

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-03

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY VAN METER, IOWA, BY ADDING A CHAPTER CONCERNING THE PLACEMENT OF SHIPPING CONTAINERS ON PROPERTY WITHIN THE CITY OF VAN METER, IOWA

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VAN METER, IOWA:

SECTION 1. The Code of Ordinances of the City of Van Meter, Iowa, as amended, by adding the following new Chapter 51 to the Code of Ordinances:

CHAPTER 51 SHIPPING CONTAINERS

51.01 DEFINITION. "Shipping Container" is defined as a reusable, rigid, metal box used to transport freight or goods on a truck, railroad, railcar, or ship. Such a container is used to move products and raw materials between locations or countries. Standard shipping containers are usually eight feet wide and 8.6 feet high with twenty and forty-foot lengths being the most common. Such a container might be placed on private property and used for the storage of items.

51.02 RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY. The use of a Shipping Container on property used for residential purposes is prohibited.

51.03 COMMERCIAL PROPERTY. The use of a Shipping Container on property used for commercial purposes is prohibited with the exception of the existing Shipping Container located on real estate, currently known as Parcel 1522352002, owned by the City of Van Meter.

51.04 INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY.

1. The use of a Shipping Container is permissible on an industrial/manufacturing property, provided the Shipping Container is not stored in any driving lane, in any public right-of-way (including streets, sidewalks, and parking), in a public utility easement, in a fire lane, in front of the property, or in any area visible from a public street.
2. The placement of a Shipping Container on an industrial/manufacturing property will require a building permit.
3. Shipping Containers may not be stacked on top of one another and stacking other materials on top of or around any Shipping Container is prohibited.

51.05 GOOD REPAIR.

1. Shipping Containers must be kept in good repair and be secured against unauthorized entry and comply with any state and local health regulations.
2. A Shipping Container is not in a state of good repair when it is incapable of being moved intact, contains holes in the container due to damage or rust, cannot be secured against unauthorized entry, or has become infested with vermin, insects, or other pests.

3. A Shipping Container that has deteriorated and is no longer in a state of good repair must be removed immediately from the property and from the City.

51.06 RESIDENTIAL USE. A Shipping Container may not be used as a dwelling or living quarters; and may not be used for camping, cooking, or recreational purposes.

51.07 COMPLIANCE. A Shipping Container existing on any property in the City on the effective date of this Ordinance shall either be removed from the property or brought into compliance with the provisions of this Chapter within ninety (90) days of the Ordinance's effective date with the exception of the Shipping Container currently placed on real estate, currently known as 1522352002, owned by the City of Van Meter.

SECTION 2. Repealer. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith be and the same are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

SECTION 3. Severability Clause. If any section, provision or part of this Ordinance shall be adjudged invalid or unconstitutional, such adjudication shall not affect the validity of the Ordinance as a whole or any section, provision or part thereof not adjudged invalid or unconstitutional.

SECTION 4. When Effective. This Ordinance shall be in effect from and after its final passage, approval and publication as provided by law.

Passed and approved by the Council on the 13th day of January, 2025.

Joe Herman, Mayor

ATTEST:

Jessica Drake, City Clerk

First Reading: _____

Second Reading: _____

Third Reading: _____

I certify that the foregoing was published as Ordinance No. 2025-03 on the ____ day of January, 2025.

ATTEST:

Jessica Drake, City Clerk