

CHAPTER 25

NUISANCES

ARTICLE I – GENERALLY

25-1-1 **SPECIFIC NUISANCES ENUMERATED.** It is hereby declared to be a nuisance and to be against the health, peace, and comfort of the City, for any person, firm or corporation within the limits of the City to permit the following; but the enumeration of the following nuisances shall not be deemed to be exclusive:

(A) **Filth.** To cause or suffer the carcass of any animal or any offal, filth, or noisome substance to be collected, deposited or to remain in any place, to the prejudice of others.

(B) **Deposit of Offensive Materials.** To throw or deposit any offal or other offensive matter, or the carcass of any dead animal in any water course, lake, pond, spring, well or common sewer, street, or public highway.

(C) **Corruption of Water.** To corrupt or render unwholesome, or impure, the water of any spring, river, stream, pond, or lake, well, public or private, to the injury or prejudice of others.

(D) **Highway Encroachment.** To obstruct or encroach upon public highways, private ways, streets, alleys, commons, landing places, and ways to burying places.

(E) **Manufacturing Gunpowder.** To carry on the business of manufacturing gunpowder, nitroglycerine, or other highly explosive substances, or mixing or grinding the materials therefore, in any building within **three hundred (300) feet** of any valuable building erected at the time such business may be commenced.

(F) **Powder Magazines.** To establish powder magazines near incorporated towns, at a point different from that appointed according to law by the corporate authorities of the town, or within **eight hundred (800) feet** of any occupied dwelling house.

(G) **Noxious Odors.** To erect, continue or use any building or other place for the exercise of any trade, employment, or manufacture, which, by occasioning noxious exhalations, offensive smells or otherwise, is offensive or dangerous to the health of individuals, or of the public.

(H) **Unlawful Advertising.** To advertise wares or occupations by painting notices of the same on, or affixing them to fences or other private property, or on rocks or other natural objects without the consent of the owner, or if in the highway or other public place, without permission of the proper authorities.

(I) **Wells Unplugged.** To permit any well drilled for oil, gas, saltwater disposal, or any other purpose in connection with the production of oil and gas, to remain unplugged after such well is no longer used for the purpose for which it was drilled.

(J) **Burn-Out Pits.** To construct or operate any saltwater pit or oil field refuse pit, commonly called a "**burn-out pit**" so that salt water, brine or oil field refuse or other waste liquids may escape therefrom in any manner except by the evaporation of such salt water or brine or by the burning of such oil field waste or refuse.

(K) **Discarded Materials.** To permit concrete bases, discarded machinery and materials to remain around any oil or gas well or to fail to fill any holes, cellars, slush pits and other excavations made in connection with any such well or to restore the surface of the lands surrounding any such well to its condition before the drilling of any such well, upon abandonment of any such oil or gas well.

(L) **Underground Wells.** To permit any salt water, oil, gas or other wastes from any well drilled for oil, gas or exploratory purposes to escape to the surface, or into a mine or coal seam, or into any underground fresh water supply, or from one underground stratum to another, or to permit concrete bases, discarded machinery and materials to remain around any oil or gas well, or to fail to fill any holes, cellars, slush pits and other excavations made in connection with any such well or to restore the surface of the lands surrounding any such well to its condition before the drilling of any such well, upon abandonment of any such oil or gas well.

(M) **Harassment.** To harass, intimidate or threaten any person who is about to sell or lease or has sold or leased a residence or other real property, or is about to buy or lease, or has bought or leased a residence or other real property, when the harassment, intimidation, or threat relates to a person's attempt to sell, buy, or lease a residence, or other real property, or refers to a person's sale, purchase or lease of a residence or other real property.

(N) **Business.** To establish, maintain, and carry on any offensive or unwholesome business or establishment within the limits of the City or within **one and one-half (1 ½) miles** of the City limits.

(O) **Filthy Premise Conditions.** To keep or suffer to be kept in a foul, offensive, nauseous, or filthy condition, any chicken coop, livestock barn, stable, cellar, vault, drain, privy, septic tank, sewer or sink upon any premises belonging to or occupied by any person, or any railroad car, building, yard, grounds, and premises belonging to or occupied by any person.

(P) **Expectorate.** To expectorate on any public sidewalk or street, or other public building or floor or walk of any public vehicle or hall.

(Q) **Litter on Streets.** It shall be unlawful for any person to deposit upon or allow trash, paper, cardboard, wire, dirt, rock, stone, glass, brick, lumber, wood or litter or material objects of any size or description to fall upon the streets of the City from any moving vehicle, or to be thrown from a moving vehicle, or to throw from a moving vehicle and to remain thereon.

(R) **Accumulation of Junk and Trash.** To deposit or pile up any rags, old rope, paper, iron, brass, copper, tin, aluminum, used lumber, derelict truck trailers, camping trailers, boats, appliances, construction materials, demolition debris, ashes, garbage, refuse, plastic, brush, litter, weeds, slush, lead, glass bottles or broken glass upon any residential home lot, piece, or parcel of land or upon any public or private alley, street, or public way within the City.

(S) **Rodents.** To cause or permit any condition or situation to exist that shall attract, harbor, or encourage the infestation of rodents.

(T) **Bringing Nuisances into the City.** To bring into the City or keep therein for sale or otherwise, either for food or for any other purpose, any dead or live animal or any matter, substance, or thing which shall be a nuisance, or which shall occasion a nuisance in the City, or which may or shall be dangerous or detrimental to health.

(U) **Offensive Liquids.** To keep nauseous, foul, or putrid liquid or substance or any liquid or substance likely to become nauseous, foul, offensive, or putrid, nor permit any such liquid to be discharged, placed, thrown, or to flow from or out of any premise into or upon any adjacent premises or any public street or alley, nor permit the same to be done by any person connected with the premises.

(V) **Dense or Offensive Smoke.** To cause or permit the emission of dense smoke from any fire, chimney, engine, oil burner or any other agency in the City so as to cause annoyance or discomfort to the residents thereof.

(W) **Scrap Tires, Both Mounted and Dismounted.** To keep any scrap tires, either mounted or dismounted, in open view, or so as to allow such tires to accumulate stagnant water so as to provide a breeding ground for mosquitoes and other pests.

(X) **Motor Transport Engines.** To operate motor vehicle transport engines in the nighttime between the hours of **eight (8:00) o'clock P.M.** and **six (6:00) o'clock A.M.**, in any place in which a majority of the buildings, within a radius of **four hundred (400) feet** are used exclusively for residence purposes, excluding state and federal highways.

(Y) **Accumulation of Debris.** To store, dump or permit the accumulation of debris, refuse, garbage, trash, tires, buckets, cans, wheelbarrows, garbage cans or other containers in a manner that may harbor mosquitoes, flies, insects, rodents, nuisance birds or other animal pests that are offensive, injurious, or dangerous to the health of individuals or the public.

(Z) **Discarded Machinery or Materials.** To store, keep or maintain outside of a closed building the following: (1) used appliances, used or dilapidated furniture, bathroom fixtures, tires, old iron or metal, motor vehicle parts and all other parts, tools, machinery, and equipment in inoperable condition, for longer than a two-week time period; or (2) used lumber, bricks, blocks, or other building salvage or construction material, unless such material is intended for reuse and arranged in an orderly fashion.

(AA) **Generally.** To commit any act which is a nuisance according to the common law of the land or made such by statute of the State. **(740 ILCS 55/221 – 55/222)**

Nothing in this Section shall be construed to prevent the corporate authorities of this City from declaring what shall be nuisances and abating them within the City limits.

25-1-2 **NUISANCES DETRIMENTAL TO HEALTH GENERALLY.** No building, vehicle, structure, receptacle, yard, lot, premise, or part thereof shall be made, used, kept, maintained, or operated in the City if such use, keeping or maintaining shall be dangerous or detrimental to health.

25-1-3 **NOTICE TO ABATE.** Whenever the Superintendent, Mayor or Police Chief finds that a nuisance exists, he shall direct the City Clerk to mail (certified) to the party responsible for the nuisance and to the party on whose property the nuisance exists a written notice ordering that the nuisance be abated within a reasonable time. The notice to abate shall contain:

- (A) A description of what constitutes the nuisance;
- (B) The location of the nuisance;
- (C) A statement of what condition or state of affairs must be achieved in order for the nuisance to be deemed abated;
- (D) The date by which abatement must be completed;
- (E) The date by which a request for a hearing must be filed and a statement of the procedure for so filing;
- (F) A statement that the responsible party has a right to appeal the abatement order to the City Council.
- (G) A statement indicating that if the nuisance is not abated by the date prescribed and/or if no request for hearing is made within the time prescribed, this City will abate the nuisance and assess the costs against the property and/or impose a fine.

25-1-4 **HEARING.** Any person ordered to abate a nuisance may have a hearing with the Police Chief or his designated representative ordering the abatement. A request for a hearing must be made in writing and delivered to the City Clerk within the time stated in the notice; otherwise, it will be presumed that a nuisance exists, and that such nuisance must be abated as ordered. The hearing shall not be a formal trial-type proceeding, but appropriate procedural safeguards shall be observed to ensure fairness. At the conclusion of the hearing, the Police Chief or his designated representative shall render his decision and the reasons therefor in writing. If he finds that a nuisance exists, he shall order it abated within an additional time which must be reasonable under the circumstances.

25-1-5 **APPEAL.** Any party aggrieved by the decision of the Police Chief may appeal to the City Council. Such appeal shall be taken by filing with the City Clerk within **five (5) days** of such decision a written statement indicating the basis for the appeal.

The appeal shall be heard by the City Council at the next regular or special meeting after such filing. Their findings shall be conclusive and if a nuisance is found to exist, it shall be ordered abated within a time reasonable under the circumstances.

25-1-6 **ABATEMENT BY CITY.** If the person ordered to abate a nuisance fails to do so, or if the nuisance poses an emergency, this City may perform the required action to abate. Any City official who is authorized to abate any nuisance as defined in this Article shall have authority to engage the necessary assistance and to incur the necessary expenses therefor. The official who abates a nuisance shall keep an accurate account of the expenses incurred. The itemized expense shall be filed with the City Clerk who shall pay such expenses on behalf of this City. **(See 65 ILCS 5/11-60-2)**

25-1-7 **FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH NOTICE.** If the person notified to abate a nuisance shall neglect or refuse to comply with the requirements of such notice by abating such nuisance within the time specified, such person shall be guilty of a violation of this Code. The City shall not be required to issue another notice where the condition or violation is at first abated, but later resumed and/or repeated.

(65 ILCS 5/11-60-2 and 720 ILCS 5/47-5; 5/47-10 and 5/47-15)

[See Section 1-1-20 for General Penalty]

ARTICLE II - WEEDS

25-2-1 **DEFINITION.** "Weeds" as used in this Code shall include, but not be limited to the following:

Burdock, Rag Weed (giant), Rag Weed (Common), Thistle, Cocklebur, Jimson, Blue Vervain, Common Milk Weed, Wild Carrot, Poison Ivy, Wild Mustard, Rough Pigweed, Lambsquarter, Wild Lettuce, Curled Dock, Smartweeds (all varieties), Poison Hemlock, Wild Hemp, and Johnson Grass, and all other noxious weeds as defined by the statutes of the State of Illinois.

25-2-2 **HEIGHT.** It shall be unlawful for anyone to permit any weeds, grass, or plants, other than trees, bushes, flowers, or other ornamental plants, to grow to a height exceeding **eight (8) inches** anywhere in the City. Any such plants or weeds exceeding such height are hereby declared to be a nuisance.

25-2-3 **NOTICE.** The Police Department or any other person so designated by the Mayor may issue a written notice for removal of weeds or grass. Such weeds or grass shall be cut by the owner or occupant within **five (5) days** after such notice has been duly served.

25-2-4 **SERVICE OF NOTICE.** Service of the notice provided for herein may be effected by handing the same to the owner, occupant or lessee of the premises, or to any member of his household of the age of **fifteen (15) years** or older found on the premises or by mailing such notice to the last known residence address of the owner; provided, that if the premises are unoccupied and the owner's address cannot be obtained, then the notice may be served by posting the same upon the premises.

25-2-5 **ABATEMENT.** If the person so served does not abate the nuisance within **five (5) days**, the Police Chief or the person so designated by the Mayor may proceed to abate such nuisance. Expense shall be charged and paid by such owner or occupant. Charge will be **Ninety Dollars (\$90.00)** per lot to mow; if **two (2) lots**, the charge to mow is **Seventy Dollars (\$70.00)** times **two (2)** or **One Hundred Forty Dollars (\$140.00)**; **Two Hundred Twenty-Five Dollars (\$225.00)** per acre. (**Ord. No. 01-799; 07-10-01**)

25-2-6 **LIEN.** Charges for such weed or grass removal shall be a lien upon the premises. A bill representing the cost and expense incurred or payable for the service shall be presented to the owner. If this bill is not paid within **thirty (30) days** of submission of the bill, a notice of lien of the cost and expenses thereof incurred by the City shall be recorded in the following manner:

- (A) A description of the real estate sufficient for identification thereof.
- (B) The amount of money representing the cost and expense incurred or payable for the service.
- (C) The date or dates when said cost and expense was incurred by the City and shall be filed within **sixty (60) days** after the cost and expense is incurred.

25-2-7 **PAYMENT.** Notice of such lien claim shall be mailed to the owner of the premises if his address is known. Upon payment of the cost and expense after notice of lien has been filed, the lien shall be released by the City or person in whose name the lien has been filed and the release shall be filed of record in the same manner as filing notice of the lien. All lien and release filing fees shall be paid by the owner of the property.

25-2-8 **FORECLOSURE OF LIEN.** Property subject to a lien for unpaid weed cutting charges shall be sold for non-payment of the same and the proceeds of such sale shall be applied to pay the charges after deducting costs, as is the case in the foreclosure of statutory liens. Such foreclosure shall be in the name of the City after the lien is in effect for **sixty (60) days**.

(65 ILCS 5/11-20-6 and 5/11-20-7)

[See Section 1-1-20 for General Penalty]

ARTICLE III - GARBAGE AND DEBRIS

25-3-1 **ACCUMULATION PROHIBITED.** No person shall permit any garbage or trash to accumulate on their premises or private property. It is hereby declared to be a nuisance and it shall be unlawful for the owner or occupant of real estate to refuse or neglect to remove the garbage or debris.

25-3-2 **NOTICE TO PERSON.** The Chief of Police or a designated representative may issue a written notice for removal of garbage or debris. Such garbage or debris shall be removed by the owner or occupant within **five (5) days** after such notice has been duly served.

25-3-3 **SERVICE OF NOTICE.** Service of notice provided for herein may be effected by handing of the same to the owner, occupant, or lessee of the premises, or to any member of his household of the age of **fifteen (15) years** or older found on the premises or by mailing such notice to the last known residence address of the owner; provided that if the premises are unoccupied and the owner's address cannot be obtained, then the notice may be served by posting the same upon the premises.

25-3-4 **ABATEMENT.** If the person so served does not abate the nuisance within **five (5) days**, the Police Chief or a designated representative may proceed to abate such nuisance, keeping an account of the expense of the abatement and such expense shall be charged and paid by such owner or occupant.

25-3-5 **LIEN.** Charges for such removal shall be a lien upon the premises. A bill representing the cost and expense incurred or payable for the service shall be presented to the owner. If this bill is not paid within **thirty (30) days** of submission of the bill, a notice of lien of the cost and expenses thereof incurred by the City shall be recorded in the following manner:

- (A) A description of the real estate sufficient for identification thereof.
- (B) The amount of money representing the cost and expense incurred or payable for the service.
- (C) The date or dates when said cost and expense was incurred by the City and shall be filed within **sixty (60) days** after the cost and expense is incurred.

25-3-6 **PAYMENT.** Notice of such lien claim shall be mailed to the owner of the premises if his address is known. Upon payment of the cost and expense after notice of lien has been filed, the lien shall be released by the City or person in whose name the lien has been filed and the release shall be filed of record in the same manner as filing notice of the lien.

25-3-7 **FORECLOSURE OF LIEN.** Property subject to a lien for unpaid charges shall be sold non-payment of the same, and the proceeds of such sale shall be applied to pay the charges after deducting costs, as is the case in the foreclosure of statutory liens. Such foreclosure shall be in the name of the City, after lien is in effect for **sixty (60) days**. Suit to foreclose this lien shall be commenced within **two (2) years** after the date of filing notice of lien.

(65 ILCS 5/11-20-13 and 720 ILCS 5/47-10)

[See Section 1-1-20 for General Penalty]

ARTICLE IV - INOPERABLE MOTOR VEHICLE

25-4-1 **DEFINITIONS.** For the purpose of this Code, the following term(s) shall have the meanings ascribed to them as follows:

"INOPERABLE MOTOR VEHICLES" shall mean any motor vehicle which, for a period of at least **seven (7) days**, the engine, wheels or other parts have been removed, or on which the engine, wheels or other parts have been altered, damaged or otherwise so treated that the vehicle is incapable of being driven under its own motor power. "Inoperable Motor Vehicle" shall not include a motor vehicle which has been rendered temporarily incapable of being driven under its own motor power in order to perform ordinary service or repair operations.

25-4-2 **DECLARATION OF NUISANCE.** All inoperable motor vehicles, whether on public or private property in view of the general public, are hereby declared to be a nuisance.

25-4-3 **NOTICE TO OWNER.** The Police Chief or a designated representative shall notify the owner of the motor vehicle, informing him that he shall dispose of any inoperable vehicles under his control. If the owner fails to dispose of said inoperable vehicle(s) after **seven (7) days** from the issuance of the notice, the Police Chief or a designated representative may authorize a towing service to remove and take possession of the inoperable vehicle or parts thereof.

25-4-4 **EXCLUSIONS.** Nothing in this Article shall apply to any motor vehicle that is kept within a building when not in use, to operable historic vehicles over **twenty-five (25) years** of age, or to a motor vehicle on the premises of a licensed business engaged in the wrecking or junking of motor vehicles.

(65 ILCS 5/11-40-3)

[See Section 1-1-20 for General Penalty]

ARTICLE V - DANGEROUS AND UNSAFE PROPERTIES

25-5-1 **ADOPTION BY REFERENCE.** The City may demolish, repair, or enclose or cause the demolition, repair, or enclosure of dangerous and unsafe buildings or uncompleted and abandoned buildings within the City and may remove or cause the removal of garbage, debris, and other hazardous, noxious, or unhealthy substances or materials from those building. Therefor, the City does hereby adopt by reference the applicable provisions of **Chapter 65 of the Illinois Compiled Statutes, Sections 5/11-31-1 and 5/11-31-1.1** governing dangerous and unsafe buildings.

[See Section 1-1-20 for General Penalty]

ARTICLE VI - PENALTIES AND SPECIAL ASSESSMENT

25-6-1 **SPECIAL ASSESSMENT.** In addition to any other method authorized by law, if (i) a property owner is cited with a Code violation under this Chapter, requiring the cutting of grass and weeds, the removal of garbage and debris, the removal of inoperable motor vehicles, or rodent and vermin abatement, (ii) noncompliance is found upon reinspection of the property after the due date for compliance with an order to correct the Code violation or with an order for abatement; (iii) costs for services rendered by the municipality to correct the Code violation remain unpaid at the point in time that they would become a debt due and owing the municipality, as provided in **Chapter 65 of the Illinois Compiled Statutes, Section 5/11-31-1.1 et seq.**, and (iv) a lien has been filed of record by the municipality in the office of the Recorder of Deeds in the county in which the property is located, then those costs may be collected as a special assessment on the property pursuant to **65 ILCS 5/9-2-4.5**. Upon payment of the costs by the owner of record or persons interested in the property, the lien shall be released by the municipality and the release shall be filed of record in the same manner as the filing of notice of the lien.

[See Section 1-1-20 for General Penalty]

ARTICLE VII – ATTORNEY FEES

25-7-1 **ATTORNEY FEES AND COURT COSTS.** In the event litigation is filed in a court of competent jurisdiction for violation of the Nuisances Code, the City is authorized to charge and be awarded its reasonable attorney fees and court costs in addition to the fine for violation upon entry of a judgment in favor of the City by a court of competent jurisdiction. **(Ord. No. 15-1010; 05-12-15)**