

**ORDINANCE NO. 24-12-05-02**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAGO VISTA, TEXAS, ESTABLISHING GUIDELINES FOR HOLIDAY DISPLAYS ON PUBLIC PROPERTY; PROVIDING FOR A SIMPLE APPLICATION PROCESS; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Lago Vista has a long-standing tradition of celebrating the holiday season with displays that reflect the cultural and historical heritage of the community, including religious symbols such as nativity scenes; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Lago Vista desires to ensure that holiday displays on public property are managed in an orderly and lawful manner consistent with the U.S. Constitution;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAGO VISTA, TEXAS:**

**SECTION 1: PURPOSE.** The purpose of this ordinance is to provide clear and simple guidelines for the placement of holiday displays on public property while recognizing the traditions and values of the community.

**SECTION 2: AUTHORIZATION OF HOLIDAY DISPLAYS**

1. Holiday displays, including religious-themed displays such as nativity scenes, are permitted on City property.
2. Religious displays must include secular holiday elements (e.g., lights, Christmas trees, or similar) to ensure compliance with legal requirements.
3. To be applicable to all National recognized Holidays and will apply to Dawn Drive, Emerald, 4<sup>th</sup> of July Circle, Bowden Point, and Sunset Park.

**SECTION 3: APPLICATION PROCESS**

1. Any individual or organization wishing to install a holiday display on public property must submit a written request to the City Manager or their designee at least *30 days* prior to installation.
2. The written request must include:
  - o A brief description of the display.
  - o Proposed location and duration.
  - o Contact information for the responsible party.

**SECTION 4: REVIEW AND APPROVAL**

1. The City Manager or their designee shall review applications to confirm that
  - o The display aligns with the guidelines established in this ordinance.
  - o The display poses no safety risks or interference with city operations.
2. Approved applicants will receive confirmation in writing.

**SECTION 5: RESPONSIBILITIES OF APPLICANTS**

1. Approved applicants are responsible for:
  - o Proper installation, maintenance, and removal of the display.
  - o Ensuring the display remains clean, safe, and intact during the permitted period.
2. All displays must be removed within 7 days after the date of the holiday period.

**SECTION 6: UNAUTHORIZED DISPLAYS**

1. Displays installed without approval will be removed by the city.
2. Parties responsible for unauthorized displays may be prohibited from applying for future permits.

**SECTION 7: IDEMNIFICATION.** The City of Lago Vista is not liable for damages or claims arising from holiday displays installed by third parties.

**SECTION 8: EFFECTIVE DATE.** This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its passage and approval pursuant to City Charter Section 3.16.

**SECTION 9: OPEN MEETINGS.** It is hereby officially found and determined that the meeting at which this ordinance is passed was open to the public as required and that public notice of the time, place, and purpose of said meeting was given as required by the Open Meetings Act, Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code.

**AND IT IS SO ORDERED.**

**PASSED AND APPROVED on this 5th day of December 2024.**

**CITY OF LAGO VISTA, TEXAS**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kevin Sullivan, Mayor



**ATTEST:**

  
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Susie Quinn, Interim City Secretary

(Signed by Maria Franco, City Secretary, for Susie Quinn, Interim City Secretary)

On a motion by Councilmember Roberts, seconded by Councilmember Saum, the above and foregoing ordinance was passed and approved.