

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-004

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF AMES, TEXAS, REGULATING PARKING OF MOTOR VEHICLES ON PRIVATE PROPERTY; PROVIDING FOR: PURPOSE AND FINDINGS, DEFINITIONS, PARKING RESTRICTIONS, VERIFICATION OF OWNERSHIP, ENFORCEMENT, SEVERABILITY, AND EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, pursuant to Texas Local Government Code Section 51.001, the City of Ames, Texas, has general authority to adopt ordinances or regulations that are for the good government, peace, or order of the City and that are necessary or proper for carrying out a power granted by law to the City;

WHEREAS, Texas Local Government Code Section 601.011, grants the City the authority to regulate the parking of motor vehicles on private property;

WHEREAS, the City recognizes its responsibility to protect public safety, preserve community aesthetics, and safeguard property values;

WHEREAS, concerns have been raised regarding the excessive parking of motor vehicles on private property within the City, particularly when such parking is associated with the intent to sell the vehicles; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds it necessary to address and regulate the parking of motor vehicles on private property to ensure the overall well-being and order of the community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AMES, TEXAS, THAT:

SECTION 1: Purpose and Findings.

(a) Purpose - This ordinance is enacted to regulate the parking of motor vehicles on private property within the City of Ames, Texas, with the aim of addressing concerns related to public safety, aesthetics, and property values.

(b) Findings - The City Council of Ames finds that the excessive parking of vehicles on private property, with the intent to sell, may adversely affect the well-being of the community and necessitates appropriate regulation.

SECTION 2: Definitions. For the purposes of this ordinance:

- **"Private Property"** refers to any parcel of land owned, rented, or leased by an individual or entity within the City of Ames.
- **"Motor Vehicles"** includes any self-propelled vehicle designed for travel on land.
- **"Owner"** refers to the legal owner or owners of the private property, as reflected in official property records or reflected in any contract agreement.

- **“Resident”** refers to any individual occupying a dwelling on private property within the City of Ames, regardless of ownership status, including but not limited to owners, tenants, lessees, and other lawful occupants.

SECTION 3: Parking Restrictions.

(a) Limitation on Number of Vehicles - No more than 3 motor vehicles shall be parked on an individual's private property at any given time for purposes other than personal use by both property owners and residents.

SECTION 4: Verification of Ownership.

(a) Records Examination - The City may collaborate with relevant agencies or departments to verify whether the motor vehicles parked on private property are registered to legal owner(s) of the property or the resident(s) of the property.

SECTION 5: Enforcement.

(a) Citation and Penalties - Violation of the parking restrictions outlined in Section 3 shall result in the issuance of citations, with penalties as follows:

- First Offense: \$250.00
- Subsequent Offenses: \$500.00

(b) Impoundment of Offending Vehicles - In addition to citations, the City may impound motor vehicles found in violation of this ordinance, with impoundment fees to be borne by the property owner.

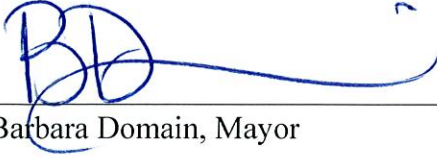
SECTION 6: Appeals Process.

(a) Right to Appeal - Property owners may appeal citations or impoundment actions by submitting a written appeal to the City within 14 days of the issuance of the citation or impoundment.

(b) Municipal Court - The Municipal Judge shall review appeals and render decisions based on the merits presented.

SECTION 7: Severability. If any provision of this ordinance or its application to any person or circumstances is held invalid, the remainder of the ordinance or the application of the provisions to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected.

SECTION 8: Effective Date. This ordinance shall take effect on February 20, 2024, informing residents and property owners of when the regulations will be enforced.



Barbara Domain, Mayor

ATTEST:



Wellona Godfrey, City Secretary