

**CITY OF AMES, TEXAS
ORDINANCE NO. 2025-008**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF AMES, TEXAS, REGULATING THE
PARKING OF VEHICLES ON PUBLIC STREETS; PROVIDING FOR A
MAXIMUM PARKING PERIOD; PROVIDING FOR TOWING AND
PENALTIES; PROVIDING FOR REPEALER, SEVERABILITY, AND AN
EFFECTIVE DATE.**

WHEREAS, Section 51.001 of the Texas Local Government Code authorizes general law municipalities to adopt ordinances and regulations necessary for the good government, peace, and order of the municipality and for the trade and health of its inhabitants; and

WHEREAS, Section 311.002 of the Texas Transportation Code provides that the governing body of a general law city has exclusive control over and under the public streets, alleys, and highways of the municipality; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Ames finds that vehicles parked for extended periods of time upon public streets and rights-of-way can impede traffic, obstruct visibility, create public safety hazards, contribute to blight, and diminish the overall appearance and accessibility of the City's neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, the City Council further finds that the regulation of parking and the removal of vehicles left standing on public streets for more than forty-eight (48) hours is necessary to protect the public health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Ames; and

WHEREAS, Section 54.001 of the Texas Local Government Code authorizes the City to impose fines and penalties for violations of its ordinances not exceeding Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) for general violations, and greater amounts for health, sanitation, and other specified violations; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 683 of the Texas Transportation Code authorizes municipalities to remove and dispose of vehicles that are abandoned, unattended, or otherwise parked in violation of a city ordinance, and to assess towing and storage charges to the owner of such vehicles;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AMES, TEXAS:

SECTION 1 – PURPOSE AND INTENT

The purpose of this ordinance is to promote public safety, preserve the free flow of traffic, and maintain the appearance and accessibility of public streets within the City of Ames, Texas, by establishing reasonable limitations on the parking and storage of vehicles upon public streets and rights-of-way.

SECTION 2 – DEFINITIONS

For purposes of this ordinance, the following terms shall have the meanings assigned below:

- (a) *Vehicle* means every device by which a person or property may be transported or drawn upon a highway, including automobiles, trucks, trailers, and motorcycles, but excluding devices moved by human power or used exclusively upon stationary rails or tracks.
- (b) *Public Street* means the entire width of every public right-of-way, roadway, alley, or street within the corporate limits of the City that is owned, controlled, or maintained by the City or the State of Texas for public use.
- (c) *Parked or Standing Vehicle* means a vehicle left stopped, whether occupied or not, other than temporarily for the purpose of and while actually engaged in loading or unloading passengers or property.

SECTION 3 – UNLAWFUL PARKING ON PUBLIC STREETS.

- (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to cause, allow, or permit any vehicle owned, controlled, or operated by such person to remain parked or standing upon any public street, roadway, or right-of-way within the City for a continuous period exceeding forty-eight (48) hours.
- (b) Moving a vehicle a short distance solely to avoid violation of this section shall not constitute compliance.
- (c) This prohibition applies to operable, inoperable, wrecked, or unregistered vehicles alike.

SECTION 4 – TOWING AND IMPOUNDMENT.

- (a) Any vehicle parked or standing in violation of this ordinance may be removed and impounded by or at the direction of a peace officer or code enforcement official, in accordance with Chapter 683 of the Texas Transportation Code and other applicable law.
- (b) The owner or operator of the vehicle shall be responsible for all towing, storage, and related charges, which shall be payable directly to the towing or storage facility before the vehicle is released.
- (c) The City shall not be liable for any damage or loss resulting from such towing or impoundment, provided the action is taken in good faith under this ordinance.

SECTION 5 – PENALTY

- (a) Any person violating this ordinance shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be punished by a fine not to exceed Three Hundred Dollars (\$300.00) for each offense.
- (b) Each day that a violation continues shall constitute a separate offense.

SECTION 6 – REPEALER

All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict only.

SECTION 7 – SEVERABILITY

If any provision of this ordinance or the application thereof to any person or circumstance shall be held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of this ordinance which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application.

SECTION 8 – EFFECTIVE DATE

This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its passage and publication as required by law.

PASSED AND APPROVED on this 8th day of December, 2025.

CITY OF AMES:


Barbara Domain Mayor

ATTEST:


Wellona Godfrey, City Secretary