
ORDINANCE REVISION RECOMMENDATIONS: QUALITY OF LIFE SUBCOMMITTEE

October 6, 2026

CHAPTERS UNDER CONSIDERATION

- Ch. 209: Littering
- Ch. 226: Nuisances
- Ch. 242: Property Maintenance
- Ch. 251: Abandoned Refrigerators
- Ch. 279: Streets & Sidewalks
- Ch. 298: Trees

CH. 209, LITTERING

PROPOSED REVISIONS:

- Adds a “Penalties for Offenses” section to the Litter Ordinance, to match the citation process already present in other sections of the Code (such as Noise, Ch. 223), whereby the act of littering is punishable by a \$100 fine.
- References the revised Property Maintenance Code (Ch. 242), wherein the accumulation of garbage/refuse/trash on “open private property” must be addressed within 10 days of notice from an inspector.

CH. 226, NUISANCES

PROPOSED REVISIONS:

- Eliminates Ch. 226, as it differs from a separate, more thorough definition of “public nuisance” found within the revised Ch. 242 (Property Maintenance).

CH. 242, PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

PROPOSED REVISIONS:

- Revises intent language within Ch. 242-1a justifying the Town's interest in addressing blighted properties, and preventing blight from occurring in the first place.
- Clarifies that property maintenance-related notices and citations can be issued by either the "code official" (the Chief Building Official) or a "Blight Enforcement Officer" (any Town staff appointed by the Town Manager), and inspections can be performed by either and/or their designees.
- Revises the Code's definition of "Blighted Premises", which now clearly delineates between structures (broken windows, doors, roofs, chimneys, etc.) and premises (parking lots, vegetation, vehicles, junk storage, vermin, etc.), while strengthening restrictions around motor vehicles and the storage of other recreational vehicles.
 - Inserts several provisions from existing sections 242-16 and 242-17 into the revised "Blighted Premises" definition so that they would not be eliminated under the new definition.

CH. 242, PROPERTY MAINTENANCE (CONT.)

PROPOSED REVISIONS:

- Reduces of the amount of time given to correct blighted properties identified by the Blight Enforcement Officer from 60 days to 30 days, and a corresponding reduction in the length of the maximum extension allowed (60 days to 30 days)
- Revision of the timeline given to correct blight issues specifically related to tall grass/weeds and garbage/refuse/trash to 10 days instead of 30.
- Aligns the Town's ability to remediate tall grass/weed issues with the same code language that already exists for litter/garbage in Ch.209: proposes that if a litter/garbage or tall grass/weeds issue is not corrected after 10 days, the Town would be authorized to directly remediate (in practice via contracted mowing or junk removal services) after an additional 15-day period.

CH. 251, ABANDONED REFRIGERATORS

PROPOSED REVISIONS:

- The elimination of Chapter 251, to be combined with revisions into a reworked Ch. 242 (Property Maintenance).

CH. 279, STREETS & SIDEWALKS

PROPOSED REVISIONS:

- Eliminates the requirement for two formal citations before Town staff are authorized to remove snow/ice from sidewalks after winter storms. Under this proposed language the Town would be able to cause sidewalks to be cleared after the issuance of one warning (24 hours after the end of a storm) and one citation (24 hours after the initial warning).

CH. 298, TREES

PROPOSED REVISIONS:

- Eliminates the requirement that trees and shrubs be “damaged or destroyed” in order to qualify under the “emergency removal” section.
- Adds the ability for the Town to “prune” in emergency cases in addition to the full removal of problem trees and shrubs.
- Grants the authority to suspend the requirements of Ch. 298 to the Town’s Tree Warden, to align with the State’s language around the powers of the Tree Warden (CGS Sec. 23-59).