



REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION

MEETING DATE: February 7, 2022

PREPARED BY: Joe Hogeboom, Director of Community and Economic Development

AGENDA ITEM: Zoning ordinance text amendment refuse and recycling container location

PREVIOUS ACTIONS:
None

RECOMMENDED COUNCIL ACTION:
Motion to adopt Ordinance No. 22-03 amending City Code chapter 26 regarding refuse and recycling container location.

COMMENTS:

Current city code regulations require that refuse and recycling containers be completely screened from view at all times, with the exception of collection days. The proposed ordinance requires that refuse containers would have to be located on a hard surface (i.e. not on grass), located behind the front plane of the home (i.e. not in the driveway in front of a garage door), adjacent to the home (i.e. not located in the middle of the yard), and closed at all times (i.e. not overflowing and creating smells, etc.). Per the new ordinance, all additional refuse receptacles, and overflow waste, must either be screened completely from adjacent properties and public right-of-ways, or be stored in the garage.

This proposed ordinance comes in response to a significant increase in the number of complaints received in the past several years, and the city's ability to allocate resources in managing the current set of regulations in light of other code enforcement concerns. In 2020, there were 190 complaints made for refuse container location. In 2021, 694 complaints were made. Many complaints come in the form of long lists that are created by individuals driving through neighborhoods and seeking out violations. In most cases of these violations, containers were located in front of garage doors. The residents in violation expressed concern that they did not have adequate space within their garages to store all of their containers (some households can now have up to four containers).

The proposed ordinance still does not allow containers to be stored in front of garage doors. However, it does give an option of outdoor storage in a less-descript area beside the garage or home. Maple Grove employs one full-time zoning enforcement officer, who is responsible not only for refuse container placement, but for all property maintenance issues within the city in both commercial and residential areas. This proposed ordinance offers an alternative to container storage that still prevents overt keeping of containers in front of homes and garages, while still allowing additional flexibility for residents.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A: Ordinance No. 22-03

Attachment B: Ordinance No. 22-03 summary