

TITLE II – COMMUNITY PROTECTION  
 DIVISION 2 – ENFORCEMENT: NUISANCES

CHAPTER 56  
 ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE

**56.01 Nuisance Abatement****56.02 Notice to Abate: Contents****56.03 Method of Service****56.04 Request for Hearing****56.05 Abatement in Emergency****56.06 Abatement by City****56.07 Collection of Costs****56.08 Installment Payment of Cost of  
Abatement****56.09 Failure to Abate****56.10 Alternative to Abatement**

56.01 NUISANCE ABATEMENT. Whenever the Mayor or other authorized municipal officer finds that a nuisance exists, such officer shall cause to be served upon the property owner a written notice to abate the nuisance within a reasonable time after notice.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 364.12[3h])

56.02 NOTICE TO ABATE: CONTENTS. The notice to abate shall contain:

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 364.12[3h])

1. Description of Nuisance. A description of what constitutes the nuisance or other condition.
2. Location of Nuisance. The location of the nuisance or condition.
3. Acts Necessary to Abate. A statement of the act or acts necessary to abate the nuisance or condition.
4. Reasonable Time. A reasonable time within which to complete the abatement.
5. Assessment of City Costs. A statement that if the nuisance or condition is not abated as directed and no request for hearing is made within the time prescribed, the City will abate it and assess the costs against such person.

56.03 METHOD OF SERVICE. The notice by be in form of an ordinance or sent by certified mail to the property owner.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 364.12[3h])

56.04 REQUEST FOR HEARING. Any person ordered to abate a nuisance may have a hearing with the Council as to whether a nuisance exists. A request for a hearing must be made in writing and delivered to the Clerk within the time stated in the notice, or it will be conclusively presumed that a nuisance exists and it must be abated as ordered. The hearing will be before the Council at a time and place fixed by the Council. The findings of the Council shall be conclusive and, if a

nuisance is found to exist, it shall be ordered abated within a reasonable time under the circumstances.

56.05 ABATEMENT IN EMERGENCY. If it is determined that an emergency exists by reason of the continuing maintenance of the nuisance or condition, the City may perform any action which may be required under this chapter without prior notice. The City shall assess the costs as provided in Section 56.07 after notice to the property owner under the applicable provisions of Sections 56.01, 56.02 and 56.03 and hearing as provided in Section 56.04

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 364.12[3h])

56.06 ABATEMENT BY CITY. If the person notified to abate a nuisance or condition neglects or fails to abate as directed, the City may perform the required action to abate, keeping an accurate account of the expenses incurred. The itemized expense account shall be filed with the Clerk who shall pay such expenses on behalf of the City

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 364.12[3h])

56.07 COLLECTION OF COSTS. The Clerk shall send a statement of the total expense incurred by certified mail to the property owner who has failed to abide by the notice to abate, and if the amount shown by the statement has not been paid within one month, the Clerk shall certify the costs to the County Treasurer and such costs shall then be collected with, and in the same manner, as general property taxes.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 364.12[3h])

56.08 INSTALLMENT PAYMENT OF COST OF ABATEMENT. If the amount expended to abate the nuisance or condition exceeds one hundred dollars (\$100.00), the City shall permit the assessment to be paid in up to ten (10) annual installments, to be paid in the same manner and with the same interest rates provided for assessments against benefited property under State law.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 364.13)

56.09 FAILURE TO ABATE. Any person causing or maintaining a nuisance who shall fail or refuse to abate or remove the same within the reasonable time required and specified in the notice to abate shall be in violation of the Code of Ordinances.

56.10 ALTERNATIVE TO ABATEMENT. The maintenance of a nuisance as defined in Section 55.01 is declared to be a violation of the City Code. In the discretion of the City, and in lieu of or in addition to the foregoing abatement procedure, the same may be prosecuted as a simple misdemeanor or as a municipal infraction.

(Added by Ordinance No. 143)

#### EDITOR'S NOTE

A suggested form of notice for the abatement of nuisances is included in the appendix of this Code of Ordinances.

Caution is urged in the use of this administrative abatement procedure, particularly where the cost of abatement is more than minimal or where there is doubt as to whether or not a nuisance does in fact exist. If compliance is not secured following notice and hearings, we recommend you review the situation with your attorney before proceeding with abatement and assessment of costs. Your attorney may recommend proceedings in court under Chapter 657 of the Code of Iowa rather than this procedure.

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