

**ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE GARBAGE, RUBBISH, AND OTHER  
WASTE ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF GALAX, VIRGINIA**

**WHEREAS**, the City Council for the City of Galax (“Council”) and the Planning Commission for the City of Galax (“Planning Commission”) are aware of numerous threats to public health, safety and welfare that could result from the excessive accumulation of items of personal property in unenclosed, outdoor areas, including attraction of vermin, the potential for leaking or leaching of chemicals into the groundwater or stormwater conveyances, constituting an attractive nuisance, and decreasing property values in the surrounding community; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Council and the Planning Commission consider it to be appropriate and advisable to adopt reasonable regulations to prohibit the excessive accumulation of such items and to protect the public health, safety and welfare; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Planning Commission, after giving due notice as required by Virginia Code §§ 15.2-2204 and 15.2-2285, convened a public hearing on certain amendments to the City’s Garbage, Rubbish, and Other Waste ordinance on the 7th day of April, 2026, and recommended certain amendments for consideration and adoption by Council, finding that such amendments would promote the health, safety or general welfare of the public; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council, after giving due notice as required by Virginia Code §§ 15.2-2204 and 15.2-2285, has this day held a public hearing, and has considered the recommendation made by the Planning Commission, the City’s Comprehensive Plan, the comments presented during the public hearings, the reports and recommendations of City staff, and the purposes and factors contained in Virginia Code §§ 15.2-2283 and 15.2-2284, has determined to amend the City’s zoning ordinance as provided herein; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council has determined that the public necessity, convenience, general welfare and good zoning practice of the City require and support the amendments to the zoning ordinance as provided herein.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the Council of the City of Galax, that the following new definition is added within Section 1-7 of the Galax City Code as follows:

***Clutter***

*Mechanical equipment, household furniture, containers, and similar items that may be detrimental to the well-being of a community when they are left in public view for an extended period, defined as 30 days or more, or are allowed to accumulate. Items that constitute clutter include those not designed, built, or manufactured for outdoor use or storage.*

**AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED**, by the Council of the City of Galax, that Section 66-1 of the Galax City Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

66-1 Restricted deposits.

It shall be unlawful for any person, directly or indirectly, to deposit or leave upon any street, sidewalk or vacant lot or upon or within any premises, public or private, any garage, filth, litter, *clutter*, junk (which includes but is not limited to disabled motor vehicles and vehicle tires) or other waste matter or other refuse unless such items are stored inside a building or otherwise concealed from common observation and unless they do not constitute a hazard to the health or safety of any person or create a nuisance, provided that all occupants of premises may place such refuse in approved receptacles and quantities along the streets and public alleys adjacent to their premises, on the days and hours designated by the City Manager, to be removed and disposed of by the Garbage Collection Department.

**AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED**, by the Council of the City of Galax, that Section 66-2 of the Galax City Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

66-2 Removal of trash and refuse required; removal by City

Owners, occupants and persons in charge of premises shall, at such time or times as the City Manager or the Code Enforcement Official may prescribe, remove therefrom any and all trash, garbage, refuse, *clutter*, litter and other substances which might endanger the health or safety of other residents of the City. The City Manager or the Code Enforcement Official, whenever he deems it necessary, after reasonable notice of no more than 30 days given to owners, occupants or persons in charge of premises, may have such trash, garbage, refuse, *clutter*, litter and other like substances which might endanger the health of other residents of the City removed by agents, employees or contractors, in which event the cost or expenses thereof shall be chargeable to and paid by the owners of such premises and may be collected by the City as taxes, levies or charges are collected, and the payment of any such charge to the City, agent or contractor by any person failing to comply with such notice shall not bar prosecution for the offense of having failed to comply with such notice. In the rare case that someone cannot physically or logistically remove all cited debris within 30 days after initial notice, and that person contacts the City Manager or Code Enforcement Official prior to the thirty-day deadline ending, the City Manager or Code Enforcement Official has discretion to extend that deadline by no more than 30 additional days.

**AND, BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED**, that this Ordinance shall be in full force and effect upon the date of its adoption.

That this Ordinance is authorized and enacted pursuant to the authority established and provided for pursuant to the provisions of Title 15.2 of the Code of Virginia, and Chapter 66, the Garbage, Rubbish, and Other Waste ordinance of the City of Galax, Virginia.

ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Galax, this 13th day of April, 2026.

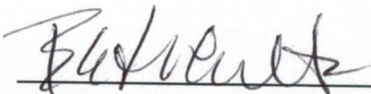
Councilmember Warr offered the foregoing ordinance, which was seconded by Councilmember Burnett

Thereupon, the ordinance was put to a vote upon its final adoption, the results as follows:


For: 6

Against: 0

Dated: 04/13/2026


Approved:  \_\_\_\_\_

**Beth White, Mayor**

Attest:  \_\_\_\_\_  
City Manager

**CERTIFICATE**

I, Michael Burnette, Clerk of the City Council of the City of Galax, Virginia (the "City"), hereby certify that attached hereto is a true and correct copy of an Ordinance adopted by the City Council of the City of Galax on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2026.

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Clerk, City Council

City of Galax, Virginia