

ORDINANCE NO. 131

AN ORDINANCE DEFINING AND PROHIBITING NUISANCES
AND PROVIDING A PENALTY FOR VIOLATION

The City Council of the City of Hokah hereby ordains:

SECTION 1. PUBLIC NUISANCE DEFINED. Whoever by his or her act or failure to perform a duty does any of the following is guilty of maintaining a public nuisance, which is a misdemeanor.

(1) Maintains or permits a condition which annoys, injures, or endangers the safety, health, morals, comfort, or repose of any number of members of the public; or

(2) Interferes with, obstructs, or renders dangerous for passage, any public highway or right-of-way, or waters used by the public, or

(3) Is guilty of any other act or omission declared by law or this ordinance to be a public nuisance.

SECTION 2, PUBLIC NUISANCES AFFECTING HEALTH. The following are hereby declared to be nuisances affecting health:

(1) Exposed accumulation of decayed or unwholesome food or vegetative matter;

(2) All diseased animals running at large;

(3) All ponds or pools of stagnant water;

(4) Carcasses of animals not buried or destroyed within 24 hours after death;

(5) Accumulations of manure, refuse, or other debris;

(6) 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 which emit foul and disagreeable odors;

(7) The pollution of any public well or cistern, stream or lake, canal or body of water by sewage, industrial waste, petroleum

products or any and all kinds or any other toxic or pathogenic substances;

(8) All noxious weeds and other rank growths or vegetation upon public or private property;

(9) Smoke, noxious fumes, gas and soot, or cinders, in unreasonable quantities, open fires and burning without a permit;

(10) Any Offensive trade or business as defined by statute not operating under local license.

SECTION 3. PUBLIC NUISANCES AFFECTING MORALS AND DECENCY.

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

(1) All illegal gambling devices.

(2) Betting, bookmaking, and all apparatus used in such occupations, except as authorized by law;

(3) All houses kept for the purpose of prostitution or gambling houses;

(4) 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 such a place;

(5) Any vehicle used for the transportation of illegal intoxicating liquor, or for promiscuous sexual intercourse, or any other immoral or illegal purpose.

SECTION 4. PUBLIC NUISANCES AFFECTING PEACE AND SAFETY.

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

(1) All snow and ice not removed from public sidewalks 12 hours after the snow or other precipitation causing the condition has ceased to fall and/or accumulate;

(2) All trees, hedges, billboards, or other obstructions which prevent people from having a clear view of all traffic approaching and intersection;

(3) 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;

(4) All unnecessary noises and annoying vibrations;

(5) Obstructions and excavations affecting the ordinary public use of streets, alleys, sidewalks, or public grounds except under such conditions as are permitted by this ordinance or other applicable law;

(6) Radio aerials or television antennae erected or maintained in a dangerous manner;

(7) 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;

(8) All hanging signs, awnings, and other similar structures over streets and sidewalks or so situated so as to endanger public safety;

(9) 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;

(10) Any barbed wire fence, the lowest barbed wire of which is less than six feet above the ground and within three feet of a public sidewalk or way;

(11) All dangerous, unguarded machinery in any public place, or so situated or operated on private property as to attract the public and/or which constitute an attractive nuisance;

(12) Waste water cast upon or permitted to flow upon streets or other public properties;

(13) Accumulations in the open of discarded or disused machiner, 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 such accumulations and/or such growth(s);

(14) Any well, hole, or similar excavation which is left uncovered or in such other condition as to constitute a hazard to any child or other person coming on the premises which it is located;

(15) The maintenance of discarded or unused appliances with door(s) affixed so as to constitute a hazard, especially to children;

(16) Obstruction to the free flow of water in a natural waterway or a public street drain, gutter, or ditch with trash of other materials;

(17) 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 wheel and/or tire, especially pneumatic tire, when passing over such substance;

(18) The depositing of garbage or refuse on a public right-of-way or on adjacent private property;

(19) Storing anything on a residentially zoned parcel of land except such items as are commonly assessorly to residentially used property and except as can be completely enclosed in a building which itself is a valid residential assessorly structure. Storage except completely within buildings validly located thereon under City Zoning Ordinance provisions except in Agricultural and Industrial Districts.

(20) All other conditions or things which are likely to cause injury to the person or property of anyone.

SECTION 5. DUTIES OF CITY OFFICERS. The City of Hokah Police Chief, Fire Chief, Clerk-Administrator and municipal supervisory employees shall enforce the provisions of this ordinance. Such Officer(s) shall take reasonable precautions to prevent the commission and maintenance of public nuisances.

SECTION 6. ABATEMENT. Subd. 1. NOTICE. Written notice of violation; notice of the time, date, place and subject of any hearing before the City Council; notice of the City Council Order, and notice of motion for summary enforcement hearing shall be given as set forth in this subdivision.

(1) Notice of violation. Written notice of violation shall be served by the officer charged with enforcement on the owner of record and/or occupant of the premises either in person or by certified or registered mail. If the premises is not occupied, the owner of record

is unknown, or the owner of record or occupant refuse to accept notice of violation, notice of violation shall be served by posting it on the premises. Service upon the property owner as indicated by the records maintained in the County Auditor, Treasurer or Assessor's Office shall be deemed compliance with this notice provision and any other notice provisions contained in this ordinance.

(2) Notice of council hearing. Written notice of any City Council Hearing to determine or abate 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 is not occupied, the owner of record is unknown, or the owner of record or occupant refuse to accept notice of council hearing, notice of 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 Minn. Stat. 463.17 (Hazardous and Substandard Building Act).

(4) Notice of motion for summary enforcement. Written notice of any motion for summary enforcement shall be made as provided for Minn. Stat. 463.17 (Hazardous and Substandard Building Act).

Subd. 2 PROCEDURE. Whenever the officer charged with enforcement determines that a public nuisance is being maintained or exists on premises in the City, the officer shall notify in writing the owner of record or occupant of the premises of such fact and order that such 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 violations

is not complied with within the time specified, the enforcing officer shall report that fact forthwith to the council. Thereafter, the 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 Council the city may seek injunctive relief by serving a copy of the city council order and notice of motion for summary enforcement.

Subd. 3. EMERGENCY PROCEDURE; SUMMARY ENFORCEMENT. In cases of emergency, where delay in abatement required to complete the notice and procedure requirements set forth in subdivisions 1 and 2 above 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 charged with enforcement 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 enforcement 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 council meeting to consider the question of summary enforcement. Notice for these purposes shall be a required to convene a special council meeting. 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

for in subdivision 1 above and may order that such 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.

Subd. 4. IMMEDIATE ABATEMENT. Nothing in section 6 of this ordinance shall prevent the city, without notice of other process, from immediately abating any condition which poses an imminent and serious hazard to human life or safety.

SECTION 7. RECOVERY OF COST. Subdivision 1. 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 clerk or other official designated by the council 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 clerk-administrator.

Subd. 2. 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-infected trees, the clerk shall on or before September 1 next following abatement of the nuisance, list the total unpaid charges along with all other such charges as well as other charges for current services to be assessed under Minn. Stat. 429.101 against each separate lot or parcel to which the charges are attributable. The council may then spread the charges against such property under that statute and other pertinent status for certification to the county auditor and collection along with current

taxes the following year or in annual installments, not exceeding 10, as the council may determine in each case.

SECTION 8. PENALTY. Subdivison 1. Any person convicted of violating any provision of this ordinance is guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished by a fine not to exceed \$700 or imprisonment for not more than 90 days, or both, plus costs of prosecution in either case. The City may, in its discretion, charge violations of the provisions hereof, petty misdemeanors, in which case convicted violators may be fined not to exceed \$200.00.

Subd. 2. The provisions hereinbefore for abatement and injunctive relief, notwithstanding, the City may institute and prosecute offenses which are violative of any provision of this ordinance as a Misdemeanor criminal offenses or as a Petty Misdemeanor and such prosecutions shall not constitute an election of remedies. Where an offense is continuing in nature, each day it exists constitutes a separate offense. In instances where a continuing offense may result in a multiplicity of prosecutions, actions in abatement and/or for injunctive relief may be instituted simultaneously while a criminal or a Petty Misdemeanor prosecutorial action is pending.

SECTION 9. EFFECTIVE DATE. This ordinance shall become effective upon its due passage and enactment and publication according to law.


Passed and enacted this 7th day of November, 1995.

APPROVED:



Edward F. Lonkoski, Mayor

ATTEST:



Barbara J. Larson, Clerk Administrator