



In order to protect and preserve Corsicana's neighborhoods and the public health safety and welfare of the citizens, Chapter 6 and Chapter 11 of the Code of Ordinances were established to address the problem of tall grass and weeds. The City Council has determined that keeping the City free of tall grass and weeds improves the quality of life of the residents by improving the aesthetics of the City, by eliminating harbor for rodents and insects and by eliminating fire hazards.

City ordinance requires owners to maintain grass and weeds to a height not exceeding eight (8) inches on 90% of the property. In other words, a violation exists if grass and weeds are taller than 8 inches on more than 10% of the property. This applies to all areas within two hundred feet (200') of any occupied property and/or within fifty feet (50') of any public street. In addition, it applies to the area between the property line and the edge of the street.

Once a tall grass and weeds violation is identified, the owner of the property will be sent a notification letter by mail and will have ten (10) days to correct the violation. After the tenth day, a Code Enforcement Officer will inspect the lot for compliance. If compliant, the violation will be closed. If the lot is still in violation, a citation will be issued and the Code Enforcement Officer may authorize a City contractor to mow the lot. A fee of \$120 per hour will be assessed to the owner of any lot that is mowed by a City contractor. Any fees not paid will be filed as a lien against the property. Notice of a tall grass and weeds violation will be given only once each year for any lot in violation. In the case of repeat violations, the owner will not receive a second written notice but will automatically be issued a new citation for each violation. The City has the authority to foreclose on liens not paid within five years.

Last year Code Enforcement identified over eight hundred (800) tall grass and weeds violations. Over one hundred and sixty (160) citations were issued for non-compliance. Invoices for mowing completed by City contractors totaled \$69,255. Of the amount invoiced, \$63,172 was filed in liens against non-compliant properties due to nonpayment.

Please, with the warmer weather approaching, keep all properties mowed and maintained. Enforcement will be stepped up this year. It costs tax dollars for the City to administer these type violations. If there are areas with tall grass and weeds, please bring it to the attention of the Code Compliance Department at (903) 654-4824. Let's take pride in the community and work together.

Sincerely,

Chuck McClanahan
Mayor