

**ORDINANCE NO. 23-4
VILLAGE OF WAUNAKEE**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 78, ARTICLE I
OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, VILLAGE OF WAUNAKEE,
TO REMOVE THE NO MOW MAY EXEMPTION

NOW, THEREFORE, the Village Board of the Village of Waunakee, Dane County, Wisconsin, do ordain that Section 78-1 of the Code of Ordinances, Village of Waunakee, is hereby repealed and recreated to read as follows:

Sec. 78-1. - Length of lawn and grasses.

- (a) *Purpose.* This section is adopted due to the unique nature of the problems associated with lawns, grasses and noxious weeds being allowed to grow to excessive length in the village.
- (b) *Public nuisance declared.* The village board finds that lawns, grasses and noxious weeds on lots or parcels of land which exceed eight inches in length adversely affect the public health and safety of the public in that they tend to emit pollen and other discomforting bits of plants, constitute a fire hazard and a safety hazard in that debris can be hidden in the grass, interfere with the public convenience and adversely affect property values of other land within the village. For that reason, any lawn, grass or weed on a lot or other parcel of land that exceeds eight inches in length is declared to be a public nuisance, except for property located in a designated floodplain area or wetland area or where the lawn, grass or weed is part of a natural lawn.
- (c) *Nuisances prohibited.* No person shall permit any public nuisance, as defined in subsection (b) of this section, to remain on any premises owned or controlled by such person within the village.
- (d) *Inspection.* The weed commissioner shall inspect or cause to be inspected all premises and places within the village to determine whether any public nuisance, as defined in subsection (b) of this section, exists.
- (e) *Abatement of nuisance.* If, during any April 1 through October 30 period, any owner, occupant or person in charge of any parcel or lot permits any lawn, grass or weed on the parcel or lot to exceed eight inches in length, the director of public works may provide written notice to the owner directing that the lawn, grass or weed be cut so as to conform with this section and with section 78-57 no later than five days following the issuance of the notice. The notice may be hand-delivered or mailed to the last-known address of the owner of the property. The notice shall state that the village may, during the remainder of the April 1 through October 30 period, and without further notice, cut any lawn, grass or weed on the lot or parcel that exceeds eight inches in length, that the cost of such work shall be charged to the parcel or lot owner, and that the cost of such work may become a charge against the parcel or lot. If the owner fails to cut the lawn, grass or weed within the time required by the notice, then the director of public works may cause the lawn, grass or weed to be cut. If a property owner has received at least one written notice

pursuant to this section during an April 1 through October 30 period, and has permitted a lawn, grass or weed on a parcel or lot to exceed eight inches in height, then the director of public works may cause the lawn, grass or weed to be cut without further notice. The cost of cutting the lawn, grass or weed shall be charged to the owner, and may be assessed against the lot or parcel pursuant to law.

The foregoing ordinance was duly adopted by the Village Board of the Village of Waunakee at a meeting held on November 20, 2023.

APPROVED:

By: _____
Kristin Runge, Village President

ATTEST:

By: _____
Karla Endres, Village Clerk