

City of Waukesha, Wisconsin

Ordinance No. 2024 – _____

**An Ordinance Amending Section 13.01 of the Waukesha Municipal Code,
Regarding Rat Control**

The Common Council of the City of Waukesha do ordain as follows:

Section 1. Section 13.01 of the Waukesha Municipal Code is amended to read in its entirety as follows:

13.01 Rat Control.

(1) Definitions. As used in this section, capitalized terms are defined as follows:

- (a)** Department means the City of Waukesha Department of Community Development.
- (b)** Owner means any individual or entity having ownership, possession, occupancy, or control of real property, including but not limited to a tenant, manager, superintendent, executor, personal representative, administrator, trustee, guardian or agent.
- (c)** Rat-Proof Container means a covered container made of or lined with concrete, metal, or other material impervious to rats, having a tight-fitting cover sufficient to prevent the entry of rats.
- (d)** Rat Proofing means closing any openings in buildings and other structures that could provide means of entry for rats, with concrete, metal, or other material impervious to rats, sufficient to prevent their entry.
- (e)** Rat Harborage means any place where rats can find shelter, store or consume food, or nest.
- (f)** Hardware Cloth means galvanized steel wire mesh with spacing no greater than $\frac{1}{4}$ inch, sufficient to block the entry of rats.

(2) Elimination of Rat Harborages. The Owner of any premises on or in which a Rat Harborage exists shall, upon written order from the Department, eliminate the Rat Harborage. Orders from the Department shall specify the actions required to eliminate the Rat Harborage. Firewood, lumber, and similar materials shall be neatly and compactly piled and raised at least a foot above the ground.

- (3) **Elimination of Rat Food Sources.** No person shall place, or allow to accumulate, any materials that may serve as food for rats in a location accessible to rats. Any solid waste or recyclable materials that may serve as food for rats shall be stored in Rat-Proof Containers. Feed for birds, fowl and animals shall be stored in a Rat-Proof building or in a Rat-Proof Container.
- (4) **Extermination.** Whenever Rat Harborages, rat holes, burrows, or other evidence of the presence of rats are found on any premises or in any building within the City, the Owner of such premises or building shall, within 10 days of delivery of notice from the Department, exterminate the rats or commence good-faith efforts to exterminate~~cause the rats to be exterminated~~. The Owner shall cause rat holes or burrows to be filled.
- (5) **Rat-Proofing.** The Owner of any building in the City shall make such building reasonably Rat-Proof, replace broken basement windows, and when necessary cover basement window openings with Hardware Cloth sufficient to prevent rats from entering the building through such window openings. The Owner of any premises upon which sheds, barns, coops, or buildings are located shall eliminate all Rat Harborages from within or under such structures by Rat-Proofing, raising the buildings above ground, or some other suitable method.
- (6) **Inspection by Department.** The Department shall investigate all reported Rat Harborages and shall inspect the premises for all other potential Rat Harborages and feeding places.
- (7) **Enforcement.** Any person who violates any provision of this section or any order issued hereunder shall be subject to a penalty as provided in §25.05 of the Municipal Code. Each day of continuing violation shall be deemed to be a separate violation. In addition, the Department may seek injunctive relief enjoining the continued violation of this section.

Section 2. All ordinances, or portions of ordinances, inconsistent with this ordinance are hereby repealed.

Section 3. This Ordinance shall be effective the day after its publication.

Passed the _____ day of _____, 2024.

Shawn N. Reilly, Mayor

Attest: Gina L. Kozlik, City Clerk