

ORDINANCE NO. 08-2015

NOISE CONTROL ORDINANCE FOR THE CITY OF HASKELL, ARKANSAS

WHEREAS, excessive sound and vibration are a serious hazard to the public health and welfare, safety, and the quality of life; and

WHEREAS, the people have a right to and should be ensured an environment free from excessive sound and vibration that may jeopardize their health or welfare, or safety, or degrade the quality of life; and

NOW, THEREFORE, it is the policy of the City of Haskell, Arkansas to prevent excessive sound and vibration which may jeopardize the health and welfare or safety of its citizens or degrade the quality of life.

SECTION I: GENERAL

It shall be unlawful for any person to willfully make, continue, or cause to be made or continued, any loud and raucous noise which term shall mean any sound which, because of its volume level, duration and character, annoys, disturbs, injures or endangers the comfort, health, peace or safety of reasonable persons of ordinary sensibilities within the city limits as defined below.

SECTION II: PROHIBITED ACTS

The following acts, and the causing thereof, are declared to be in violation of this ordinance:

1. Engine Exhaust

The discharge into the open air or the exhaust of any steam engine or stationary internal combustion engine except through a muffler or other device which will effectively prevent loud and disturbing noises therefrom.

Noise and smoke producing devices prohibited. (Ark. Code Ann 27-37-601)

- a. Every motor vehicle shall at all times, be equipped with factory-installed muffler or one duplicating factory specifications, in good working order and in constant operation, to prevent excessive or unusual noise and annoying smoke.
- b. No person shall use on a motor vehicle upon the public roads, highway, streets or alley of this state, nor shall any person sell for use on a motor vehicle upon the public roads, highways, streets or alleys of this state, a muffler, other than as defined in subsection (a) of this section, cutout, bypass, similar device, or any type device which produces excessive unusual noise or smoke.

2. Jake Brakes

The creation or emission of engine or exhaust noise through the use of “Jake Brake” or other similar engine compression retarding device so as to create a loud or disturbing noise, except when such devices are used as a safety device.

3. Radios, Televisions, Boomboxes, Phonographs, Stereos, Musical Instruments and Similar Devices

The use or operation of a radio, television, boombox, stereo, musical instrument, or similar device that produces or reproduces sound in a manner that is plainly audible to any person other than the player(s) or operator(s) of the device, and those who are voluntarily listening to the sound, and which unreasonably disturbs the peace, quiet, and comfort of neighbors and passers-by, or is plainly audible at a distance of 50 feet from any person in a commercial, industrial area, or public space. The use or operation of a radio, television, boombox, stereo, musical instrument, or similar device that produces or reproduces sound in a manner that is plainly audible to any person other than the player(s) or operator(s) of the device, and those who are voluntarily listening to the sound, and unreasonably disturbs the peace, quiet, and comfort of the neighbors in residential or noise sensitive areas, including multi-family or single-family dwellings.

4. Motor Vehicle Radios, Vehicle Horns, Signaling Devices, and Similar Sound Devices

Using, operating or permitting to be played any radio, music player, or audio system in a motor vehicle which produces or reproduces sound in such a manner as to cause a loud and disturbing noise which is plainly audible to persons other than the occupants of said vehicle. Phrases need not be discernible and bass reverberations are included. Plainly audible means any sound produced by a sound amplification system from within the vehicle.

SECTION III: PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR VIOLATION

Any person, owner, agent or supervisor in charge of operating, ordering, directing or allowing the operation or activity creating noise shall be guilty of a violation of this article and subject to the penalties.

SECTIONS IV: EXCEPTIONS TO ORDINANCE

Emergency Exception

The provisions of this ordinance shall not apply to the emission of sound for the purpose of alerting persons to the existence of an emergency, or the emission of sound in the performance of emergency work.

The term “loud and disturbing noise” does not include noise or sound generated by the following:

1. Radios, sirens, horns, and bells on police, fire, and other emergency response vehicle.
2. The testing of emergency tornado warning systems (sirens, horns, and bells).
3. Public activities on or in municipal, city parks (July 4th activities, Fall Fest, National Night Out), school athletic facilities, sporting event(s), musical production or parades.
4. Excavation or emergency work, repairs of bridges, street, or highways by or on behalf of the City of Haskell, Saline County, or the State of Arkansas, during the nighttime when the public welfare and convenience renders it impossible to perform such work during the day.
5. Fire alarms and burglar alarms, prior to the giving of notice and a reasonable opportunity for the owner or tenant in possession of the premises served by any such alarm to turn off the alarm.
6. Religious worship activities conducted in a permanent structure, including but not limited to bells, chimes, and organs.
7. The movement of aircraft which is in all respects conducted in accordance with , or pursuant to, applicable federal laws or regulations.
8. Locomotives and other railroad equipment.
9. Fireworks displays within such hours and conditions as may be imposed for discharging of fireworks as allowed by ordinances of the city.

SECTION V: Penalties:

Any person violating any provision of this ordinance shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor upon conviction by the District Court of Haskell, Arkansas and shall be subjected to a penalty of not less than one hundred dollars (\$100.00) plus court costs and not more than five hundred dollars (\$500.00) plus court costs.

SECTION VI: OTHER REMEDIES

No provisions of this ordinance shall be construed to impair any common law or statutory cause of action, or legal remedy therefrom, of any person for injury or damage arising from any violation of this ordinance or from other law.

SECTION VII: SEVERABILITY

If any provision of this ordinance is held to be unconstitutional or otherwise invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, the remaining provisions of the ordinance shall not be invalidated.

APPROVED AND PASSED THIS 9th DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2015

Janie Lyman, Mayor

ATTEST:

Dori Lyman, Recorder/Treasurer