

Memo

To: Councilmember Hines
Council Liaison: Ordinance Review Committee

Date: November 16, 2023

From: Jim Miller
Ordinance Review Committee Chairman

Re: Report on Invisible/Electric Fences, Revised Traffic Code Schedule IV – City Parking

Debra,

This Committee is submitting two items this month with notes as follows:

1. Report on Invisible/Electric Fences, and
2. a revision to Traffic Code Schedule IV – City Parking.

These will be the last two items this year as we have cancelled the December meeting and await new members for the Committee.

Report on Invisible/Electric Fences

The bullet points on this report are as follows:

- Electric fences are not allowed on residential lots,
- Electronic fences don't work some of the time,
- Electronic fences are not always healthy for dogs,
- Electronic fences do not constitute "control" of an animal.

On this last point the Committee discussed whether this type of fence should be disallowed or banned; it was decided that it was best to remain silent on them. They are certainly allowed both on a County and State level, but it is clearly stated in County law that the use of these fences does not change the status of the animal "running at large." This would make our Ordinance in compliance as the animal must be under direct physical control. Therefore, should the animal either leave the property or have a negative interaction with another animal or human, it would be in a state of "Running at Large" as defined by both Woodcreek and County ordinances.

Traffic Code Schedule IV – City Parking

There were two main points the Committee addressed in this Ordinance:

- Refining the definition of RV's,
- Changing the definition of "Junked vehicles" to be in alignment with current State law.

The current Ordinance bans the parking of RV's outright. It was decided that this was based on their size, blocking proper sight, and possible use as living quarters. The Committee was unanimous in deciding that these mini-RV's should be allowed.

It was pointed out that there is a large portion of the RV's purchased that are small, built on existing van chassis. A number of these are smaller than the larger pickup trucks that the City allows to be parked. (notice picture samples of such RV's are included) It was decided that 21 ft. is the deciding factor wherein size may become a factor.

The committee decided to treat these smaller RV's similar to work trucks whereby a permit is issued by the City, allowing them to verify compliance. It was not unanimous as to whether the City should charge for this permit; however, where there is a permit, there is usually a charge to assuage costs.

It was offered that many of these mini-RV's are used as a second "around town" vehicle. Although appearance may not be used by the City to deny use, it should be noted that these vehicles cost more than \$100,000; therefore, should be considered a high-end vehicle.

We have suggested protections against individuals living in such vehicles (difficult in these small vehicles) and any grey-water discharge.

"Junked Vehicles" both in our Ordinance and the State law define such as not having an "unexpired license plate and a valid motor vehicle inspection certificate." The State currently uses Registration stickers and as of September of next year will no longer require Inspections. While normally we mirror State law, the State added wording into their traffic code which seems to allow municipalities to correct their ordinance wording to mirror current procedures.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be the initials 'JF' with a stylized flourish.