

**ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE HOUSING STANDARDS 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 using tents or recreational vehicles as permanent or semi-permanent residences, including lack of sanitation, fire hazards and the potential to attract vermin and other nuisance animals; and,

WHEREAS, the Council and the Planning Commission consider it to be appropriate and advisable to adopt reasonable regulations to guard against these threats to 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 Housing Standards 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 definitions are added within Section 75-1 of the Galax City Code as follows:

RECREATIONAL VEHICLE

A vehicular-type portable structure without permanent foundation that can be towed, hauled, or driven and is primarily designed as a temporary living accommodation for recreational and camping purposes.

TENT

A portable structure usually made of cloth, canvas, plastic, or similar material stretched over poles and secured to a wooden platform or surrounding ground with ropes or cables.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, by the Council of the City of Galax, that a new Section 75-8.1 of the Galax City Code is hereby adopted to read as follows:

Prohibited Dwellings; tent and recreation vehicle living.

A recreation vehicle or tent shall not be considered a dwelling unit. The use of recreation vehicles or tents for permanent living, sleeping, or housekeeping, and its connection to utility services (other than for periodic maintenance and /or repair purposes) shall be prohibited on any private or public property unless located in a licensed campground. Any recreational vehicle or tent situated on private property for the purpose for storage must abide by all Setback codes and fire codes pursuant to the City of Galax.

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 75, the Housing Standards 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.

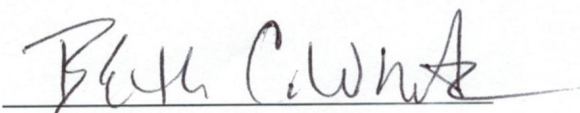
Thereupon, the ordinance was put to a vote upon its final adoption, the results as follows:

For: 6


Councilman Coomes arrived after roll call

Against: 0

Dated: April 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 day of April, 2026.
2026.


Clerk, City Council

City of Galax, Virginia