

October 15, 2021

Re: proposed ordinance 3230

Mayor/City Commissioners:

RECEIVED

OCT 15 2021

CITY MANAGER

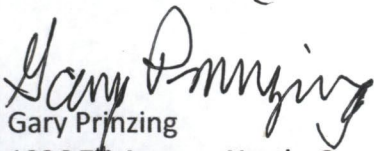
I understand the concern some Great Falls residents and city government individuals have. We have all witnessed the growth in various recreational vehicles and equipment being parked on the city roadways. I am not opposed to the city of Great Falls becoming more active in monitoring and controlling the time that large RV's, Travel Trailers and utility trailers. I am concerned that the ordinance 3230 being discussed by the City Commission will adversely affect a large number of Great Falls residents who own various RV's, Travel Trailers, utility trailers and related items.

I have witnessed an ordinance even more extreme than this being implemented in the City of Torrance, California. While visiting in the South Bay area, the City of Torrance essentially banned any RV/Travel Trailer from being parked on a city street within the city limits overnight. This also included RV repair and sales outlets. While it created issues for those RV/TT owners who had homes in Torrance, other cities surrounding Torrance had a more liberal approach and allowed those items to be parked on a street/roadway per the standard time allowed for parking. I would trust that we, who live in such a marvelous outdoor-accessible state, would not be as confined in our access to our RV/Travel trailer or other trailer as those living in a major metropolitan area such as Torrance, California. However, the proposed ordinance, as written would be nearly as draconian as that in a major California metropolitan area.

As an owner of a number of RV's and trailers, I am opposed to several parts of the proposed ordinance, but specifically, the 36 hour time limit to "load/unload". To expect a household that is "loading or unloading" an RV or Travel Trailer to be able to complete the process in 36 hours is too short a time frame for either process. Part of that 36 hour time limit would involve some/all of the individuals either being at work, school or sleeping. To expect that all "loading or unloading" would be accomplished within that time frame is extremely wishful thinking and unlikely to be achievable by the vast majority of "recreational vehicle," "utility trailer" and "vessel;" owners.

The ordinance also apparently will not allow an owner to make any modifications, cleaning, or even minor service or repairs on the equipment as the time allowed is so limited. I understand that most people would intimate that no service or repairs should be completed "on the street". While very little work of that nature is likely accomplished "on the street", many owners would likely work on the equipment on their property, but need to park the equipment "on the street" when it is not being actively serviced or repaired. The time limit would quickly expire in the owner's attempt to complete even minor servicing or repairs.

Therefore, I would strongly advocate that the proposed ordinance maintain the state/city time frame of 48 and 72 hours and 5 days as outlined in current city and state codes and ordinances.



Gary Prinzing

1826 7th Avenue North Great Falls, MT 59401

406-788-7597

Also included are excerpts of several news items from The Electric.

NEWS SOURCES:

CITY COMMISSION DELAYS VOTE ON PROPOSED RV, LARGE VEHICLE PARKING ORDINANCE CHANGE

Posted on [September 8, 2021](#) by [Jenn Rowell](#)

CODE CHANGES FOR RV, TRAILER PARKING ON AUG. 17 AGENDA FOR INITIAL REVIEW, PUBLIC HEARING ON SEPT. 7

Posted on [August 17, 2021](#) by [Jenn Rowell](#)

The proposed ordinance contains, according to city staff:

- New definitions for a class of vehicles designated as "recreational vehicle," "utility trailer" and "vessel;"
- A new provision that only allows such vehicles to be temporarily parked in a residential district for the limited purpose of loading and unloading, with that "temporary" period being no more than 36 hours in any 7 day period;

COMPLAINTS DRIVE GFPD'S ABANDONED VEHICLE INVESTIGATION PROCESS

Posted on [June 30, 2019](#) by [Jenn Rowell](#)

Excerpt from The Electric

If the vehicle appears to be otherwise legal and operable, volunteers can place an orange sticker on the vehicle as a gentle reminder of the city and state rules that prohibit parking on city streets for more than 72 hours.

Montana Code Annotated 61-8-356 states: "no vehicle shall be parked or left standing upon the right of way of any public highway for a period longer than 48 hours, or upon a city street or any state, county or city property for a period longer than five days."

That rule also applies to recreational vehicles and boats.

It is not illegal to park RVs on city streets but they must be moved every 72 hours.

GFPD does get complaints about RVs and boats, but those typically come into compliance by moving, Ehrke said.

If a vehicle isn't moved after receiving an orange sticker, volunteers can come back and place a green sticker notifying the owner that the vehicle has been classified as junk or abandoned. The registered owner can receive a \$20 citation.

At that point, a letter is sent to the registered owner and if the issue isn't addressed within 10 days of the date the letter is mailed, GFPD can tow the vehicle.

Mayor/City Commissioner
City of Great Falls

From: [Lisa C. Kunz](#)
To: [Bob Kelly](#); [Mary Sheehy Moe](#); [Owen Robinson](#); [Rick Tryon](#); [Tracy Houck](#)
Cc: [Krista Artis](#); [Greg Doyon](#); [Charles Anderson](#); [Jeffrey Hindoien](#)
Subject: FW: Proposed city ordinance limiting RV parking on city streets
Date: Monday, October 18, 2021 1:53:49 PM

FYI

From: Lisa C. Kunz
Sent: Monday, October 18, 2021 1:53 PM
To: 'Judy Gretch' <jgretch@outlook.com>
Subject: RE: Proposed city ordinance limiting RV parking on city streets

Thank you for your comments, Judy. Your comments will be shared with the Commission and appropriate staff for consideration during tomorrow evening's work session and commission meeting agenda item 16.

Best regards,

Lisa Kunz

City Clerk/Records Manager
Civic Center Room 204
406.455.8451

From: Judy Gretch <jgretch@outlook.com>
Sent: Sunday, October 17, 2021 5:02 PM
To: commission <commission@greatfallsmt.net>
Subject: Proposed city ordinance limiting RV parking on city streets

My name is Judy Gretch and I am a resident of the city of Great Falls.
I am a proponent of the proposed city ordinance limiting RV and other large vehicle parking on city streets.

These large vehicles on the city's streets are a safety issue on multiple levels. They limit a driver's visibility of kids playing, other vehicles (both parked and moving) and animals. During the public hearing held on Sept 7, one of the Commissioners asked for a count on the number of incidents that have occurred as a result of these oversized vehicles. In my opinion, if even one incident has caused injury, that is enough to warrant action. I am sure there have been many more than that and many "near misses". Waiting to act, is just a wait game for an accident large enough to force action. I am a believer in preventative care and find inaction, equivalent to negligence.

I understand that there will a need for a transition period, as many people have been using public streets to house their work and recreational vehicles for quite some time. I also understand that finding a place to store these vehicles will bring additional costs to the

owners. Even with these hurdles, I believe that the positives for our community outweigh these inconveniences and have the potential to bring new customers to local businesses. Storage units, vehicle lots...all viable choices for storage, in the event a home garage is not available.

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

From: [Lisa C. Kunz](#)
To: ["mlseitz@yahoo.com"](mailto:mlseitz@yahoo.com)
Cc: [Krista Artis](#); [Greg Doyon](#); [Charles Anderson](#); [Jeffrey Hindoien](#)
Subject: RE: [All City Commissioners] RV parking ordinance
Date: Tuesday, October 19, 2021 10:06:21 AM

Good Morning Mary Ann ~

Thank you for your comments for Commission consideration of Ordinance 3230 on this evening's work session and meeting agendas.

Best regards,

Lisa Kunz

City Clerk/Records Manager
Civic Center Room 204
406.455.8451

From: City of Great Falls Montana <webmaster@greatfallsmt.net>
Sent: Monday, October 18, 2021 7:05 PM
To: City Commissioners <CityCommissioners@greatfallsmt.net>
Subject: [All City Commissioners] RV parking ordinance

Mary Ann Seitz (mlseitz@yahoo.com) sent a message using the contact form at <https://greatfallsmt.net/>.

Please consider passing this ordinance. Parking RV on the streets in Great Falls has gotten out of hand, especially in the winter time when the streets are slippery and it makes it impossible for our snow plows to clear the streets. My feelings about owning RV is if you can afford an RV you can afford to pay storage for them. Please take this under consideration. Thank you.