Town update its regulations to reflect the 2026 standards and have recommended removing the existing lighting provisions from Chapter 5 of the Land Use Code and replacing them with a standalone Outdoor Lighting Chapter; and

WHEREAS, the proposed amendments are intended to maintain Norwood's status as an International Dark Sky Community while providing clear and modern standards for residential, commercial, industrial, recreational, and public lighting installations; and

WHEREAS, the Planning and Zoning Commission has reviewed the proposed amendments, considered public comment, and finds that the amendments are consistent with the goals of the Norwood Master Plan and in the best interests of the community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE NORWOOD PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION:

Section 1. Findings

The Planning and Zoning Commission finds that:

1. The proposed amendments promote the public health, safety, and welfare of the residents of Norwood.
2. The proposed amendments support preservation of the Town's dark skies and natural environment.
3. The proposed amendments provide clear, objective standards for outdoor lighting design and installation.
4. The proposed amendments are consistent with the Town's adopted planning objectives and land use policies.
5. The proposed amendments will assist the Town in maintaining compliance with DarkSky International standards and preserving its International Dark Sky Community designation.

Section 2. Recommendation

The Planning and Zoning Commission hereby recommends that the Board of Trustees approve the proposed amendments to the Norwood Land Use Code which:

- A. Repeal and replace the existing outdoor lighting standards currently contained within Chapter 5 of the Land Use Code;
- B. Adopt a new standalone Outdoor Lighting Chapter based upon the 2026 DarkSky International Municipal Code for Outdoor Lighting, including applicable definitions, lighting standards, compliance procedures, lighting zone classifications, enforcement provisions, and related appendices; and
- C. Incorporate any minor revisions determined necessary by Town staff, legal counsel, and the Board of Trustees to ensure consistency with the remainder of the Land Use Code.

Section 3. Additional Recommendations

The Planning and Zoning Commission further recommends:

1. Addition of a Dark Sky compliance verification checkbox on all applicable zoning and development permit applications.
2. Designation of a Town staff liaison responsible for receiving and coordinating Dark Sky related compliance concerns and educational outreach.
3. Development of administrative procedures to facilitate review of lighting plans associated with new development and redevelopment projects.

Section 4. Effective Date

This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon adoption and shall be forwarded to the Town Board of Trustees as the formal recommendation of the Planning and Zoning Commission.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED this 15th day of __June__, 2026.

NORWOOD PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION



Bronwen Spielman, Board Chair

Attest:



Cidney Ross, Town Clerk