

ORDINANCE NO.: 5303

AN AMENDED ORDINANCE to amend Sec 32-5 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of La Crosse regarding camping on City-owned property.

THE COMMON COUNCIL of the City of La Crosse do ordain as follows:

SECTION I: Section 32-5(b) is hereby amended to read as follows:

- (a) *Definitions*: The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this section, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this subsection, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning.

*“To camp” or “camping”* means to set up or to remain in or at a campsite, including the storage of personal belongings or camping materials.

*“Campsite”* means any place where any bedding, sleeping bag, or other sleeping matter, or any stove or fire, is placed, established, maintained, whether or not such place incorporates the use of any tent, lean-to, shack, or any other structure, or any vehicle or part thereof.

*“Camping Materials”* means, but is not limited to, tents, tarps, umbrellas, metal sheeting, pallets, canopies, hammock, hunting blind, boxes, huts, temporary shelters, or vehicles.

*To store” or “storage”* means to put aside or accumulate for use when needed, to put for safekeeping, to place or leave in a location.

- (b) It shall be unlawful for any person to camp on ~~City park property, public parking ramp property, or in areas of City-owned property prohibited by the Common Council.~~ Such prohibited areas shall be posted on the City website and may be identified by “no camping” signs.
- (c) In the event an area of City-owned property is permitted for camping, it shall be unlawful to camp for more than 12 hours consecutively in a particular location or within 500 feet of the previous location.
- (d) Subsections (b) and (c) may not apply to the extent otherwise authorized by Municipal Code or by declaration of the Mayor or Common Council in emergency or other special circumstances.
- (e) No person shall be cited for violating this section unless such person shall continue to camp more than one hour after receiving a warning to leave. Such warning shall be given by a police officer or other authorized City officer or employee.

SECTION II: Any previous designation by the Board of Public Works remains in effect unless rescinded by the Common Council.

SECTION III: Should any portion of this ordinance be declared unconstitutional or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this division shall not be affected.

SECTION VIII: This ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and publication.

\_\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_\_  
Mitch Reynolds, Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_\_  
Nikki M. Elsen, City Clerk

Passed: 8/8/2024  
Approved: 8/12/2024  
Published: 8/17/2024