

(First Published in the Columbus News Report, August 13, 2024)

ORDINANCE 1515

AN ORDINANCE REGULATING THE PARKING OF, AND RESIDING IN, RECREATIONAL VEHICLES WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS OF COLUMBUS, KANSAS.

SECTION 1 – DEFINITION.

As defined by Kansas Statute 79-5118, "Recreational Vehicle" (R.V.) means a vehicular-type unit built on or for use on a chassis and designed primarily as living quarters for recreational, camping, vacation or travel use and which has its own motive power or is mounted on or drawn by another vehicle, and which has a body width not exceeding 102 inches and a body length not exceeding 45 feet; but such term shall not include a unit which has no electrical system which operates above 12 volts and has no provisions for plumbing, heating and any other component or feature for which a standard is adopted by the uniform standards code for mobile homes and recreational vehicles.

SECTION 2 – PURPOSE AND POLICY.

The City of Columbus, Kansas, has determined the need to establish a policy to regulate the parking of R.V.s actively used by a person or persons as extended living accommodations. The city wishes to discourage permanent or long-term use of R.V.s for permanent living accommodation except within designated areas. Therefore, this policy does not apply to the city's R.V. park or other park facilities with R.V. hookups.

SECTION 3 – DEFINITIONS.

- (a) Person. Person shall mean any individual, firm, partnership, association, corporation or trust.
- (b) Recreational Vehicle (R.V.). Any vehicle as determined by Kansas Statute 79-5118. The term shall not apply to mobile homes as defined in and as regulated by Ordinance No. 1298.
- (c) Recreational Vehicle Park. Recreational vehicle park shall mean any area owned by the city or by one or more persons in which spaces are rented for parking of recreational vehicles and which complies with state law, state and city traffic laws and ordinances and for which a recreational vehicle park permit has been granted by the city pursuant to the rules and regulations adopted by the city for such purpose by resolution. The city shall by resolution establish those locations within the city that are authorized for the parking of recreational vehicles which shall be appropriately marked for that purpose.

SECTION 4 – REGULATIONS.

Except as otherwise provided herein, it shall be unlawful to park or place any recreational vehicle which is actively in use as sleeping or living accommodations within the city unless said recreational vehicle is in an R.V. park. This section shall not apply to the parking of recreational

vehicles that are not actively in use for extended sleeping or living accommodations purposes. State law and city ordinances pertaining to vehicle parking shall apply to all recreational vehicle parking the same as any other vehicle parked within the city.

Unless otherwise prohibited, recreational vehicles used for sleeping and/or living accommodations may be parked on city streets in front of and adjacent to a permanent residence or upon such permanent resident's private property when the owner or the operator of the recreational vehicle is visiting the owner or occupant of the residence for a period not to exceed fourteen (14) days. The owner or operator of the recreational vehicle so parked shall, upon the request of a law enforcement officer or other authorized city representative, provide verification that such owner or operator of the recreational vehicle is a guest of the owner or occupant of the permanent residence. Such evidence can be in the form of written or verbal authorization received directly from the owner or occupant of the permanent residence.

Unless otherwise prohibited, recreational vehicles used for sleeping and/or living accommodations may be parked on a permanent resident's private property when the vehicle has up to date and appropriate licensure from the state in which it is titled for a period not to exceed six (6) months. The owner or operator of the recreational vehicle so parked shall, upon the request of a law enforcement officer or other authorized city representative, provide verification that such owner or operator of the recreational vehicle is a guest of the owner or occupant of the permanent residence. Such evidence can be in the form of written or verbal authorization received directly from the owner or occupant of the permanent residence.

SECTION 5 – UTILITY SYSTEM CONNECTIONS.

No permanent electrical, water, or sewer connections shall be made by the recreational vehicle owner or operator to any outlet other than to an outlet metered for and with the consent of the owner or occupant of the permanent residence and only if there are no delinquent utility charges associated with said permanent residence.

Electrical connections must have a dedicated 30-amp, 120-volt minimum circuit designed for the use of an R.V. Sewer connections must be a minimum of 4" diameter and of a material designed for use in effluent systems. The connection must be made into the sewer lateral on the property owner side of the sewer tap. There must be a thread-on plug for sealing the drain when not in use. The dumping of waste from recreational vehicles on public or private land except by use of the sewer connection or at a designated R.V. dump is expressly prohibited.

Notwithstanding other provisions of this ordinance, permission may be granted on a case-by-case basis to place a recreational vehicle upon private property for the temporary housing of law enforcement or security personnel for the protection of a public gathering or private business. The applicant shall obtain the written approval of the Chief of Police of Columbus, Kansas for such an arrangement. All other provisions relating to connections to utility systems shall apply.


SECTION 7 – PENALTIES.

Any Person violating any of the provisions of this ordinance, or failing to comply therewith, shall upon conviction in municipal court, be subject to a fine not to exceed \$300, and each violation shall constitute a separate violation. The city may tow, or cause to be towed, at owner expense, R.V.s that are found to be out of compliance with any of these policies. If the owner of the R.V. cannot be located, the city may assess these charges in the form of a special assessment to the owner of the property upon which the R.V. was placed.

SECTION 8 – EFFECTIVE DATE.

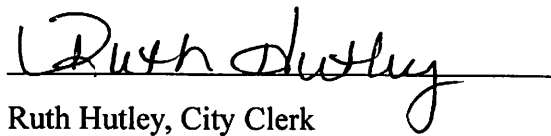
This ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the official city newspaper.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY THIS 5TH DAY OF AUGUST, 2024.



Grant Spieth, Mayor

ATTEST:



Ruth Hutley, City Clerk

(SEAL)

