

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-04

AN ORDINANCE REGARDING STORAGE AND USE OF CAMPERS, RECREATIONAL VEHICLES AND OTHER TEMPORARY DWELLING UNITS IN THE CITY OF HARDIN

WHEREAS, the City Council (hereinafter "Council") of the City of Hardin (hereinafter "City") is authorized to adopt ordinances that will preserve peace and order, and secure and promote the general public health and welfare, per Mont. Code Ann. § 7-1-4123 (2025);

WHEREAS, the Council finds that overnight camping or the use of temporary dwellings in the City may contribute to crime, blight, rodent infestation, unsanitary conditions, and other undesirable conditions that are contrary to the peace and order, and the general public health and welfare of the City;

WHEREAS, the Council finds overnight camping and the use of temporary dwellings should be regulated to promote peace and order, and to preserve the general public health and welfare of the City.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF HARDIN, MONTANA, Title 11, shall be amended by the insertion of a new Chapter, as follows:

CHAPTER 3

CAMPING, CAMP FACILITIES, AND STORAGE

SECTION:

- 11-3-1: Definitions
- 11-3-2: Prohibition of Camping or Camp Facilities
- 11-3-3: Storage of Campers and Recreational Vehicles in the City
- 11-3-4: Campers Prohibited in Trailer or Mobile Home Parks
- 11-3-5: Penalty

11-3-1: DEFINITIONS:

CAMP OR CAMPING: means to pitch, erect, create, use or occupy or otherwise inhabit camp facilities

CAMP FACILITY: includes, but is not limited to, tents, huts, temporary shelters, structures, vehicles, trailers, campers, recreational vehicles (motorized or non-motorized) designed for use as temporary living quarters, motor homes, camping trailers, tent trailers, truck campers,

camper vans, or any other item used for the purpose of camping or temporary dwelling.

STORAGE: storage of a camper, recreational vehicle, camper van, truck camper, motor home or similar means dry storage, without connection to electricity, and in a manner that is not meant for use as a camping facility. Storage may include protections against rodents or sun damage, but shall not include skirting of any kind.

11-3-2: PROHIBITION OF CAMPING AND CAMPING FACILITIES:

- A. It is unlawful for any person to camp or use a camping facility in the city except in a campground as defined by Mont. Code. Ann. § 50-52-101(1) (2025), or as approved by City Council, and which is in compliance with state and city health, licensing, and zoning provisions.
- B. Exception (not applicable to campgrounds):
 - a. Camping in a tent or camper for a period of five days or less in any thirty (30) period is allowable on any residential property.
 - i. No camping facility may be connected to city water unless actively filling water tanks, in which case the water connection should be immediately disconnected upon completion of filling.
 - ii. Under no circumstances should any camping facility be connected to city wastewater, or discharge into stormwater drains or onto streets or alleys.
 - iii. No more than one camping facility per residential lot.
 - iv. No skirting of any kind is allowed on any camping facility parked on a residential lot.
- C. Camping and/or camping facilities are prohibited on city owned property, easements granted to the city for any purpose, public rights of way, regardless of the legal status of the right of way, road, alleys, sidewalks, boulevards, and on property leased by the city.
 - a. The City may abate or cause the abatement of any camp facility, property, or other personal items in the public right-of-way by conspicuously posting a 72-hour notice of abatement. After the 72-hour notice period, any items remaining will be considered abandoned and subject to disposal. No notice is required to abate waste, debris, trash, or to abate a condition impeding traffic or when the condition poses an imminent risk to public health or safety.
 - b. The City may seek the costs of abatement including the costs of towing and impoundment as restitution in a criminal case or as part of a judgement in a civil proceeding.
- D. Camping and/or camping facilities on any empty, vacant, damaged, abandoned, unclaimed, or unused lot is prohibited.

- E. Camping and/or camping facilities on commercial or industrial lots is prohibited, unless the lot is used as a storage facility.
- F. The Mayor or the Chief of Police may grant exceptions to these prohibitions upon application of any person.

11-3-3: **STORAGE OF CAMPERS AND RECREATIONAL VEHICLES IN THE CITY**

- A. No more than one camper, recreational vehicle, camper van, truck camper, motor home or similar may be stored on a residential lot.

11-3-4: **CAMPERS PROHIBITED IN TRAILER OR MOBILE HOME PARKS**

It shall be unlawful for any camper, motor home, recreational vehicle or other camping facility to be stored or placed in any trailer or mobile home park, unless the park is also an established or approved campground.

11-3-5: **PENALTY**

Any person found in violation of this chapter is guilty of a misdemeanor, and is punishable of a fine of up to \$500, or up to 6 months in the county jail, or both and court surcharges. Each day is a separate violation.

DATE OF EFFECT.

The amendment to this ordinance shall take effect and be in force thirty (30) days from the date of its second reading and passage by the City Council as required by law.

FIRST READING AND PASSAGE By a majority vote of the members present this 2nd day of December, 2025.

YEAS 6

NAYS 0

[Signature]
Mayor

ATTEST:

[Signature]
City Clerk



POSTED AND MADE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC this 4th day of December, 2025.

Andrew Lehr
City Clerk

SECOND READING AND PASSAGE By a majority vote of the members present this _____ day of _____, 2025.

YEAS _____

NAYS _____

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk