

**CHAPTER 7  
HEALTH, SANITATION AND BLIGHT**

**SECTION 1**

**701.000. REGULATIONS TO PREVENT, REDUCE, OR ELIMINATE BLIGHTING FACTORS OR CAUSE OF BLIGHT WITHIN THE CITY.**

**701.001. CAUSES OF BLIGHT OR BLIGHTING FACTORS.** It is hereby determined that the uses, structures and activities and causes of blight or blighting factors described herein, if allowed to exist, will tend to result in blighted and undesirable neighborhoods so as to be harmful to the public welfare, health and safety. On and after the effective date of this Ordinance no person, firm or corporation of any kind shall maintain or permit to be maintained any of these causes of blight or blighting factors upon any property in the City of Winsted owned, leased, rented or occupied by such person, firm or corporation.

- A. In any area, the outside (i.e. not in a closed garage) storage upon any property of junk vehicles. For the purpose of this Ordinance, the term "junk vehicle" shall include any motor vehicle, part of a motor vehicle or former motor vehicle, stored in the open which:
1. Has vehicle registration which is more than three months past due; OR,
  2. Is unusable or inoperable due to lack of or defects in component parts; OR,
  3. Is unusable or inoperable due to damage done from a collision, deteriorations, or having been cannibalized; OR,
  4. Is beyond repair and therefore not intended for future use as a motor vehicle; OR,
  5. Is being retained on the property for the possible use of salvageable parts.
- B. Any trailer required to have a current registration to be operated on public highway in the State of Minnesota, shall not be stored in the open if current registration is more than 3 months past due, OR if this trailer is in violation of Sections A 2-5 of this Ordinance.
- C. Other vehicles not required to have a current registration, shall not be stored in the open if it is in violation of Sections A 2-5 of this Ordinance.

\*Sections A, B & C shall not apply to vehicles stored in an orderly fashion at a place of business at which they are to be repaired.

- D. In any area the storage or accumulation of junk, trash, rubbish or refuse of any kind, except refuse stored in such a manner as not to create a nuisance for a period not to exceed (30) thirty days. The term "junk" shall include parts of machinery or motor vehicles, unused stoves or other appliances stored in the open; remnants of wood; decayed, weathered or broken construction materials no longer suitable for sale, approved building materials; metal or any other material or cast-off material of any kind whether or not the same could be put to any reasonable use.
- E. In any area the existence of any structure or part of any structure which because of fire, wind or other natural disaster, or physical deterioration is no longer habitable as a dwelling or useful for any other purpose for which it may have been intended.
- F. In any area the existence of any vacant dwelling, garage, or other out-building, unless such buildings are kept securely locked, windows kept glazed or neatly boarded up and otherwise protected to prevent entrance thereto by vandals.
- G. In any area the existence of any noxious or poisonous vegetation such as poison ivy, ragweed or other poisonous plants, or any weeds, grass, brush or plants, which are a fire hazard or otherwise detrimental to the health or appearance of the neighborhood.

**701.002. ENFORCEMENT AND PENALTIES.**

- A. When acting upon a complaint or when acting upon reasonable suspicion to determine if a blight condition exists, the City's enforcement officer shall be allowed access on to the suspect property for blight inspection. This inspection shall take place with the property owner present (or their representative) or with the owner's permission and this inspection shall occur during regular day hours or on an agreed upon time between the owner and the enforcement officer. If the person who has control of this property does not allow for this inspection to take place, or hampers this inspection in any way, this person shall be in violation of this Ordinance.
- B. The owner and the occupant of any property upon which any of the causes of blight or blighted factors are set forth in § 1 hereof is found to exist shall be notified by writing by the City Clerk to remove or eliminate such causes of blight or blighting factors from such property within ten (10) days after service of the notice upon him. Such notice may be served personally or by registered mail, return receipt requested, to the last known address of the owner, and, if the premises are occupied, to the premises. Additional time may be granted by the enforcement officer where bona fide efforts to remove or eliminate such causes of blight or blighting factors are in progress.
- C. Failure to comply with such notice within the time allowed shall constitute a violation of this Ordinance.

- D. Violation of this Ordinance shall be a misdemeanor.
  
- E. In case of failure to remove any blight as defined in section 702.001. within the time prescribed, the City Council may prescribe a method in which the blight must be removed; but if the appropriate person fails to remove same, then the City shall have the right to remove same and correct the blighted condition and certify the cost thereof to the City Clerk. The City Clerk shall certify such cost to the County Auditor as a special assessment against the property involved for collection in the same manner as other special assessments. As an additional or alternative remedy, the owner of any interest in said land and occupant shall be jointly and severally liable for such cost and the costs shall be recoverable in any action brought against any of them in the name of the city.

(Ord. 20-05, 7/21/20)

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