



City Council
City of Mount Vernon
Mount Vernon, OH 43050

Meeting: 4/13/2026 7:30 PM
Dept: Land Use & Development
Jacklin, Keener
Category: Zoning
Prepared By: Rob Broeren
Initiator: Scott Zimmerman

SCHEDULED

Ordinance 2026-11

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND PROVISIONS OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF MOUNT VERNON REGARDING VEHICLE STORAGE WITHIN THE CITY AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

WHEREAS, the City Council of Mount Vernon finds it necessary to regulate the storage of large equipment to maintain the aesthetic character and safety of residential neighborhoods.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Mount Vernon, State of Ohio:

Section 1. That the title of Chapter 1309 of the Codified Ordinances shall be amended to read as follows (deletion is in ~~strikethrough~~):

~~Motor~~-Vehicle Storage

Section 2. That Section 1309.02 of the Codified Ordinances be replaced with the following:

1309.02 STORAGE OF RECREATIONAL VEHICLES AND BOATS

(a) Definitions

- (1) Recreational Vehicle (RV): Includes recreational homes, campers, and travel trailers designed for temporary living quarters.
- (2) Boat: Any vessel or watercraft, including its transport trailer.
- (3) Utility Trailer: A non-recreationalized vehicle designed to be pulled by another, used for transporting goods, equipment, or materials.
- (4) Enclosed Utility Trailer: A utility trailer characterized by a permanent roof and side walls that fully enclose the cargo area.
- (5) Total Trailers: The cumulative count of all boat trailers, RV trailers, and utility trailers on a single property.
- (6) Improved Surface- a surface constructed of concrete, pavers, asphalt, gravel, or other substance as approved by city zoning ordinances.

(b) Storage Location and Limits

- (1) Driveway Storage: Boats, campers (RVs), and Enclosed Utility Trailers may be stored on an improved surface, provided they meet the specific requirements in subsection (c) and the size restrictions in subsection (d).

- (2) General Utility Trailer Restrictions: Except as provided in subsection (3) below, utility trailers are strictly prohibited from being stored in any front yard or driveway. They must be stored:
 - (A) Within a completely enclosed garage; or
 - (B) In the rear yard, provided they are screened from public view.
 - (3) Exception for Enclosed Utility Trailers: An enclosed utility trailer may be stored in a driveway if it meets the following criteria:
 - (A) The trailer box length is under fourteen (14) feet. Any enclosed utility trailer fourteen (14) feet or longer shall be subject to the same restrictions as general utility trailers defined in subsection (2);
 - (B) It is stored in well maintained condition with no visible rust, damage, or structural wear; and
 - (C) It displays no business logos, commercial advertisements, or professional signage.
 - (4) Temporary Utility Trailer Storage: Standard (non-enclosed) utility trailers may be parked in a driveway for up to 72 hours for purposes of use, loading, or maintenance. Moving or repositioning the trailer does not reset this time limit. A minimum of 48 hours must pass between storage events.
 - (5) Storage on a Public Way: No person shall park or leave standing any trailer on a public street for more than 72 hours. After 72 hours, the trailer must be moved at least 500 feet off the public way for at least 24 hours before returning.
 - (6) Numerical Limit:
 - (A) No more than two (2) total trailers may be stored on any residential lot at one time, regardless of type or location.
 - (B) No more than one (1) such unit shall be permitted to be stored in a driveway at any time.
 - (C) Of the two permitted trailers, only one (1) may be a utility trailer.
- (c) Maintenance and Aesthetic Restrictions
- (1) Maintenance Requirements:
 - (A) All stored vehicles and trailers must be in good repair, operable, and bear a current, valid license plate and registration.
 - (B) Enclosed Utility Trailers stored in driveways must be kept in a well-maintained aesthetic condition as determined by the City Inspector or Property Maintenance Enforcement Officer.
 - (C) Vehicles must not be used for living, sleeping, or housekeeping purposes while stored.
 - (D) No fixed connections to water, gas, or sanitary sewer are permitted.
 - (2) Visual Standards:
 - (A) Stored items must be kept clean. Accumulation of debris under or around the vehicle is prohibited.
 - (B) Enclosed Utility Trailers stored in driveways must be free of all business logos, commercial branding, or promotional decals.

(d) Driveway Placement and Fit

- (1) Encroachment Prohibited: No unit parked in a driveway shall extend into or over any public right-of-way, including sidewalks or streets.
- (2) Dimensional Fit: The unit must appropriately fit within the designated improved surface driveway. It shall not be parked on grass or unimproved surfaces.
- (3) Safety Clearances: Units must be parked in a manner that does not obstruct the view of traffic for vehicles exiting the driveway or traveling on adjacent roadways.

(e) Removal

- (1) Notice to Remove. Whenever there are reasonable grounds to believe that a violation of the provisions of this section exists, the City Inspector, Property Maintenance Enforcement Officer and/or the Chief of Police, or their designees, shall give, or cause to be given, written notice to the registered owner of any vehicle that is in violation of this section, or to the owner or person in lawful possession or control of the private property upon which such vehicle is located, or to both the registered owner and the owner or person in lawful possession of such private property, by certified mail with return receipt or by personal service, that such vehicle violates the provisions of this section and that within five days, the vehicle is to be removed to a place of lawful storage or to be housed in a building where it will not be visible from the street.
- (2) Removal by City. In addition to any other penalty prescribed in Chapter 1399, if the registered owner of any vehicle which is in violation of this section, or the owner or person in lawful possession or control of the private property upon which the same is located, fails, neglects or refuses to remove or house such vehicle in accordance with the notice given pursuant to the provisions of subsection (e)(1), the City Inspector, Property Maintenance Enforcement Officer and/or the Chief of Police may remove and dispose of such vehicle as provided in Chapter 359.
- (3) Right of Entry. The City Inspector, Property Maintenance Enforcement Officer and/or the Chief of Police, any contracting agent of the City, any employee of such contracting agent, and any authorized officer, employee or agent of the City, are expressly authorized to enter upon private property for the purpose of enforcing the provisions of this section. No person shall interfere, hinder or refuse to allow them to enter upon private property for such purpose and to remove any vehicle pursuant to this section. Any person to whom notice was given pursuant to subsection (e)(1) hereof shall have the right to remove or house such vehicle at his own expense at any time prior to the arrival of the City Inspector, Property Maintenance Enforcement Officer and/or the Chief of Police or their designees for the purpose of removal.

Section 3. That Section 1399.03 of the Codified Ordinances be amended to read as follows (additions are in **bold**, deletions are in ~~strikethrough~~):

1399.03 ~~MOTOR~~ VEHICLE STORAGE VIOLATIONS.

- (a) Whoever violates Section 1309.01 is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

(b) Whoever violates Section 1309.02 is guilty of a minor misdemeanor **for a first offense. Any subsequent violation within a 12-month period shall constitute a fourth degree misdemeanor. Each day such violation continues shall be considered a separate offense. Nothing herein contained shall prevent the City from taking such other lawful action as is necessary to prevent or remedy any violation.**

(c) **In any instance where the City incurs any expenses or fines, including but not limited to legal costs and fees, because of any person or entity's violation or failure to comply with any provisions and requirements in chapter 1309, the expenses incurred, plus an administrative fee which shall be no more than the expenses incurred shall be recovered from the person or entity.**

(d) **Any amounts owed to the City of Mount Vernon pursuant to any provision or requirements of chapter 1309, whether for work completed by the City or for assessed penalties or expenses, may be certified by the City Inspector or his designee as a lien against the property with the Knox County Auditor for collection in the same manner as property taxes and assessments.**

Section 4. This Resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public, peace, health and safety by properly regulating storage of vehicles within the City, and said Resolution shall, therefore, become effective upon its date of passage and approval by the Mayor, provided that it receives the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the members elected to the Council of the City of Mount Vernon; otherwise, it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

Bruce E. Hawkins, President of Council

PASSED: _____, 2026

ATTEST: _____
Zachary Sherman, Clerk of Council

APPROVED: _____, 2026

Matthew T. Starr, Mayor