

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Harrisonburg City Council will hold public hearings on March 27, 2018 at 7:00 p.m., or as soon as the agenda permits, in the City Council Chambers located at 409 South Main Street, Harrisonburg, Virginia, to consider the following:

City Code Amendment – Section 16-6-58. Weeds, etc. on Lots

Public hearing to consider amending the City Code Section 16-6-58. Weeds, etc., on lots by replacing the entire section with new and updated language to regulate the growth of grass, weeds, or foreign growth when such vegetation is presumed to threaten the health, safety, and general welfare of the residents of the City. Section 16-6-58 Weeds, etc., on lots is commonly referred to as the tall grass and weeds (TGW) ordinance. If approved, the regulating provisions and processes for rectification will predominately remain the same as they are implemented under the current ordinance. The enforcement period as well as the 12-inch height stipulation will remain in place; upon notice of violation, property owners will still be given five days to rectify the violation; only one notice per growing season will continue to be reasonable notice necessary to take corrective action or to issue penalties for future violations; and the City will maintain the ability to mow properties and bill the owner for the work and collect any unpaid fees as taxes. Changes to the code includes: adding a statement to clarify the interpretation of enforcement of the ordinance; adding new exemptions as to when the ordinance does not apply, which consists of certain circumstances with undeveloped properties, areas of steep slopes, and adding that all undeveloped public alleys and streets are exempt. The existing regulations associated with the removal of trash, garbage, and refuse will be eliminated from this section of the Code as such issues are regulated under a different part of the City Code. Lastly, this section of the Code will be decriminalized as violations of the regulations will no longer carry a criminal offense, but rather provides for \$50.00 civil penalties to be issued.

Copies of the proposed amended Ordinance is available on the city's website and are available in the City Manager's Office, 409 South Main Street, Harrisonburg, Virginia, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

All persons interested will have an opportunity to express their views at these public hearings.

Any person requiring auxiliary aids, including signers, in connection with this public hearing shall notify the City Manager at least five (5) days prior to the time of the hearing.

CITY OF HARRISONBURG

Eric D. Campbell
City Manager

To be advertised two (2) times:
Saturday, March 17th, 2018
Saturday, March 24, 2018