



CITY OF MANITOWOC

WISCONSIN, USA
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April 4, 2019

To: Manitowoc Common Council

From: City Attorney's Office

RE: Lawn Parking Ordinance

One of the items on this month's Council agenda is an ordinance creating Manitowoc Municipal Code (MMC) §10.570, which would prohibit parking motor vehicles on front and side residential yards except during snow emergencies or street sweeping days. Although §10.570 is new, the regulation is not. For over 10 years, the City of Manitowoc has prohibited vehicular parking on front and side yards via MMC §15.430 and that regulation will remain an enforced part of the MMC even if Council chooses not to adopt §10.570. This memo addresses some of the issues that arose during Public Safety Committee.

The primary purposes of this ordinance are to reduce enforcement costs and to more effectively address the issue. Enforcement of §15.430 takes 10+ hours of active staff time per violation, excluding the time necessary to prosecute contested citations. After a complaint is received, Inspection staff investigates the claim, attempts to contact the owner at the offending residence, mails the owner a letter, and re-inspects the property for compliance. If the yard is still used for parking, a \$376 citation is generated and personally served by a police officer. Each subsequent complaint/offense requires a full repeat of this process. Enforcement of the proposed §10.570 would take less than 15 minutes of active staff time per violation. After a violation is observed, City parking enforcement staff would issue a parking ticket and affix it to the windshield of the vehicle. If each violation takes less time to enforce, more violations can be addressed. Further, by parking vehicles only on paved or gravel surfaces, as already required by code, our sidewalks, streets, and local water resources will stay cleaner.

	MMC § 15.430:	MMC §10.570:
First offense	\$376.00	\$10.00
Second offense	\$565.00	\$20.00
Third offense	\$817	\$50.00
Fourth offense	\$1069	\$376

This new ordinance will not affect residential yard parking of recreational vehicles, snowmobiles, boat trailers and the like. It targets motor vehicles only. Recreational vehicle parking will continue to be enforced through the City's zoning code. Moreover, this new ordinance will not impact those vehicles infrequently parked on lawns due to street sweeping or declared snow emergencies. The target of this ordinance is vehicles parked on lawns for no justifiable reason. Common examples seen in the field are

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vehicles parked on lawns because the driveway is filled with inoperable vehicles, or vehicles parked on lawns because the owner doesn't want to walk from the driveway to the door.

Below are some recent examples of yard parking violations seen by our Housing Enforcement Inspector.

