

CHAPTER 94: HEALTH AND SANITATION; NUISANCES

Section

General Provisions

94.01 Assessable current services

Nuisances

94.15 Public nuisance
94.16 Public nuisances affecting health
94.17 Public nuisances affecting morals and decency
94.18 Public nuisances affecting peace and safety
94.19 Duties of city officers
94.20 Abatement
94.21 Recovery of cost

Weeds

94.35 Short title
94.36 Jurisdiction
94.37 Definitions; exclusions
94.38 Owners responsible for trimming, removal, and the like
94.39 Filing complaint
94.40 Notice of violations
94.41 Appeals
94.42 Abatement by city
94.43 Liability

Cross-reference:

Open Burning, see §§ 93.01 et seq.

Trash Burning, see § 93.20

GENERAL PROVISIONS**§ 94.01 ASSESSABLE CURRENT SERVICES.**

(A) *Definition.* For the purpose of this section, the following definition shall apply unless the context clearly indicates or requires a different meaning.

CURRENT SERVICE. Shall mean one or more of the following: snow, ice, or rubbish removal from sidewalks; weed elimination from street grass plots adjacent to sidewalks or from private property; removal or elimination of public health or safety hazards from private property, excluding any hazardous building included in M.S. §§ 463.15 through 463.26, as they may be amended from time, to time; installation or repair of water service lines; street sprinkling, street flushing, light street oiling, or other dust treatment of streets; repair of sidewalks and alleys; trimming and care of trees and removal of unsound and insect-infected trees from the public streets or private property; and the operation of a street lighting system.

(B) *Snow, ice, dirt, and rubbish.*

(1) *Duty of owners and occupants.* The owner and the occupant of any property adjacent to a public sidewalk shall use diligence to keep the walk safe for pedestrians. No owner or occupant shall allow snow, ice, dirt, or rubbish to remain on the walk longer than 24 hours after its deposit thereon. Failure to comply with this section shall constitute a violation.

(2) *Removal by city.* The City Manager-Clerk or other person designated by the City Council may cause removal from all public sidewalks all snow, ice, dirt, and rubbish as soon as possible beginning 24 hours after any matter has been deposited thereon or after the snow has ceased to fall. The City Manager-Clerk or other designated person shall keep a record showing the cost of removal adjacent to each separate lot and parcel.

(C) *Public health and safety hazards.* When the city removes or eliminates public health or safety hazards from private property under the following provisions of this chapter, the administrative officer responsible for doing the work shall keep a record of the cost of the removal or elimination against each parcel of property affected and annually deliver that information to the City Manager-Clerk.

(D) *Installation and repair of water service lines.* Whenever the city installs or repairs water service lines serving private property under Chapter 51 of this code, the City Manager-Clerk shall keep a record of the total cost of the installation or repair against the property.

(E) *Repair of sidewalks and alleys.*

(1) *Duty of owner.* The owner of any property within the city abutting a public sidewalk or alley shall keep the sidewalk or alley in repair and safe for pedestrians. Repairs shall be made in accordance with the standard specifications approved by the City Council and on file in the office of the City Manager-Clerk.

(2) *Inspections; notice.* The City Council or its designee shall make inspections as are necessary to determine that public sidewalks and alleys within the city are kept in repair and safe for pedestrians or vehicles. If it is found that any sidewalk or alley abutting on private property is unsafe and in need of repairs, the City Council shall cause a notice to be served, by registered or certified mail or by personal service, upon the record owner of the property, ordering the owner to have the sidewalk or alley repaired and made safe within 30 days and stating that if the owner fails to do so, the city will do so and that the expense thereof must be paid by the owner, and if unpaid it will be made a special assessment against the property concerned.

(3) *Repair by city.* If the sidewalk or alley is not repaired within 30 days after receipt of the notice, the City Manager-Clerk shall report the facts to the City Council and the City Council shall by resolution order the work done by contract in accordance with law. The City Manager-Clerk shall keep a record of the total cost of the repair attributable to each lot or parcel of property.

(F) *Personal liability.* The owner of property on which or adjacent to which a current service has been performed shall be personally liable for the cost of the service. As soon as the service has been completed and the cost determined, the City Manager-Clerk, or other designated official, shall prepare a bill and mail it to the owner and thereupon the amount shall be immediately due and payable at the office of the City Manager-Clerk.

(G) *Damage to public property.* Any person driving any vehicle, equipment, object, or contrivance upon any street, road, highway, or structure shall be liable for all damages which the surface or structure thereof may sustain as a result of any illegal operation, or driving or moving of the vehicle, equipment, or object or contrivance; or as a result of operating, driving, or moving any vehicle, equipment, object, or contrivance weighing in excess of the maximum weight permitted by statute or this code. When the driver is not the owner of the vehicle, equipment, object, or contrivance, but is operating, driving, or moving it with the express or implied permission of the owner, then the owner and the driver shall be jointly and severally liable for any damage. Any person who willfully acts or fails to exercise due care and by that act damages any public property shall be liable for the amount thereof, which amount shall be collectable by action or as a lien under M.S. § 514.67, as it may be amended from time to time.

(H) *Assessment.* On or before September 1 of each year, the City Manager-Clerk shall list the total unpaid charges for each type of current service and charges under this section against each separate lot

or parcel to which they are attributable under this section. The City Council may then spread the charges against property benefitted as a special assessment under the authority of M.S. § 429.101 as it may be amended from time to time, and other pertinent statutes for certification to the County Auditor and collection along with current taxes the following year or in annual installments, not exceeding ten, as the City Council may determine in each case.

Penalty, see § 10.99

NUISANCES

§ 94.15 PUBLIC NUISANCE.

Whoever by his or her act or failure to perform a legal duty intentionally does any of the following is guilty of maintaining a public nuisance, which is a misdemeanor:

- (A) Maintains or permits a condition which unreasonably annoys, injures, or endangers the safety, health, morals, comfort, or repose of any considerable number of members of the public;
- (B) Interferes with, obstructs, or renders dangerous for passage any public highway or right-of-way, or waters used by the public; or
- (C) Is guilty of any other act or omission declared by law or §§ 94.16, 94.17, or 94.18, or any other part of this code, to be a public nuisance and for which no sentence is specifically provided.

Penalty, see § 10.99

§ 94.16 PUBLIC NUISANCES AFFECTING HEALTH.

The following are hereby declared to be nuisances affecting health:

- (A) Exposed accumulation of decayed or unwholesome food or vegetable matter;
- (B) All diseased animals running at large;
- (C) All ponds or pools of stagnant water;
- (D) Carcasses of animals not buried or destroyed within 24 hours after death;

- (E) Accumulations of manure, refuse, or other debris;
- (F) Privy vaults and garbage cans which are not rodent-free or fly-tight or which are so maintained as to constitute a health hazard or to emit foul and disagreeable odors;
- (G) The pollution of any public well or cistern, stream or lake, canal, or body of water by sewage, industrial waste, or other substances;
- (H) All noxious weeds and other rank growths of vegetation upon public or private property;
- (I) Dense smoke, noxious fumes, gas, and soot or cinders, in unreasonable quantities;
- (J) All public exposure of people having a contagious disease; and
- (K) Any offensive trade or business as defined by statute not operating under local license.
Penalty, see § 10.99

§ 94.17 PUBLIC NUISANCES AFFECTING MORALS AND DECENCY.

The following are hereby declared to be nuisances affecting public morals and decency:

- (A) All gambling devices, slot machines, and punch boards, except as otherwise authorized by federal, state, or local law;
- (B) Betting, bookmaking, and all apparatus used in those occupations;
- (C) All houses kept for the purpose of prostitution or promiscuous sexual intercourse, gambling houses, houses of ill fame, and bawdy houses;
- (D) All places where intoxicating liquor is manufactured or disposed of in violation of law or where, in violation of law, people are permitted to resort for the purpose of drinking intoxicating liquor, or where intoxicating liquor is kept for sale or other disposition in violation of law, and all liquor and other property used for maintaining that place; and
- (E) Any vehicle used for the unlawful transportation of intoxicating liquor, or for promiscuous sexual intercourse, or any other immoral or illegal purpose.
Penalty, see § 10.99

§ 94.18 PUBLIC NUISANCES AFFECTING PEACE AND SAFETY.

The following are declared to be nuisances affecting public peace and safety:

- (A) All snow and ice not removed from public sidewalks 24 hours after the snow or other precipitation causing the condition has ceased to fall;
- (B) All trees, hedges, billboards, or other obstructions which prevent people from having a clear view of all traffic approaching an intersection;
- (C) All wires and limbs of trees which are so close to the surface of a sidewalk or street as to constitute a danger to pedestrians or vehicles;
- (D) All obnoxious noises in violation of Minn. Rules, Ch. 7030, as it may be amended from time to time, which is hereby incorporated by reference into this code;
- (E) The discharging of the exhaust or permitting the discharging of the exhaust of any stationary internal combustion engine, motor boat, motor vehicle, motorcycle, all terrain vehicle, snowmobile, or any recreational device except through a muffler or other device that effectively prevents loud or explosive noises therefrom and complies with all applicable state laws and regulations;
- (F) The using or operation or permitting the using or operation of any radio receiving set, musical instrument, phonograph, paging system, machine, or other device for producing or reproduction of sound in a distinctly and loudly audible manner so as to disturb the peace, quiet, and comfort of any person nearby. Operation of any device referred to above between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. in a manner so as to be plainly audible at the property line of the structure or building in which it is located, or at a distance of 50 feet if the source is located outside a structure or building, shall be *prima facie* evidence of violation of this section. This section shall not apply to businesses located within the City Industrial Park operating machinery or other equipment necessary for the business operations;
- (G) The participation in a party or gathering of people giving rise to noise which disturbs the peace, quiet, or repose of the occupants of adjoining or other property;
- (H) Obstructions and excavations affecting the ordinary public use of streets, alleys, sidewalks, or public grounds except under conditions as are permitted by this code or other applicable law;
- (I) Radio aerials or television antennae erected or maintained in a dangerous manner;
- (J) Any use of property abutting on a public street or sidewalk or any use of a public street or sidewalk which causes large crowds of people to gather, obstructing traffic and the free use of the street or sidewalk;

- (K) All hanging signs, awnings, and other similar structures over streets and sidewalks, so situated so as to endanger public safety, or not constructed and maintained as provided by ordinance;
- (L) The allowing of rain water, ice, or snow to fall from any building or structure upon any street or sidewalk or to flow across any sidewalk;
- (M) Any barbed wire fence less than six feet above the ground and within three feet of a public sidewalk or way;
- (N) All dangerous, unguarded machinery in any public place, or so situated or operated on private property as to attract the public;
- (O) Wastewater cast upon or permitted to flow upon streets or other public properties;
- (P) Accumulations in the open of discarded or disused machinery, household appliances, automobile bodies, or other material in a manner conducive to the harboring of rats, mice, snakes, or vermin, or the rank growth of vegetation among the items so accumulated, or in a manner creating fire, health, or safety hazards from accumulation;
- (Q) Any well, hole, or similar excavation which is left uncovered or in another condition as to constitute a hazard to any child or other person coming on the premises where it is located;
- (R) Obstruction to the free flow of water in a natural waterway or a public street drain, gutter, or ditch with trash or other materials;
- (S) The placing or throwing on any street, sidewalk, or other public property of any glass, tacks, nails, bottles, or other substance which may injure any person or animal or damage any pneumatic tire when passing over the substance;
- (T) The depositing of garbage or refuse on a public right-of-way or adjacent private property; and
- (U) All other conditions or things which are likely to cause injury to the person or property of anyone.

(Am. Ord. 500, passed 10-19-22) Penalty, see § 10.99

§ 94.19 DUTIES OF CITY OFFICERS.

The Police Department, or Sheriff if the city has at the time no Police Department, shall enforce the provisions relating to nuisances. Any peace officer shall have the power to inspect private premises and take all reasonable precautions to prevent the commission and maintenance of public nuisances.

§ 94.20 ABATEMENT.

(A) *Notice.* Written notice of violation; notice of the time, date, place, and subject of any hearing before the City Council; notice of City Council order; and notice of motion for summary enforcement hearing shall be given as set forth in this section.

(1) *Notice of violation.* Written notice of violation shall be served by a peace officer on the owner of record or occupant of the premises either in person or by certified or registered mail. If the premises are not occupied, the owner of record is unknown, or the owner of record or occupant refuses to accept notice of violation, notice of violation shall be served by posting it on the premises.

(2) *Notice of City Council hearing.* Written notice of any City Council hearing to determine or abate a nuisance shall be served on the owner of record and occupant of the premises either in person or by certified or registered mail. If the premises are not occupied, the owner of record is unknown, or the owner of record or occupant refuses to accept notice of the City Council hearing, notice of City Council hearing shall be served by posting it on the premises.

(3) *Notice of City Council order.* Except for those cases determined by the city to require summary enforcement, written notice of any City Council order shall be made as provided in M.S. § 463.17 (Hazardous and Substandard Building Act), as it may be amended from time to time.

(4) *Notice of motion for summary enforcement.* Written notice of any motion for summary enforcement shall be made as provided for in M.S. § 463.17 (Hazardous and Substandard Building Act), as it may be amended from time to time.

(B) *Procedure.* Whenever a peace officer determines that a public nuisance is being maintained or exists on the premises in the city, the officer shall notify in writing the owner of record or occupant of the premises of that fact and order that the nuisance be terminated or abated. The notice of violation shall specify the steps to be taken to abate the nuisance and the time within which the nuisance is to be abated. If the notice of violation is not complied with within the time specified, the officer shall report that fact forthwith to the City Council. Thereafter, the City Council may, after notice to the owner or occupant and an opportunity to be heard, determine that the condition identified in the notice of violation is a nuisance and further order that if the nuisance is not abated within the time prescribed by the City Council, the city may seek injunctive relief by serving a copy of the City Council order and notice of motion for summary enforcement.

(C) *Emergency procedure; summary enforcement.* In cases of emergency, where delay in abatement required to complete the notice and procedure requirements set forth in divisions (A) and (B) of this section will permit a continuing nuisance to unreasonably endanger public health, safety, or welfare, the City Council may order summary enforcement and abate the nuisance. To proceed with summary enforcement, the officer shall determine that a public nuisance exists or is being maintained on premises.

in the city and that delay in abatement of the nuisance will unreasonably endanger public health, safety, or welfare. The officer shall notify in writing the occupant or owner of the premises of the nature of the nuisance and of the city's intention to seek summary enforcement and the time and place of the City Council meeting to consider the question of summary enforcement. The City Council shall determine whether or not the condition identified in the notice to the owner or occupant is a nuisance, whether public health, safety, or welfare will be unreasonably endangered by delay in abatement required to complete the procedure set forth in division (A) of this section, and may order that the nuisance be immediately terminated or abated. If the nuisance is not immediately terminated or abated, the City Council may order summary enforcement and abate the nuisance.

(D) *Immediate abatement.* Nothing in this section shall prevent the city, without notice or other process, from immediately abating any condition which poses an imminent and serious hazard to human life or safety.

Penalty, see § 10.99

§ 94.21 RECOVERY OF COST.

(A) *Personal liability.* The owner of premises on which a nuisance has been abated by the city shall be personally liable for the cost to the city of the abatement, including administrative costs. As soon as the work has been completed and the cost determined, the City Manager-Clerk or other official shall prepare a bill for the cost and mail it to the owner. Thereupon the amount shall be immediately due and payable at the office of the City Manager-Clerk.

(B) *Assessment.* If the nuisance is a public health or safety hazard on private property, the accumulation of snow and ice on public sidewalks, the growth of weeds on private property or outside the traveled portion of streets, or unsound or insect-infested trees, the City Manager-Clerk shall, on or before September 1 next following abatement of the nuisance, list the total unpaid charges along with all other the charges as well as other charges for current services to be assessed under M.S. § 429.101, as it may be amended from time to time, against each separate lot or parcel to which the charges are attributable. The City Council may then spread the charges against the property under that statute and other pertinent statutes for certification to the County Auditor and collection along with current taxes the following year or in annual installments, not exceeding ten, as the City Council may determine in each case.

Penalty, see § 10.99

WEEDS**§ 94.35 SHORT TITLE.**

This subchapter shall be cited as the "Weed Ordinance."

§ 94.36 JURISDICTION.

This subchapter shall be in addition to any state statute or county ordinance presently in effect, subsequently added, amended, or repealed.

§ 94.37 DEFINITIONS; EXCLUSIONS.

(A) For the purpose of this subchapter, the following definitions shall apply unless the context clearly indicates or requires a different meaning.

DESTRUCTION ORDER. The notice served by the City Council or designated city official, in cases of appeal, on the property owner of the ordinance violation.

PROPERTY OWNER. The person occupying the property, the holder of legal title, or a person having control over the property of another, such as a right-of-way, easement, license, or lease.

WEEDS, GRASSES, and RANK VEGETATION. Includes but is not limited to the following:

(1) Noxious **WEEDS** and **RANK VEGETATION** shall include but not be limited to: Alum (allium), Buckthorn, Bur Cucumber, Canada Thistle, Corncockle, Cressleaf Groundsel, Curly Dock, Dodder, Field Bindweed, French Weed, Hairy Whitetop, Hedge Bindweed, Hoary Cress, Horsenettle, Johnsongrass, Leafy Spurge, Mile-A-Minute Weed, Musk Thistle, Oxeye Daisy, Perennial Sowthistle, Poison Hemlock, Purple Loosestrife, Quackgrass, Russian Knapweed, Russian Thistle, Serrated Tussock, Shatter Cane, Sorghum, Wild Carrot, Wild Garlic, Wild Mustard, Wild Onion, Wild Parsnip;

(2) Grapevines when growing in groups of 100 or more and not pruned, sprayed, cultivated, or otherwise maintained for two consecutive years;

(3) Bushes of the species of tall, common, or European barberry, further known as *Berberis vulgaris* or its horticultural varieties;

(4) Any weeds, grass, or plants, other than trees, bushes, flowers, or other ornamental plants, growing to a height exceeding 12 inches;

(5) ***RANK VEGETATION*** includes the uncontrolled, uncultivated growth of annuals and perennial plants; and

(6) The term ***WEEDS*** does not include shrubs, trees, cultivated plants, or crops.

(B) In no event shall cultivated plants or crops include plants which have been defined by state statute or administrative rule as being noxious or detrimental plants.

§ 94.38 OWNERS RESPONSIBLE FOR TRIMMING, REMOVAL, AND THE LIKE.

All property owners shall be responsible for the removal, cutting, or disposal and elimination of weeds, grasses, and rank vegetation or other uncontrolled plant growth on their property, which at the time of notice, is in excess of 12 inches in height.

Penalty, see § 10.99

§ 94.39 FILING COMPLAINT.

Any person, including the city, who believes there is property located within the corporate limits of the city which has growing plant matter in violation of this subchapter shall make a written complaint signed, dated, and filed with the City Manager-Clerk. If the city makes the complaint, an employee, officer, or Council member of the city shall file the complaint in all respects as set out above.

§ 94.40 NOTICE OF VIOLATIONS.

(A) Upon receiving notice of the probable existence of weeds in violation of this subchapter, a person designated by the City Council shall make an inspection and prepare a written report to the City Council regarding the condition. The City Council, upon concluding that there is a probable belief that this subchapter has been violated, shall forward written notification in the form of a Destruction Order to the property owner or the person occupying the property as that information is contained within the records of the City Manager-Clerk or any other city agency. The notice shall be served in writing by certified mail. The notice shall provide that within seven regular business days after the receipt of the notice the designated violation shall be removed by the property owner or person occupying the property.

(B) (1) All notices are to be in writing and all filings are to be with the City Manager-Clerk.

(2) Certified mailing to the City Manager-Clerk or others is deemed filed on the date of posting to the U.S. Postal Service.

§ 94.41 APPEALS.

(A) The property owner may appeal by filing written notice of objections with the City Council within 48 hours of the notice, excluding weekends and holidays, if the property owner contests the finding of the City Council. It is the property owner's responsibility to demonstrate that the matter in question is shrubs, trees, cultivated plants, or crops or is not otherwise in violation of this subchapter, and should not be subject to destruction under this subchapter.

(B) An appeal by the property owner shall be brought before the City Council and shall be decided by a majority vote of the Council Members in attendance and being at a regularly scheduled or special meeting of the City Council.

§ 94.42 ABATEMENT BY CITY.

In the event that the property owner shall fail to comply with the Destruction Order within seven regular business days and has not filed a notice within 48 hours to the City Manager-Clerk of an intent to appeal, the City Council may employ the services of city employees or outside contractors and remove the weeds to conform to this subchapter by all lawful means.

§ 94.43 LIABILITY.

(A) The property owner is liable for all costs of removal, cutting, or destruction of weeds as defined by this subchapter.

(B) The property owner is responsible for all collection costs associated with weed destruction, including but not limited to court costs, attorney's fees, and interest on any unpaid amounts incurred by the city. If the city uses municipal employees, it shall set and assign an appropriate per hour rate for employees, equipment, supplies, and chemicals which may be used.

(C) All sums payable by the property owner are to be paid to the City Manager-Clerk and to be deposited in the General Fund as compensation for expenses and costs incurred by the city.

(D) All sums payable by the property owner may be collected as a special assessment as provided by M.S. § 429.101, as it may be amended from time to time.

