



City of Winston-Salem City Council
Council Agenda Item Summary

Title	Ordinance Amending Section 42-175 of the City Code Regarding Civil Penalties for Violations of Parking Ordinances and to Establish a Civil Penalty for Oversized Vehicle Parking
City Council Committee	Public Works Committee
Staff Lead (Presenter)	Reid Hutchins, Transportation Operations Manager
Department Head	Jeff Fansler, Director of Transportation
City Manager/ACM	Aaron King, ACM

Agenda Item Summary

Recommended Council Action	Ordinance Approval
Suggested Motion Options	I move to approve this Ordinance Amending Section 42-175 of the City Code.
Strategic Focus Area	Livable Community
Strategic Plan Objective	LC2: Maintaining the Appearance of Neighborhoods
Anticipated Fiscal Impact	No Material Fiscal Impact

Summary of Information

Currently, the City Code does not establish a civil penalty for violations of Section 41-171, which prohibits private vehicles with overall dimensions of 80 inches in width or 30 feet in length from parking on City streets unless actively engaged in loading or unloading.

This lack of enforceable penalties has led to persistent issues in Winston-Salem's residential areas. Oversized vehicles - such as commercial trucks, trailers, and RVs - are often parked for extended periods on streets that were not designed to accommodate them. Many of these streets are narrow, with limited shoulder space, making them especially vulnerable to congestion and visibility hazards.

Safety concerns are a primary issue. Parked oversized vehicles can obstruct views at intersections and driveways, increasing the risk of accidents for drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians. They also reduce the effectiveness of emergency response by limiting access for fire trucks and ambulances. In neighborhoods with high pedestrian activity, such as those near schools, parks, and community centers, these vehicles pose an even greater hazard.

Beyond safety, the presence of oversized vehicles can negatively impact neighborhood character.

The proposed ordinance addresses these issues by amending Section 42-175 to include a civil penalty for oversized vehicles not engaged in loading or unloading. With Ordinance approval, City staff will be able to enforce these violations consistently across all residential areas, helping to preserve neighborhood character, improve safety, and ensure equitable enforcement citywide.

Analysis of Fiscal Impact

The fine amount will be set at \$50 per offense, determined after reviewing similar violations in surrounding municipalities – Charlotte’s fine is \$100, Greensboro’s fine is \$75, and Raleigh’s fine is \$50. This fee is higher than a standard parking citation, reinforcing the importance of compliance, particularly in residential areas where oversized vehicles can lower visual appeal and cause safety concerns.

Attachments

- Ordinance

Committee Action	
For:	Against:
Remarks:	