

COUNCIL OF THE WHOLE MEETING
Topic: Junk & Rubbish, Private Wells and Solicitor Code
August 24, 2026

Council President Thad Eikenbary called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m. and noted the topic was on junk & rubbish, private wells, & solicitors within city limits.

Ringwald, Johnson, Block, Agler, Roberts, Moore, and Hurless were present.

Hurless has presented proposed changes to council via email for review within the last few meetings.

Starting with Junk & Rubbish, Chapter 96. Hurless presented council with a newly edited version of this ordinance amendment summarizing changes (attached). Discussion ensued among council members to determine what would be appropriate to cover a car/project mainly speaking if a tarp was appropriate and if so, if there should be a time limit.

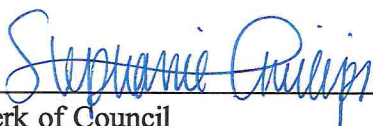
Agler wants to add a condition to the ordinance to require both tenant and landlord be notified of an ordinance violation. As it currently sits, typically only the tenant is notified per city procedure although the definition uses tenant OR property owner.

Hurless next summarizes changes to the prepared Private Wells ordinance which was tabled on it's second reading. Changes/suggestions are attached. Hurless pointed out specifics under the topic of replacement wells for residents who live south of 118 & 127. Some of those residents currently have city sewage, but not city water. The Safety Service Director requested that residents that fall under the replacement well topic, must also pass VW County Health Department inspection if a replacement well is necessary. There was a lengthy discussion around expanding city water passed the water treatment plant (127) and the school (118). As it currently sits, the Safety Service Director believes that adding lines past these points are not in the best interest of the people as the water turnover is not great enough.

Jody Huth, 668 N. Walnut St., brings attention to classic car restoration specifically and wants a clearer definition for storing outside and whether or not a tarp is acceptable.

Lastly, the solicitor ordinance summary of changes was presented which is attached. Council is in agreeance with these changes.

Meeting adjourned at 6:27 p.m.



Clerk of Council
Stephanie R. Phillips



President of Council
Thad R. Eikenbary

Approved on: September 14, 2026

CHAPTER 96: JUNK MOTOR VEHICLES, RECREATIONAL VEHICLES, JUNK AND RUBBISH

Section

Junk Motor Vehicles, Junk, and Rubbish

- 96.01 Definitions
- 96.02 Maintaining junk or rubbish prohibited
- 96.03 Notice and removal
- 96.04 Disposal of vehicle left without permission
- 96.05 Vehicle left with permission
- 96.06 When vehicle storage permitted

Miscellaneous

- 96.99 Penalty

JUNK MOTOR VEHICLES, JUNK, AND RUBBISH

§ 96.01 DEFINITIONS.

For the purpose of this chapter the following definitions shall apply unless the context clearly indicates or requires a different meaning.

DEPOSIT. To throw, drop, discard, or place.

FRONT YARD. A yard extending across the full width of the lot, lying between the front property line or the right-of-way, and the furthestmost projection of the principal building or group of buildings.

JUNK. ~~Any worn out, cast off, or discarded article or material which is ready for destruction or has been collected or stored for salvage or conversion to some other use.~~ Any item, article, or material that is:

(1) Broken, deteriorated, unsafe, missing essential parts, or no longer functional or usable for its original intended purpose, left outdoors; or

(2) Stored outdoors in a manner that creates a nuisance or negatively affects the appearance, safety, or contributes to the blight or deterioration of the neighborhood.

Junk includes, but is not limited to: scrap metal; discarded or inoperable appliances; broken or deteriorated furniture; tires and auto parts; deteriorated or non-functioning bicycles; construction debris; mattresses; piles of discarded materials; and similar items.

(3) Portions of ~~cars~~ vehicles, including but not limited to hoods, fenders, radiators, rims, motor parts and tires, not being utilized for the repair of a vehicle. This shall not

apply to licensed vehicle dealers, auto and body repair shops and federal, state and local government agencies including boards of education.

JUNK VEHICLE. Any vehicle including cars, trucks, truck trailers, trailers, recreational vehicles as defined in this chapter, and other vehicles, whether propelled or not, which meet any of the following:

(1) Extensively damaged, such damage including, but not limited to any of the following: missing wheels, tires, motor or transmission;

(2) Apparently inoperable; and

(3) Wrecked, partially wrecked, dismantled, partially dismantled, or in a discarded condition, or is incapable of being driven and has remained in such condition for a continuous period of 10 days, unless such vehicle is located at the property of licensed auto dealers, auto and body repair shops, or federal, state, or local government agencies including Boards of Education, when the allowable period of time shall be 60 days.

~~(5)~~ (4) No current license plates bearing valid, non-expired registration tags matching the vehicle description displayed on vehicle. This subdivision shall not apply to licensed vehicle dealers, auto and body repair shops and federal, state and local government agencies including boards of education.

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~~— (4) Portions of cars, including but not limited to hoods, fenders, radiators, rims, motor parts and tires, not being utilized for the repair of a vehicle, shall be considered a junk vehicle. (moved to definition of JUNK)~~

~~— (5) No current license plates displayed on vehicle. This subdivision shall not apply to licensed vehicle dealers, auto and body repair shops and federal, state and local government agencies including boards of education. (moved to JUNK VEHICLE section)~~

LITTER. Trash, garbage, waste, rubbish, ashes, cans, bottles, wire, paper, cartons, boxes, automobile parts, machine parts, furniture, indoor furniture exposed to the elements, glass, dead animals, animal offal, vegetable refuse, miscellaneous junk, recyclables, or anything else of an unsightly or unsanitary nature. The definition of LITTER does not include leaves, bagged leaves, shrubs, and tree branches set out for collection.

LITTER RECEPTACLE. A dumpster, trash can, trash bin, garbage can, garbage and/or trash bag, recyclable bin/container, or similar container in which litter is deposited for removal.

NONTRANSPARENT BARRIER. A barrier at least 6 feet but not more than 10 8 feet in height which is constructed of a nontransparent material approved by the Safety-Service

Matches fence height restriction

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Director and created and maintained so as to substantially obscure objects located within or upon the premises surrounded from the ordinary view of persons or any public street, highway, or other adjoining property.

NOTICE. A written statement stating the manner in which a provision of this section is being violated, the description and/or location of the premises, the name of the owners and tenants (if any) of such premises and the period of time within such premises are to be cleared of such violations. ~~Such notice shall be signed by the city zoning and building inspector or his or her designee. After the initial notice any reoccurring violation during the calendar year of the initial notice shall be deemed a repeat offense and subject to immediate clearing of the premises of the violation. The notice shall be served upon the occupant by certified mail, or by conspicuously posting a copy upon the door of the premises, or in a conspicuous manner upon any vacant lot, or by personal delivery by the City Code Enforcement Officer or his or her designee.~~ (moved to 96.03 NOTICE AND REMOVAL)

OWNER. The person, firm, or corporation in whose name the premises are listed in the records of deeds in the County Recorder's office.

RECREATIONAL VEHICLE. Any vehicle driven or pulled that is intended for recreational activities. This includes but is not limited to demolition derby vehicles, mudding vehicles, motorized or non-motorized camping vehicles, tractors, electric bicycles, golf carts and other off-road vehicles.

RUBBISH. Used wire, bottles, broken glass, crockery, tin, cast or wooden ware, boxes, rags, dead weeds, stumps, tree trunks, brush and any other organic material, paper circulars, handbills, boots, shoes, ashes, garbage (rejected food including every waste accumulation of animal, food and vegetable matter used or intended for food or that attends the preparation, use, cooking, dealing in, or storing of meat, fish, fowl, fruit, or vegetables, sewage wastes), toys, bicycles, human or animal aids or containment items, broken lawn care or lawn decoration items.

NUISANCE. Any condition that: harbors or attracts pests, rodents, or vermin; creates odors or unsanitary conditions; creates a fire, safety, or health hazard; endangers the health, safety, or welfare of the public.

(1981 Code, § 96.01) (Ord. 5679-80, passed 6-9-1980; Am. Ord. 6534-92, passed 12-28-1992; Am. Ord. 6562-93, passed 8-9-1993; Am. Ord. 6618-94, passed 6-27-1994; Am. Ord. 6663-95, passed 6-12-1995; Am. Ord. 6891-98, passed 9-28-1998; Am. Ord. 6963-99, passed 3-8-1999; Am. Ord. 07-07-058, passed 8-13-2007; Am. Ord. 07-07-059, passed 8-13-2007; Am. Ord. 11-10-062, passed 11-28-2011; Am. Ord. 12-06-031, passed 7-23-2012; Am. Ord. 12-06-034, passed 7-23-2012; Am. Ord. 12-06-035, passed 7-23-2012; Am. Ord. 15-08-021, passed 9-14-2015; Am. Ord. 19-11-073, passed 1-13-2020; Am. Ord. 21-10-052, passed 11-22-2021)

§ 96.02 MAINTAINING JUNK OR RUBBISH PROHIBITED.

(A) No person shall deposit, store, maintain, collect, or permit the storage, deposit, maintenance, or collection of any junk, litter or rubbish on his or her own premises or any premises under his or her control, including porches, patios and other enclosures where the items inside are visible from the public right-of-way, or on the streets, sidewalks or alleys or in any other place within the city, except as expressly provided by law.

(B) No person, firm or corporation shall store or permit to be stored, for a period of more than 10 days, any junk vehicle upon any lot or land situated in the city where such use is not specifically permitted by the Zoning Code, unless the same is within a completely enclosed building, garage or a "nontransparent barrier" as defined in § 96.01 of the Van Wert City Code of Ordinances.

(C) No junk vehicle shall be parked in any portion of anyone's yard where it can be visible from any public street, alley, or adjoining surrounding property unless concealed by a "nontransparent barrier" as defined in § 96.01 of the Van Wert City Code of Ordinances.

(D) No junk vehicles shall be parked so that any part of that vehicle extends into any alley.

(E) **Visibility Standard.** It shall be a violation of this chapter if junk or rubbish is visible from any street, sidewalk, alley, or surrounding property and the accumulation negatively affects the appearance of the premises or the surrounding neighborhood.

(F) **Nuisance Standard.** It shall be a violation of this chapter, regardless of visibility, if the junk or rubbish creates a nuisance as defined in § 96.01.

(G) **Exceptions.** This section shall not apply to:

- (1) Items stored entirely within an enclosed building, structure, or nontransparent barrier that complies with all applicable zoning and building codes;
- (2) Normal household items in good working condition that are stored neatly for ongoing use;
- (3) Temporary storage of construction materials or equipment during active construction or renovation; or
- (4) Any activity expressly permitted by another provision of the City Code.

(1981 Code, § 96.02) (Ord. 5679-80, passed 6-9-1980; Am. Ord. 6562-93, passed 8-9-1993; Am. Ord. 6618-94, passed 6-27-1994; Am. Ord. 6717-96, passed 7-8-1996; Am. Ord. 6963-99, passed 3-8-1999; Am. Ord. 11-10-065, passed 11-28-2011; Am. Ord. 12-06-032, passed 7-23-2012; Am. Ord. 12-06-033, passed 7-23-2012; Am. Ord. 21-10-052, passed 11-22-2021) Penalty, see § 96.99

§ 96.03 NOTICE AND REMOVAL.

Moved from definition of NOTICE

(A) Notice of the condition of the lot violating this chapter must be served on the owner, tenant or other person in control of the property. Such notice shall be signed by the city zoning and building inspector or his or her designee. After the initial notice any reoccurring violation during the calendar year of the initial notice shall be deemed a repeat offense and

subject to immediate clearing of the premises of the violation. The notice shall be served upon the occupant by certified mail, or by conspicuously posting a copy upon the door of the premises, or in a conspicuous manner upon any vacant lot, or by personal delivery by the City Code Enforcement Officer or his or her designee. The notice will provide that the lot must be cleared within 5 days of such notice, and that if not done by that time, the same can be done by the city or the city's designee. The costs and expenses thereof shall be taxed against the premises. The total cost of the work done shall be certified to the County Auditor, to be assessed against the premises upon which the labor was performed and collected as other taxes are collected.

(B) The cost of the labor shall be \$300 for the first hour and \$100 per hour for each hour thereafter.

(C) **Primary Enforcement Authority.** The City Police Department shall be the primary agency responsible for enforcement of this chapter. The City Police Department shall:

- (1) Receive and investigate complaints;
- (2) Conduct inspections;
- (3) Issue notices of violation;
- (4) Perform re-inspections and monitor compliance;
- (5) Maintain case files and records; and
- (6) Initiate abatement actions as necessary.

(D) **City Engineering Department Support Role.** The City Engineering Department shall provide assistance upon request of the City Police Department.

(E) **Oversight by Safety Service Director.** The Safety Service Director (or designee) shall provide administrative oversight of the program, including review of chronic cases, approval of abatement actions, inter-departmental coordination, interpretation of procedures, and public communication.

(F) **Interdepartmental Cooperation.** All City departments and divisions shall cooperate and provide assistance as needed to implement and enforce this chapter, with the City Police Department designated as the lead agency.

(1981 Code, § 96.03) (Ord. 5679-80, passed 6-9-1980; Am. Ord. 6562-93, passed 8-9-1993; Am. Ord. 6618-94, passed 6-27-1994; Am. Ord. 01-02-006, passed 3-12-2001; Am. Ord. 21-10-052, passed 11-22-2021) Penalty, see § 96.99

§ 96.04 DISPOSAL OF VEHICLE LEFT WITHOUT PERMISSION.

If a junk motor vehicle is left upon private property for more than 72 hours without permission of the person having the right to possession of the property, on a public street or other property open to the public for purposes of vehicular travel or parking, or upon or within the right-of-way of any road or highway for 48 hours or longer, the Chief of Police or

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a person designated by the Chief of Police to act on his behalf may proceed to dispose of the abandoned junk vehicle as provided under R.C. § 4513.63.

(1981 Code, § 96.04) (Ord. 5679-80, passed 6-9-1980) Penalty, see § 96.99

§ 96.05 VEHICLE LEFT WITH PERMISSION.

If a junk vehicle is left in the open on private property for more than 72 hours with permission of the person having the right of possession of that property, notice of the condition of the vehicle in violation shall be served on the owner, tenant or person in control of the property. The notice will provide that the vehicle in violation shall be covered by being housed in a garage or other suitable structure or shall be removed from the city corporation limits within 10 days of receipt of this notice. If after 10 days the vehicle is still in violation, the city shall remove at the expense of the property owner.

(1981 Code, § 96.05) (Ord. 5679-80, passed 6-9-1980; Am. Ord. 02-03-015, passed 4-22-2002; Am. Ord. 21-10-052, passed 11-22-2021) Penalty, see § 96.99

§ 96.06 WHEN VEHICLE STORAGE PERMITTED.

If the person who is in possession of the property is engaged in a bona fide commercial operation or if the vehicle is a collector's vehicle as defined in ORC §4501.01(F), then the vehicle may be stored upon the following condition: The vehicle shall be concealed from the general public by means of buildings, screening fence, shrub, or other suitable obstruction.

(1981 Code, § 96.06) (Ord. 5679-80, passed 6-9-1980) Penalty, see § 96.99

MISCELLANEOUS

§ 96.99 PENALTY.

(A) Whoever violates §§ 96.02 or 96.03 shall be guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If the offender has a prior conviction, the minimum fine shall be no less than \$50. If the offender has two or more prior convictions, the minimum fine shall be no less than \$100. Each day that a violation exists after the initial 5-day warning period shall be considered a separate offense.

(Am. Ord. 25-08-036, passed 10-13-2025)

(B) Whoever violates § 96.04 shall be guilty of a minor misdemeanor and shall also be assessed any costs incurred accruing to the city from the disposal.

(C) Whoever fails to comply with § 96.06 by failing to remove or conceal the junk vehicle within 10 days of the notice shall be guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. The city

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shall remove the vehicle at the cost of the property owner. The owner of the vehicle shall retrieve the vehicle within 30 days and all fines including towing and storage costs shall be paid before the vehicle will be released. After 30 days the vehicle will be considered an abandoned motor vehicle and disposed by law, and the total costs shall be certified to the County Auditor to be assessed against the property and collected as other taxes are collected.

(Ord. 5679-80, passed 6-9-1980; Am. Ord. 6562-93, passed 8-9-1993; Am. Ord. 6618-94, passed 6-27-1994; Ord. 01-02-006, passed 3-12-2001; Am. Ord. 02-03-015, passed 4-22-2002)

Summary of Changes:

Definitions (§ 96.01)

- “Junk” definition expanded and clarified: Replaced vague wording with a detailed, criteria-based definition:
 - Includes items broken, deteriorated, unsafe, or unusable.
 - Adds nuisance/appearance standard.
 - Provides explicit examples (appliances, furniture, tires, debris, etc.).
- Vehicle parts (hoods, tires, etc.) moved from “junk vehicle” definition → “junk” definition.
- “Junk vehicle” updates
 - Clarifies requirement for valid, non-expired plates matching vehicle (more specific than just “no plates”)
- Fence/barrier height reduced: Nontransparent barrier max height lowered from 10 ft → 8 ft.
- Notice definition simplified: detailed notice procedures relocated to § 96.03.
- New definition added: “Nuisance”-Defines conditions involving:
 - Health/safety hazards
 - Pests/vermin
 - Odors or unsanitary conditions

Prohibited Conduct (§ 96.02)

- Visibility rule broadened: Applies to visibility from streets, alleys, sidewalks, and “surrounding property” (expanded from “adjoining/public”).

New: Visibility Standard

- Violation if junk/rubbish is visible AND negatively impacts neighborhood appearance

New: Nuisance Standard

- Violation exists even if not visible if it creates a nuisance.

New: Explicit Exceptions added

- Includes:
 - Properly enclosed storage

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- Normal household items in good condition
- Active construction materials
- Uses allowed elsewhere in city code

 Enforcement responsibilities clearly defined

- City Police Department designated as lead agency. Handles inspections, notices, enforcement, and records.
 - Engineering Department will serve in support role
- Safety-Service Director oversight added.
- Interdepartmental cooperation mandated

 Overall Impact

- Moves from vague and reactive ordinance → structured, enforceable system
- Visibility Standard no longer "adjoining" property, now "surrounding" property and not limited to being viewed from "public" property
- Adds:
 - Clear definitions
 - Enforcement accountability
- Expands focus from just "junk" to:
 - Neighborhood impact
 - Public health & nuisance conditions

ORDINANCE Number: 26-06-034

Committee: Judiciary and Annexation

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING SECTION 150.41 PRIVATE WELLS TO THE CITY OF VAN WERT CODE OF ORDINANCES

The Van Wert City Council met in regular session to address the issue of private wells located in the City of Van Wert.

WHEREAS, the City of Van Wert has the duty to regulate the drilling of private wells in the City of Van Wert as part of its zoning authority.

WHEREAS, the City of Van Wert, Ohio, believes that adopting legislation on the drilling of private wells in the City of Van Wert is an appropriate use of its authority as set out in the proposed new statute proposed as Section 150.41 titled "Private Wells" attached hereto as Exhibit A.

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved:

Section I

That the City Council for Van Wert, Ohio adopts proposed Section 150.41 titled "Private Wells" to the City of Van Wert, Ohio Code of Ordinances.

Passed: _____, 2026

Thad R. Eikenbary President of Council

Stephanie R. Phillips Clerk of Council

Kenneth J. Markward Mayor

Exhibit A

Section 150.41 – Private Wells

Definition

“Private Well” means any well, borehole, or excavation constructed for the purpose of withdrawing groundwater for domestic, commercial, industrial, irrigation, or other private use, whether potable or non-potable, and not owned or operated by the City of Van Wert.

The term includes new wells, replacement wells, and existing active wells.

The term does **not** include environmental monitoring wells, geothermal closed-loop wells, construction dewatering wells, test wells, temporary emergency wells, or city-owned wells installed for public-purpose infrastructure.

No new private wells shall be a permitted use within the City of Van Wert through all zoning classifications. All new private wells shall be a considered conditional use in all zoning classifications and shall require approval pursuant to the City’s conditional-use procedures.

Exceptions

The following types of wells shall be permitted without conditional-use approval when compliant with all applicable state and federal regulations:

1. **Environmental Monitoring Wells:** Wells installed for groundwater sampling, environmental assessment, remediation, or other activities required or authorized by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), or the United States Environmental Protection Agency.
2. **Geothermal Closed-Loop Wells:** Closed-loop geothermal boreholes that do not withdraw groundwater and are used solely for heating or cooling purposes.
3. **Temporary Emergency Wells:** Temporary wells installed for emergency water supply, fire suppression, construction dewatering, or other short-term public-safety purposes. Such wells must be decommissioned within 180 days unless extended by the Safety-Service Director.
4. **City-Owned or Public-Purpose Wells:** Wells installed by or on behalf of the City of Van Wert for municipal water system testing, hydrological studies, or other public-infrastructure purposes.

Existing Wells

(1) Existing Active Wells

Private Wells legally established and actively in use prior to the adoption of this section may continue as lawful non-conforming uses. Maintenance and repair of such wells is permitted, provided no increase in capacity or change in use occurs.

(2) Capped or Abandoned Wells Not Grandfathered

Any private well that has been capped, sealed, decommissioned, or otherwise abandoned shall not be considered an existing or grandfathered well for purposes of this section. A capped or abandoned well shall not qualify for replacement, reinstatement, or continuation as a lawful non-conforming use. Any request to install a new well on a parcel where a well has been capped or abandoned shall not be permitted.

(3) Replacement Wells

A replacement well may be permitted only for an existing, active private well that has failed, dried, or become inoperable, provided:

- the replacement well is located on the same parcel,
- it does not increase water-withdrawal capacity,
- the property is located South of Fox Road and adjacent to US Route 118 or US Route 127 within the city limits and not currently serviced by city water, and
- it complies with all ODNR well-construction standards.

Wells that have been capped or abandoned shall not qualify for replacement under this subsection.

CHAPTER 115: DOOR TO DOOR SALESPERSONS; ITINERANT MERCHANTS; PEDDLERS AND SOLICITORS

Section

- 115.01 Definitions
- 115.02 License required
- 115.03 Estimated tax payment required
- 115.04 License applications
- 115.05 License fee exemptions
- 115.06 Non-profit groups
- 115.07 Duties of licensees
- 115.08 License revocation
- 115.99 Penalty

§ 115.01 DEFINITIONS.

For the purpose of this chapter the following definitions shall apply unless the context clearly indicates or requires a different meaning.

DOOR-TO-DOOR SALESPERSON. A person who travels from door to door calling on private residents in the city for the purpose of taking orders for future delivery of goods or services.

ITINERANT MERCHANT. One who does not operate from an established place of business, but rather travels from place to place for the purpose of offering for sale and immediate delivery goods, merchandise, or services of any kind or description, or for the purpose of taking orders for future delivery of goods or services.

PEDDLER. Any person who sells or offers for sale and immediate delivery, goods, merchandise or services of any kind or description, other than from a fixed and established place of business, including those who sell from vehicles on the public street or from goods carried from door to door.

SOLICITOR. Any person who calls at residences or places of business without the previous consent of the owner or occupant of the premises for the purpose of taking orders for future delivery of goods, services or subscriptions, or for the purpose of requesting or receiving money, pledges, donations, or gifts for exclusively charitable purposes, including solicitors for funds for medical and social research and other similar purposes.

(1981 Code, § 117.01) (Ord. 6518-92, passed 7-27-1992)

§ 115.02 LICENSE REQUIRED.

No door-to-door salesman, itinerant merchant, peddler or solicitor shall sell or offer for sale in the city, any goods, merchandise, or subscriptions of any kind, or request or receive money, pledges, donations or gifts for charitable purposes, without first having secured a license from the Mayor or his or her representative. The fee for the license shall be ~~\$50~~ \$100 per 12 months from the date of issuance, ~~year, beginning January 1 and ending December 31,~~ no part of which shall be prorated. A city permit badge will be issued stating their personal name, recent photograph, organization's name, city permit number, and license expiration date.

(1981 Code, § 117.02) (Ord. 6518-92, passed 7-27-1992) Penalty, see § 115.99

§ 115.03 ESTIMATED TAX PAYMENT REQUIRED.

The Mayor or his or her representative shall not issue the license described in § 115.02 until the applicant posts an estimated income tax payment in the amount of \$100. This estimated tax payment shall be credited against any tax due when the applicant files his or her city income tax return upon the conclusion of his or her business in the city or on the annual due date, whichever comes first.

(1981 Code, § 117.03) (Ord. 6518-92, passed 7-27-1992)

§ 115.04 LICENSE APPLICATIONS.

(A) Any person desiring to secure a door-to-door salesman; itinerant merchant, or solicitor's license shall apply therefor to the Mayor or his or her representative on forms provided by the city, and the application shall require the following information:

- (1) Name and address of the applicant;
- (2) Applicant's date of birth and Social Security number;
- (3) Name and address of the person, partnership, firm, or corporation by whom he or she is employed;
- (4) Length of service with the employer;
- (5) Place of residence and nature of employment of applicant during the last preceding 12 months;
- (6) The nature or character of the goods, wares, merchandise or services to be offered by the applicant;
- (7) Personal description of the applicant and a recent photograph
- ~~(8) All adult applicants shall submit to fingerprinting for identification purposes.~~

(B) No person shall be issued a license until a background check has been completed by the ~~city Police Department~~ **Ohio BCI** and no person shall be issued a license who has been convicted of any felony or any misdemeanor involving moral turpitude.

(C) The application shall be accompanied by credentials and other evidence of good character and the identity of the applicant as may be reasonably required by the Mayor or his or her representative.

(1981 Code, § 117.04) (Ord. 6518-92, passed 7-27-1992) Penalty, see § 115.99

§ 115.05 LICENSE FEE EXEMPTIONS.

The following persons are hereby declared exempt from the payment of any license fee for licenses under this chapter; any person selling the products of his or her own raising. However, no such person shall engage in the operation of peddling, selling or soliciting, as described in this chapter without first obtaining a license from the Mayor or his or her representative, which shall be issued without fee, shall be subject to all other provisions of this chapter, shall be revokable for cause and shall expire **12 months after** ~~on December 31 of the year of~~ issuance.

(1981 Code, § 117.05) (Ord. 6518-92, passed 7-27-1992)

§ 115.06 NON-PROFIT & SCHOOL GROUPS.

Non-profit groups **and any school-sponsored groups located within Van Wert County** shall be exempt from the provisions of this chapter but shall meet the following requirements: An application shall be filed with the Mayor which includes the name of the organization, name and phone number of the contact person, dates of the proposed operation, nature of the product to be sold or collection to be made, and a list of the people to be involved. There shall be no fee for filing this application.

(1981 Code, § 117.06) (Ord. 6518-92, passed 7-27-1992)

§ 115.07 DUTIES OF LICENSEES.

All holders of licenses issued under this chapter shall be subject to the following:

(A) No license issued under this chapter shall be transferable nor shall it be used by any person other than the licensee.

(B) The license must be exhibited upon request to any law enforcement officer or to any prospective customers.

(C) No licensee shall wear any part of the uniform of any of the armed forces of the United States while actually engaged in peddling or soliciting.

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(D) Licensees shall be limited to the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. to engage in their soliciting or peddling.

(E) Licensees shall honor any "No Soliciting" or "No Trespassing" signs on the property of any prospective customer.

(F) Licensees shall clearly display the city issued permit badge at all times.

(1981 Code, § 117.07) (Ord. 6518-92, passed 7-27-1992) Penalty, see § 115.99

§ 115.08 LICENSE REVOCATION.

Upon a written complaint being filed with the Mayor or his or her representative that any door-to-door salesperson, itinerant merchant, peddler or solicitor ~~is suffering from a communicable disease or~~ has made himself or herself obnoxious to the public by the use of indecent, profane, insulting language or actions, ~~intimidation, or harassment, or the unsanitary condition of his or her person or clothing,~~ an investigation shall be made and if the complaint is found to be true, the license of the individual shall be revoked by the Mayor or his or her representative. In addition, any applicant found to have given false information on the application required in § 115.04 of this chapter shall have the license immediately revoked ~~without refund~~.

(1981 Code, § 117.08) (Ord. 6518-92, passed 7-27-1992) Penalty, see § 115.99

§ 115.09 EXEMPTIONS

Anyone delivering a good from online services ordered by the resident are exempt from requirements under § 115 unless actively soliciting.

§ 115.99 PENALTY.

Whoever violates any provision of this chapter shall be ~~guilty of an unclassified misdemeanor and~~ fined not more than ~~\$200~~ \$500. A separate offense shall be deemed committed each day during or on which an offense occurs or continues.

(1981 Code, § 117.99) (Ord. 6518-92, passed 7-27-1992)

Summary of changes:

Fees & License Terms

- License fee increased from \$50 to \$100 per year
- License term changed from calendar year to 12 months from date of issuance

Identification & Badge Requirements

- New requirement: City-issued permit badge must be provided and displayed
- Badge includes:
 - Name
 - Photograph
 - Organization
 - Permit number
 - Expiration date
- Licensees must display badge at all times while soliciting

Application & Background Checks

- Application now requires a recent photograph
- Background checks changed from City Police Department TO Ohio BCI

License Duration for Exempt Fee Applicants

- Fee-exempt licenses now expire 12 months after issuance, instead of December 31 of the same year

Expanded Exemptions

- Non-profit exemption expanded to include school-sponsored groups
- Must be located within Van Wert County

Conduct & Enforcement Updates

- Added grounds for revocation: Intimidation and harassment explicitly prohibited
- Licenses can now be revoked without refund

New Exemption Category

- Added exemption for delivery drivers (e.g., online orders), as long as they are not actively soliciting

REVISED 7/28/26



Penalties

- Maximum fine increased from \$200 to \$500 per violation



Overall Summary

- Modernizes enforcement and identification
- Increase fees and penalties
- Expands exemptions
- Adds clearer safety, verification, and conduct standards

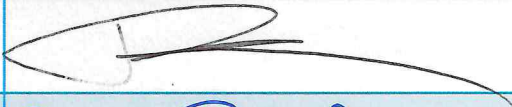
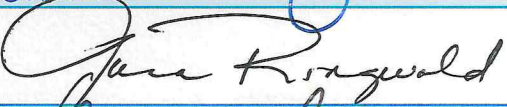
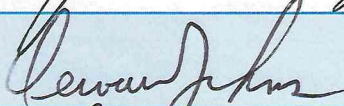
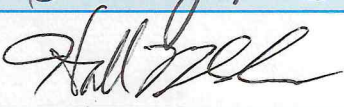
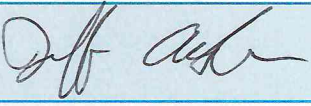
Council of the Whole for the City of Van Wert

August 24, 2026

Topic: Junk & Rubbish, Private Wells, and Solicitors

This document is prepared to formally record attendance of the council of the whole meeting.

Council & City Members

Name	Title	Signature
Ken Markward	Mayor	
Jay Fleming	Safety-Service Director	
Erika Blackmore	Auditor	Not Present
John Hatcher	Law Director	
Thad Eikenbary	Council President	
Jana Ringwald	Council-At-Large	
Dewaine Johnson	Council-At-Large	
Hall Block	Council-At-Large	
Jeff Agler	1 st Ward Councilman	
Greg Roberts	2 nd Ward Councilman	
Julie Moore	3 rd Ward Councilman	
Eric Hurless	4 th Ward Councilman	

Council of the Whole for the City of Van Wert

August 24, 2026

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Members of the Public

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