



REQUEST FOR ACTION CITY COUNCIL

Agenda Date: 5/6/2025
Agenda Section: Consent
Agenda

Department Police
Origination:

Agenda Item: Adopt Ordinance 2025-005 approving amendments to the Curfew Ordinance

Approval Required: Simple Majority Vote

BACKGROUND

The City of Baxter has a longstanding Curfew Ordinance that prohibits juveniles from being out in public during late evening hours.

This ordinance was originally adopted in 1994. Portions of the ordinance are no longer practical as juvenile behavior, and trends have changed over the years.

The curfew ordinance goals are to minimize the dangers which juveniles are subject to when they are on the streets, in public places, and establishments unattended and unsupervised by adults during late night hours. The curfew ordinance regulates juvenile activities at times and places where risk of danger to juveniles can be the greatest, and encourages parents and guardians of juveniles to supervise, control, and know the whereabouts of their children during high-risk nighttime hours.

Likewise, curfew enforcement can reduce juvenile criminal activity during nighttime hours.

The current curfew ordinance prohibits law enforcement from issuing a citation for a first-time curfew violation. Baxter Officers have had many late evening hour incidents and contacts with local and out-of-town juveniles. These contacts can and have severely impact law enforcement resources. Many of these contacts require officers to transport juveniles back home or wait for parents to pick up their child.

One of the proposed changes in the curfew ordinance would allow officers to issue a citation for a first-time violation. There are many cities throughout Minnesota that follow this practice.

The other proposed changes are simple text changes that separate the penalty for a minor, adult, and establishment.

The recommended changes have also been reviewed and approved by the Crow Wing County Juvenile Prosecuting Attorney.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

No impact.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

Staff recommend to Adopt Ordinance 2025-005, approving amendments to the Curfew Ordinance

COUNCIL ACTION REQUESTED

Approve to Adopt Ordinance 2025-005, approving amendments to the Curfew Ordinance