

Memo

To: City Council
From: Bryan Myrkle, Community Development Director
Date: January 12, 2018
Re: Driveway parking for recreational vehicles

Earlier this year, I encouraged the Planning Commission to consider whether it may be time to consider changes to City rules regarding driveway parking of recreational vehicles.

Strict enforcement of this ordinance is difficult and unpopular, due to the sheer number of residents who violate the rules. Our ordinance defines nearly every wheeled vehicle that isn't your personal car or truck as a recreational vehicle, and prohibits parking them in the driveway.

I believe the percentage of Charlotte residents who own recreational vehicles is likely much larger than it was when this ordinance was enacted. We often think of motorhomes and campers as being the focus of regulation, but boats, snowmobiles, golf carts, ATV's, jet skis, utility trailers and similar small vehicles & trailers also fall under this ordinance and are prohibited from being parked in the driveway.

After some limited discussion, the Planning Commission decided not to consider or recommend any changes, but rather asked the City Council to consider the issue first.

For your workshop on Monday, I am providing you information previously given to the Planning Commission. This includes basic background information on the issue, suggested discussion points, and the results of a community poll collecting opinions on the issue.

In addition to this information, I reviewed ordinances from a range of similar-sized communities around Michigan, and found examples ranging from very strict and detailed regulation, to no special regulation whatsoever. If this community decides to make changes, it should be easy to find sample language from other cities to base those changes on.

Since the community has become aware of this discussion, I have also heard from about a dozen residents outside of the online poll. Of those, only one resident was advocating for strict enforcement of the current rules. Everyone else wanted some form of driveway parking to be available.

One last thing I will add is that while I am suggesting we look at driveway parking of recreational vehicles, I am not suggesting the same for front yard parking, and several people have been confused about this distinction.