

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 13, 2023

### FOR MEDIA INQUIRIES CONTACT:

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## Sweetwater City Council Passes Ordinance Regarding Parking Regulations

**SWEETWATER, Texas** – On Tuesday, April 11, 2023, the Sweetwater City Council unanimously approved the addition of an ordinance regarding the regulation of motor vehicles and special vehicle parking. The City of Sweetwater Code Enforcement Officers, in a joint effort with the Sweetwater Police Department, will work to enforce this new ordinance. A violation of the ordinance could result in a misdemeanor with fines up to \$1,000.

The ordinance refers to goals set in the City’s Comprehensive Plan, referred to as Ignite Sweetwater, to focus on the preservation, well-being, and improvements to the neighborhoods within the community. The City of Sweetwater Code Enforcement Office received several inquiries regarding motor and special vehicles parked in front, rear and side yards. The newly-adopted ordinance clarifies special vehicles are defined as “truck-tractor, trailer, semi-trailer or a combination thereof, boats or boat trailers, personal watercraft or personal watercraft trailers, all-terrain vehicles or all-terrain vehicle trailers, motor homes or recreational vehicles, manufactured homes or mobile homes or any vehicle designed for occupancy.”

The ordinance clarifies proper parking for both motor and special vehicles. Section 21-34 of the ordinance states:

- (1) No special vehicle shall be parked on required off-street parking.
- (2) No part of a motor vehicle or special vehicle shall extend over a public easement, sidewalk, alley way, street or right-of-way.
- (3) No motor vehicle or special vehicle stored or parked on a residential lot shall be used for housekeeping, living or sleeping quarters.
- (4) All special vehicles shall be secured with wheel stops or similar safety devices.
- (5) Motor vehicles may be parked on a driveway or improved parking surface. The parking surface of motor vehicles shall be at a minimum equal to the motor vehicle.
- (6) Special vehicles may be parked on an improved parking surface or driveway that is not a required off-street parking space. The parking surface of special vehicles shall be contiguous with and be an extension of the driveway, and the area of the parking surface and extension shall not be less than the full dimensions of the special vehicle.
  - a. Special vehicles shall be stored behind the front building line in the side or rear yard unless the lot is served by a driveway from a public street and which is its only point of vehicular access, or the lot does not have access to a City alley.

- b. Where permissible in subsection (a) above, a maximum of two special vehicles may be stored in the front yard, and the special vehicle length shall be oriented perpendicular to the street.

(7) The location and construction of required improved parking surface must be in compliance with all city ordinances, regulations and standards. Parking or paving over sidewalks, easements or public access property is prohibited.

Following the passing of this ordinance, enforcement of motor vehicles is effective immediately. Special vehicles will be enforced six months after the passing of the ordinance, meaning Code Enforcement Officers and the Sweetwater Police Department will begin enforcing this ordinance on special vehicles on October 11, 2023. The City of Sweetwater will work to educate residents on this newly adopted ordinance.

For media inquiries, please contact Kathleen Cox by email [kcox@coswtr.org](mailto:kcox@coswtr.org) or by phone at (325) 721-8715.

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