

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-01

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF THORNDALE, TEXAS TO ADOPT A BRUSH AND LIMB POLICY PERTAINING TO THE ORGANIZATION, COLLECTION, AND DISPOSAL OF BRUSH AND TREE LIMBS ON PRIVATE OR PUBLIC PROPERTY; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR FEES; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION AND PROPER MEETING AND NOTICE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the depositing or accumulation of brush and tree limbs upon private or public property creates a nuisance and an unsanitary and unsightly condition in such places, causes clogging and obstruction of storm sewers and gutters and has the potential to create a breeding ground for insects or vermin; and

WHEREAS, the City Council find that it necessary to limit the deposit and accumulation of refuse in public places to protect the public health and safety and is in the best interests of the citizens of the City; and

WHEREAS, due to limited City staff and resources, a policy is required to ensure that useful and reasonable collection of brush and tree limbs is provided to the citizens of the City in an economical way; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds the fees in this Ordinance to be directly related to the costs of service provided by the City.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF THORNDALE:

SECTION 1. The findings above are deemed true and correct and are hereby incorporated in this ordinance.

SECTION 2. The below policy approved by the City of Thorndale is hereby adopted by ordinance:

Brush and Limb Pickup Policy

1. The City of Thorndale (the "City") will no longer pickup brush and limbs except on the annual brush and limb pickup. If residents have brush and limb debris and it is not within 3 months prior to the yearly pickup, or otherwise does not meet the requirements of this policy residents will have to take it to the City Brush Pile.
2. The City will not pick up building & construction material (this includes lumber) nor furniture during the brush and limb pickup. If any such material is found in the brush and limb piles, City crews will not pick up the brush and limbs in the pile, nor the building & construction material. If City staff finds any building & construction material or furniture in the brush and limbs to be picked up, the residents will be notified that the brush and

limbs will need to be separated out from any building or construction material or furniture before City crews will pick up the brush and limb pile.

3. Brush and tree limbs must not be longer than 6' in length, measured by the two furthest points on each limb or piece of brush.
4. Limbs should be no thicker than 6" in diameter.
5. Brush and limbs must be stacked neatly and parallel to the street.
6. Larger limbs should be placed on the bottom of the pile with smaller limbs on top. This allows for better pickup with a clam-shell bucket.
7. Brush and tree limbs should not be set out more than **3 months** prior to the annual pickup. The brush and limbs get very dry and brittle as well as grass grows up and around the brush and limbs. This makes it very difficult to pick up. Unless otherwise notified by the City, the annual pickup shall be in April, in which case brush and limb piles for pickup should be set out no earlier than January. If piles of brush and limbs are so overgrown that pickup is made impossible or impractical or if piles of brush and limbs are left out longer than 6 months they will not be picked up.
8. All brush and limbs must be placed alongside the road. City of Thorndale crews are not required to go onto private property to pick up the brush and limbs. If the brush or limb piles are too far from the street, they may not be picked up.
9. Brush and limbs shall not be stacked directly near mailboxes, fences, utility poles, guide wires, nor any type of stationary object.
10. Brush and limb pickup is limited to residential properties. If any commercial, school or church property has stacked up brush and limbs, it will not be picked up by the City during the annual brush and limb pickup.
11. All tree wounds must be sealed with pruning sealer or spray paint.


SECTION 3. Severability. Should any section, paragraph, sentence, clause, phrase, or word of this ordinance be declared unconstitutional or invalid for any purpose, the remainder of this ordinance shall not be affected thereby.

SECTION 4. Effective Date. This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its passage and publication in accordance with law and it is accordingly so ordained.

SECTION 5. Proper Notice and Meeting. It is officially found and determined that the meeting at which this ordinance was passed was open to the public as required by law.

PASSED AND APPROVED this, 12th day of April, 2023, by a vote of 5 (*ayes*) to _____ (*nays*) to _____ (*abstentions*) of the City Council of Thorndale, Texas.

CITY OF THORNDALE, TEXAS



George Galbreath Jr., Mayor

ATTEST:

Stacy Irwin
Stacy Irwin, City Secretary

