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Fort Worth News

Crackdown on junk cars sought

By DANA SUHAS

Special to the Star-Telegram

EMBIL the story

EVERMAN - Some city officials want to get rid of garish cloaks of blue scattered around Everman.

PLAIN TEXT for printing



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Those ubiquitous blue tarps thrown over idle vehicles are becoming too numerous and an eyesore, code enforcement officer Lisa Minnis says.

Under a proposed revamping of Everman's junk vehicle ordinance, residents would have to conceal such vehicles with covers designed specifically for them or risk fines and towing.

Currently, a vehicle owner can leave a blue tarp-covered vehicle with inflated tires idle. Under the proposed ordinance, a vehicle would have to be concealed by a proper car cover and have inflated tires or it would be subject to junk car regulations.

The City Council is scheduled to make a final decision on the revised ordinance when it meets at 7:30 p.m. Sept. 11 in City Hall, 212 Race St.

In preliminary balloting this month, the City Council voted 6-1 to change the ordinance.

Beatrice Key, who lives on Chambers Creek Drive, she said she has two vehicles covered with blue tarps and doesn't agree with the city's proposal. It amounts to

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"Most of us are living paycheck to paycheck. We are trying to make a better life for ourselves. We are trying to live in better neighborhoods and secure a better life for our kids," Key said. "We don't need obstacles put in our way."

Douglas Rumery, who lives on Enon Avenue, has been keeping a 1987 Subaru under a blue tarp and hopes to repair it for his son.

"I'd just as soon comply. I'm almost ready to work on it. A lot of it is just a matter of economics. Can I afford to fix it now or do it later?" Rumery said.

If neighbors are concerned, he would be willing to talk them and work out any problems, Rumery said. Rumery also said there are junk cars all over town that are not getting ticketed.

Minnis said a resident also complained about seeing too many bright blue car covers on a residential street.

Five council members and Mayor Jim Stephenson voted in favor of the new ordinance on its first reading last week. Councilman Edde Osborne said she was concerned about its wording and voted against it.

Current regulations also allow the city to tow an uncovered, inoperable vehicle after it has sat for more than 45 days even if it has a valid sticker or license plate. After 45 days, the city may also tow a vehicle with an expired inspection sticker or license plate or if it has remained wrecked and dismantled.

Under the proposed ordinance, a wrecked or dismantled vehicle without a valid license plate or sticker could be immediately towed. After 72 hours, the city would be able to tow an inoperable vehicle from public property if it doesn't have a valid license plate or inspection sticker. After 30 days, an inoperable vehicle can be hauled from private property if it doesn't have the necessary license plate or sticker.

The regulations don't affect racing vehicles and antique car collections. They also don't affect the stored vehicle of a member of the armed forces who is stationed outside the country.



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