

Barry Armstrong

To: Barry Armstrong (barmstrong@mtwky.org)
subject: ordinance on parking in the grass.

Mayors Report

Parking in the Grass, a City Ordinance

We have an ordinance adopted some years ago prohibiting parking vehicles in the grass on residential and commercial property.

There have been some people who are opposed to this ordinance and believe this ordinance is over reaching and should not be enforced.

However there are many ordinances in our city that have been adopted that protect city residential property owners. Many restrictions are put there by land developers who put restrictions in the plats and deeds of the property, ordinances written and adopted by City Councils and by planning and zoning. These restrictions are not designed or implemented to harm property owners but to protect property owners from owners and or tenants from practicing activities that, if allowed to continue, will harm or devalue the property next door to a violation.

By and large, a property owner who is regularly parking in the grass will end up with a muddy front or side yard, eventually carrying mud across the sidewalks and onto the streets where cars will run through and carry on down the street. This is the same result that happens when home construction is under way, and lumber trucks and concrete trucks are allowed to pull into the construction lots unload their product and then carry the mud back on to our city streets. This is no difference as we do not allow this to take place as well.

We hear from some citizens that a property owner is just that, a property owner and should be allowed to do what he wants on his property. We have an ordinance that requires you to maintain your property, cut the grass and over growths, not stack dead trees and limbs and allow this debris to accumulate in your yards. Can you imagine what your city would look like if there was no ordinance that required you to cut your grass and weeds when they reached a height greater than 8 inches. We have ordinances that do not allow encroachment into a set back line, this keeps the front of all dwellings in a perfect line down the street. Can you imagine no set back lines and one house built right next to the road, or right on the joint property line. What if we have no restrictions and you could come in and build your home however you see fit. You can build out of concrete block, brick or whatever material you select. You could build a pole barn right next door to a \$400,000 home right in the middle of Cherry Hill Subdivision, or Twelve Oaks. You have a swimming pool in your back yard and you do not want to install a fence for the protection of children from falling into the water accidentally. There is currently an ordinance that requires a fence around pools. Can you imagine your next door neighbor building a 10 foot high fence on the property line between your home and your neighbors and taking it out to the street past the front wall of your home.

Please, I am not trying to over-simplify this issue but only trying to help you see the reasoning for city ordinances. Please also understand that practically every city in our area have the about ordinances and many have more. You could argue the defense line that you own your property and if we used that logic then all I have mentioned above would be out of our control. Then you would have no one who would want to come in

and purchase your home when you were trying to sell it. ALL OF THIS IS TO PROTECT YOUR INVESTMENT AS A HOME OWNER.

There are very few residents who are violating this ordinance, as there are 7500 residences in our city and we are having an issue with probably no more than 100 residential properties.

Can you imagine what our city would look like if all 7500 residences were violating this ordinance.