

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

City Council



STAFF

Lori F. Schwarz, AICP, PDT Deputy Director/Planning and Development Services Director
John Hernandez, Senior Code Compliance Supervisor

SUBJECT

First Reading of Ordinance No. 204, 2025, Amending Section 20-42 of the Code of the City of Fort Collins for the Purpose of Adjusting Weed and Grass Removal Requirements.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this item is to update the maximum height for weeds and unmowed grasses from six inches to nine inches.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends adoption of the Ordinance on First Reading.

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

While reviewing options to respond to staffing reductions as well as providing sustainable level of service adjustments, Section 20-42 regarding weeds and unmowed grasses was identified as an area for modification. Currently, City Code requires weeds and grasses to be maintained at a height no greater than six inches. Many jurisdictions consider twelve inches of grass and weed height to constitute a nuisance concern while maintaining six inches of grass and weed height appears to be a more aesthetic standard.

Annually, the Code Compliance team receives requests to allow higher grass heights to support pollinator species. Additionally, in wetter seasons, grasses grow more quickly, which has caused concerns for property owners when they are out of town. Staff has recommended adjusting the maximum height of weeds and unmowed grasses to nine inches to respond to these concerns but also not allow nuisance conditions to occur.

CITY FINANCIAL IMPACTS

Staff anticipates a reduction in the number of properties that receive high grass and weeds abatement, which will reduce overall contractor costs and case management responsibilities.

BOARD / COMMISSION / COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

None.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

None.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Ordinance No. 204, 2025