

Fountain City Passes New Property Maintenance Ordinance to Keep Our City Beautiful

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Fountain City has adopted a new Property Maintenance Ordinance, a positive step toward maintaining a beautiful, safe, and well-maintained community. The ordinance establishes basic standards for maintaining yards, sidewalks, and building exteriors, providing the City with a clear framework for addressing neglected or unsafe conditions.

Why It Was Needed

Residents have expressed concerns about properties with overgrown grass, peeling paint, and cluttered yards over the past year. After reviewing these concerns with our City Attorney, we discovered that Fountain City didn't have any tools to take action.

The Planning and Zoning Committee worked to draft this ordinance with fairness, clarity, and a focus on community pride in mind.

What the Ordinance Covers

- **Lawn Height:** Must be 7 inches or less
- **Snow Removal:** Sidewalks must be cleared within 24 hours
- **Exterior Maintenance:** Buildings, porches, siding, and fences must be in good repair
- **Windows and Doors:** Must be weather-tight and functional
- **Debris and Storage:** Junk must be removed or neatly stored
- **Vacant Properties:** Held to the same standards as occupied ones
- **Sidewalks and Driveways:** Must be safe and maintained
- **Weeds and Yard Waste:** Noxious weeds must be removed; yard waste may not sit on the street for more than one hour

How It Works

- A notice will be issued if a violation is found
- If not resolved, a **citation may be issued** with fines of **\$100–\$500 per day**
- For issues like tall grass or snow, the City may complete the work and **bill the property owner**
- The goal is **voluntary compliance** and giving everyone a fair chance to address concerns

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Who does this ordinance apply to?

All properties in Fountain City, homes, rentals, businesses, and vacant lots.

Q: Will I get a warning first?

Yes. The City will issue a notice with a deadline before any fine is issued.

Q: How much is the fine?

Fines range from **\$100 to \$500 per day**, depending on the issue and how long it remains unresolved.

Q: What counts as junk or debris?

Junk includes things like broken furniture, scrap, or clutter left outdoors.

Q: What happens if the City mows my lawn or clears my sidewalk?

You will receive a fine and a bill. If unpaid, it will be added to your property taxes as a special assessment.

Q: Where can I read the full ordinance?

You can view it online or request a printed copy at City Hall.