

**AMENDMENT TO CITY ORDINANCES § 9-22 and 9-23**  
**THE CITY OF VIDALIA, GEORGIA**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VIDALIA, GEORGIA, AND IT IS HEREBY ORDAINED BY AUTHORITY THEREOF THAT THE CODE OF THE CITY OF VIDALIA IS HEREBY AMENDED BY DELETING THE ENTIRE CURRENT SECTIONS 9-22 AND 9-23 AND REPLACING THE SAME WITH THE FOLLOWING:

**Sec. 9-22. – Accumulation of junk, trash, and debris, etc., prohibited and declared a nuisance.**

The following words, terms, and phrases, when used in this article, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

*Debris*, for the purpose of this article, shall include, but not limited to, cardboard, paper, rags, cartons, boxes, buckets, plastic, wood, metal, rubber, cement rubbish, construction debris, or similar objects, fallen, broken, or destroyed trees or tree limbs or other material or objects not a part of the land and constituting a health or safety hazard.

(A) It shall be unlawful for the occupant or owner of any lot, parcel, or premises in the city, or any agent or representative of such occupant or owner, to permit or maintain on such lot, parcel, or premises, any nuisance as enumerated herein, the accumulation of scrap, junk, trash, and debris as defined in this article, which distracts from the community aesthetics, and endangers the public health, safety, and/ or welfare. The following conditions shall constitute a nuisance as it relates to the accumulation of junk, trash, debris, scrap, etc.

(1) Any lot, parcel, or property where the depositing of debris, trash, garbage, refuse, furniture, mattresses, scrap wood or metal, or other household goods or appliances, etc., on private or public property: The depositing and leaving on private or public property of debris, trash, garbage, refuse, furniture, appliances, mattresses, household goods, scrap building materials, paper, cardboard containers, brick, cement rubbish, tree debris/residue, cans, containers, any other rubbish and

trash, or other like material, which distracts from the community aesthetics or which is a menace to public health and safety in the city.

(2) Any lot, parcel, or property where the retention, storage, or accumulation of any automobile or motor vehicle parts, tires, mechanized equipment, machinery, appliances, scrap metal, scrap wood, or other scrap material, etc., on the property in a condition that prevents its use for the purpose for which it was originally manufactured, which distracts from the community aesthetics, or which is a menace to public health and safety in the city.

*Exceptions:* For the purpose of this article, businesses that are open, properly zoned, or otherwise permitted, and conducting a lawful active business, may be exempt, at the discretion of the City Manager or designee, with such determinations being made on a case by case basis. Examples, including, but not limited to, are; (auto repair, service stations, appliance repair, construction companies, manufacturing, or other like businesses, etc.).

**Sec. 9-23. – Overgrowth of grass, objectionable weeds, or similar vegetation, prohibited and declared a nuisance.**

The following words, terms, and phrases, when used in this article, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

*Weeds, for the purpose of this article,* shall be defined as all objectionable growth, including weeds and grasses which serve as a breeding place for mosquitoes and other unhealthy or undesirable insects, or as a refuge for snakes, rats or other rodents, or that create a fire or traffic hazard or provide a hiding place for persons. Provided, however, that flowers, shrubbery, trees and other growth used as a part of landscaping shall not be included in this definition.

*Wooded areas, for the purpose of this article,* shall be defined as those portions of lots consisting of a semi-dense or dense growth of trees, some of which exceed three inches in diameter, brush, and/or bushes.

**(A) It shall be unlawful for the occupant or owner of any lot, parcel, or premises in the city, or any agent or representative of such occupant or owner, to permit or maintain on such lot, parcel, or premises, any nuisance as enumerated herein, the growth thereon of grass, objectionable weeds, or similar vegetation. The following conditions shall constitute a nuisance as it relates to the growth of grass, objectionable weeds, or similar vegetation.**

**(1) Any lot, parcel, or premises, on which a residential structure is built, shall be deemed a nuisance if the growth of grass, weeds, or similar vegetation, as defined herein, is 12 inches or more in height.**

**(2) Any vacant lot or parcel, located within a residential district or area, shall be deemed a nuisance if the growth of grass, weeds, or similar vegetation, as defined herein, exceeds 18 inches or more in height.**

**(3) Any lot or parcel, other than those described above, shall be deemed a nuisance if the growth of grass, weeds, or similar vegetation, as defined herein, exceeds 18 inches in height.**

***Exceptions:* For the purpose of this article, lots or parcels, without residences or premises, that are deemed to be in their natural state, and wooded areas, as defined herein, shall be exempt from the above requirements. Additionally, said lots or parcels shall be allowed to return to their natural state provided that they are bordered by another lot that is wooded or in its natural state, or at the discretion of the City Manager or designee. The City Manager or designee, shall have authority to determine whether a lot or parcel is subject to this ordinance or is exempt, with such determinations being made on a case by case basis.**

It is the intention of the governing body, and it is hereby ordained, that the provisions of this ordinance shall become and be made part of the Code of Ordinances, City of Vidalia, Georgia, and the sections or subsections of this ordinance may be renumbered to accomplish such intention, as necessary.

THIS ORDINANCE AMENDMENT SHALL BECOME EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY UPON ADOPTION AS PROVIDED FOR BY THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF VIDALIA, GEORGIA.

FIRST READING:

August 10, 2020

SECOND READING:

September 14, 2020

ADOPTED THIS 14 DAY OF September, 2020.



JOHN RAYMOND TURNER,  
MAYOR PRO TEM

ATTEST:   
BILL BEDINGFIELD, CITY CLERK