



Council Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 04/21/2026

Agenda Item: Squirrel Trapping

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BACKGROUND

(Enter the who, what when, where, why)

The Whitewater Police Department received correspondence from a resident who is concerned about a neighbor trapping squirrels and chipmunks on their property. Current Whitewater ordinance 9.04.010 states the following:

“No person shall, within the limits of the city, harm or kill squirrels or pets at any time without first obtaining permission from the chief of police of the city. The humane nature of the method and duration of any trapping of squirrels shall be subject to the approval of the chief of police.”

In researching this topic, staff found an example of another municipality (City of Green Bay) that removed an ordinance in 2024 that restricted residents from hunting squirrels on their property. The reason for the change was that the Wisconsin DNR stated the ordinance contradicted state law which permits individuals to hunt and trap nuisance animals including squirrels on their property without a license.

No other examples of municipal ordinances limiting squirrel hunting and trapping on private property were found by staff. However, the Village of West Salem has an informational pamphlet that provides guidelines for residents that are consistent with DNR regulations. Local DNR representatives provided staff with nuisance wildlife guidelines which were included in the packet.

Given the outcome of the research, staff recommendation is to update the ordinance to follow DNR regulations. This could be accomplished by simply striking all of 9.04.010 as the protection of domestic animals (pets) is covered in 9.04.020.

PREVIOUS ACTIONS – COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

(Dates, committees, action taken)

N/A

FINANCIAL IMPACT

(If none, state N/A)

N/A

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Recommend updating ordinance to follow DNR guidelines regarding squirrel trapping.

ATTACHMENT(S) INCLUDED

(If none, state N/A)

1. WW Ordinance 9.04.010
 2. Article – City of Green Bay ordinance
 3. Example pamphlet – Village of West Salem
 4. WI DNR Nuisance Wildlife Guidelines
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