

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) **Bodies of Water.** To create any condition, through the improper maintenance of a swimming pool or wading pool, or by causing any action which alters the condition of a natural body of water or ground surface, so that it harbors mosquitoes, flies or other animal pests that are offensive, injurious or dangerous to the health of individuals or the public.

(J) **Storing Debris.** To store, dump or permit the accumulation of debris, refuse, garbage, trash, including but not limited to 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 and dangerous to the health of individuals or the public.

(K) **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.

(L) **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.

(M) **Business.** To establish, maintain, and carry on any offensive or unwholesome business or establishment within the limits of the City or within the distance of **one (1) mile** beyond the City limits. **(See 65 ILCS 5/11-42-9)**

(N) **Filthy Premise Conditions.** To keep or suffer to be kept in a foul, offensive, nauseous or filthy condition, any chicken coop, cow barn, stable, cellar, vault, drain, privy, sewer or sink

upon any premises belonging to or occupied by him, or any railroad car, building, yard, grounds, and premises belonging to or occupied by him.

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

(P) **Litter on Streets.** It shall be unlawful for any person to deposit upon or allow trash, including but not limited to 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, or to be thrown by any person, or to throw from a moving vehicle and to remain thereon.

(Q) **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, or boat, 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.

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

(S) **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.

(T) **Offensive Liquids.** To keep nauseous, foul or putrid liquid or substance or any liquid or substance likely to become nauseous, foul, offensive or putrid, or 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.

(U) **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.

(V) **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.

(W) **Burn-Out Pits.** To construct or operate any salt water 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.

(X) **Discarded Machinery.** 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.

(Y) **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.

(Z) **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.

(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. **(See 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 **NOTIFICATION.** Whenever the Public Health and Safety Commissioner of the City or the Chief of Police or Fire Chief or Commissioner of Public Health and Safety or the Mayor, or a majority of the City Council or any person at the direction of a majority of the City Council finds that a nuisance exists, they shall have the City Clerk or City Attorney send a written notice via Certified Mail to the party responsible for the nuisance and to the party on whose property the nuisance exists, ordering that the nuisance be abated within **fifteen (15) calendar days**. Owners of vehicles in violation of **Section 25-4-1 et seq.** hereunder shall be notified via Certified Mail or hand delivery by a Hillsboro Police Officer. If the owner does not request a hearing the vehicle may be towed and impounded at the owner's expense if the vehicle has not been removed within **seven (7) calendar days** of the notice given hereunder.

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.

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

(See Section 1-1-20)

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, Johnson Grass, 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, weeds, or grass 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 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.

25-2-6 **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**.

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

(Ord. No. 1308; 08-08-00)

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.

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

(Ord. No. 1308; 08-08-00)

ARTICLE IV - INOPERABLE MOTOR VEHICLE

25-4-1 DEFINITIONS.

"Derelict Vehicle". Any apparently inoperable, uninsured, unregistered, discarded motor vehicle, regardless of title, having lost its character as a substantial property and left unattended without justification on the owner's land contrary to the public policy of the State of Illinois as expressed in **625 ILCS 5/4-301.**

"Inoperable Motor Vehicle". Any motor vehicle from which, for a period of at least **seven (7) days**, 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 or any vehicle which is without current registration or is uninsured.

"Motor Vehicle". Every vehicle which is self-propelled and every vehicle which is propelled by electric power obtained from overhead trolley wires, but not operated upon rails.

"Vehicle". Every device in, upon, or by which any person or property is or may be transported or drawn upon a highway, except devices moved by human power, devices used exclusively upon stationary rails or tracks and snowmobiles as defined in the Illinois Snowmobile Registration and Safety Act.

25-4-2 DECLARATION OF NUISANCE. Any inoperable or derelict motor vehicle, whether on public property or in view of the general public, is declared to be a nuisance.

25-4-3 NOTICE TO OWNER. The Police Department shall notify the owner or occupant of the real estate upon which the inoperable or derelict motor vehicle is located informing him that he shall remove all inoperable or derelict motor vehicles from the premises. If the owner or occupant of the real estate fails to remove the inoperable or derelict motor vehicles from the premises after **five (5) days** from the issuance of the notice, the Police Department shall issue a citation to the owner or occupant of the real estate.

The Police Department shall notify the owner of the inoperable or derelict motor vehicle informing him that he shall remove all inoperable or derelict motor vehicles from the premises. If the owner fails to remove the inoperable or derelict motor vehicles from the premises after **five (5) days** from the issuance of the notice, the Police Department shall issue a citation to the owner of the inoperable or derelict motor vehicles.

The title holder of record or occupant of the real estate and the owner of the vehicle are jointly and severally responsible for the inoperable or derelict vehicle upon the real estate.

25-4-4 PENALTY. Any person who violates this Article shall upon conviction thereof be punished by a fine of not less than **One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00)** and no more than **Seven Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$750.00)**. Each day shall constitute a separate violation. For each subsequent conviction within any **twelve (12) month** period, the fine shall be **Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00)** per offense and no more than **Seven Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$750.00)**. Each day shall constitute a separate violation.

(Ord. No. 933; 10-09-06)

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.

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.