

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-04-01

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BARDWELL, ESTABLISHING COMMERCIAL TRUCK ROUTES WITHIN THE CITY; PROVIDING EXCEPTIONS TO THE COMMERCIAL TRUCK ROUTES; REQUIRING SIGNS FOR COMMERCIAL TRUCK ROUTES; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING A SAVINGS CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR A PENALTY CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City finds that streets are designed and built to handle specific types of traffic; and

WHEREAS, the City finds that commercial vehicles, due to their size and weight can cause damage to streets that are not designed for commercial traffic and pose additional risks to the health, safety and welfare of the public; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has determined that in the interest of safety, it is necessary to regulate and establish designated truck routes on public streets and highways in the corporate limits of Bardwell, Texas pursuant to the rules, regulations and limitations imposed by law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BARDWELL, TEXAS, THAT:

SECTION 1. FINDINGS OF FACT.

The facts and matters set forth in the preamble of this Ordinance are hereby found to be true and correct.

SECTION 2.

This Ordinance shall be known as the "Traffic and Vehicles" ordinance, and shall read as follows:

"Sec. 1. Definitions.

The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this article, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

Commercial vehicle means any vehicle, with a gross vehicle weight in excess of 10,000 pounds or carrying capacity exceeding one ton and used for the delivery of passengers, tools, materials, or livestock. A "Recreational vehicle", herein, is not considered a commercial vehicle.

Recreational vehicle means personal vehicles such as boats and boat trailers, watercraft and watercraft trailers, travel trailers, pickup campers or coaches (designed to be mounted on automotive vehicles), motorized dwellings, tent trailers and the like, and all-terrain vehicles.

Trailer means a device without motive power designed for carrying persons, animals, or property on its own structure and to be drawn by a vehicle with motive power. The term shall include, but not be limited to, semitrailer, utility trailer, travel trailer and boat trailer.

Truck means a "commercial vehicle."

Truck routes mean those routes which are designated in this article for the use of truck traffic.

Truck traffic means the operation of any commercial vehicle including but not limited to truck, truck tractor or combination of any truck, truck tractor, trailer, or semitrailer that are considered commercial vehicles. The operations of "recreational vehicles" are not considered to be truck traffic.

Vehicle means every device in, upon, or by which any person or property is or may be transported or drawn upon water, a street or road including devices moved by an engine, a motor, a motor vehicle or by human or animal power. Vehicle includes a trailer. Devices used exclusively upon stationary rails or tracks are not considered vehicles.

Sec. 2. Compliance.

No person shall operate truck traffic upon any roads, avenues, streets or thoroughfares within the city, except on those which are designated as truck routes in section 3, with the exceptions as set forth in sections 4 and 5.

Sec. 3. Designated Routes.

For the purposes of this article, the following streets and thoroughfares within the city are designated as truck routes:

- (1) State Highway 34
- (2) FM 984 South

(3) FM 984 North

(4)

Sec. 4. Proceeding Directly to Routes.

If any truck traffic originating within the city shall have, as its point of origin, a point located off a designated truck route, it shall proceed to the nearest point on a designated truck route by the most direct route as possible. If such traffic shall originate outside the city and enter the city at a point which is not on a designated truck route, it shall proceed to the nearest point on a designated truck route by the most direct route possible.

Sec. 5. Departing from Routes.

(1) Truck traffic restricted to the streets designated as truck routes may depart from such truck routes, where it is necessary for the immediate loading or unloading of property at locations situated off designated truck routes. However, such truck traffic shall not leave any designated truck route until it has reached a point on some designated truck route which is nearest the applicable place of loading or unloading by the most direct route possible. After leaving a designated truck route to load or unload, truck traffic may continue off truck routes to as many points of destination as necessary. However, if in the course of making necessary stops for loading and unloading the truck traffic shall cross a designated truck route, the truck traffic shall not again leave any designated truck route until it has reached a point on some designated truck route which is nearest to the next place of loading and unloading by the most direct route possible.

(2) When, under section 4, truck traffic originates off a designated truck route, whether inside or outside the city, and the destination of the truck traffic is nearer the origin or point of entering the city, as the case may be, than is the nearest point on a designated truck route by the most direct route possible, it shall not be necessary to proceed to the nearest designated truck route.

(3) Driving to a place of business in a commercially zoned area shall be a defense for driving on a non- truck route.

(4) The Mayor or the Mayor's designee may cause to be erected signs upon the streets which are not truck routes, which signs shall be the type to conform to the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

(5) The Mayor or the Mayor's designee may cause to be erected signs upon the streets to direct trucks to truck routes, which signs shall be the type to conform to the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

(6) When a street or roadway designated as a truck route is under repair or otherwise temporarily out of use, the Mayor or the Mayor's designee is authorized to designate alternate truck routes.

Sec. 6. Justification of departure.

A person operating any commercial vehicle including but not limited to truck, truck tractor or combination of any truck, truck tractor, trailer, or which is not designated as a truck route by this article shall have in his possession for the inspection of police officers his log book, delivery slips or other evidence of his destination and point of origin to justify the presence of the vehicle on a street or roadway other than a designated truck route.

Sec. 7. Exceptions to Route Departure.

- (1) Emergency vehicles.
- (2) Vehicles operated by a public utility while cruising in an assigned area for the purpose of inspecting the facilities of the public utility and/or providing maintenance service to such facilities.
- (3) Municipal and county vehicles performing city and county business and services, school buses and church buses.

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SECTION 3. PENALTY CLAUSE

Any person who shall violate any provision of this Ordinance shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be fined in an amount not more than Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00) per offense or the maximum amount permitted by law. Each day of violation shall constitute a separate offense.

SECTION 4. REPEAL OF CONFLICTING ORDINANCES.

All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent or in conflict herewith are, to the extent of such inconsistency or conflict, hereby repealed.

SECTION 5. SEVERABILITY.

In the event any clause, phrase, provision, sentence, or any part of this Ordinance or the application of the same to any person or circumstances shall for any reason be adjudged invalid or held unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, it shall not affect, impair, or invalidate this Ordinance as a whole or any part or provision hereof other than the part

declared to be invalid or unconstitutional; and the City Council of the City of Bardwell, Texas, declares that it would have passed each and every part of the same notwithstanding the omission of any such part thus declared to be invalid or unconstitutional, whether there be one or more parts.

SECTION 6. NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

The City Secretary shall give notice of the enactment of this Ordinance by promptly publishing it or its descriptive caption and penalty after final passage in the official newspaper of the City; the Ordinance to take effect upon publication.


SECTION 7. OPEN MEETING COMPLIANCE

It is hereby officially found and determined that the meeting at which this Ordinance was passed was open to the public as required by law and that public notice of the time, place and purpose of said meeting was given as required by the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code, Chapter 551.

SECTION 8. EFFECTIVE DATE. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect immediately upon its passage and approval by the City Council of the City of Bardwell, Texas, and after the City Secretary posts notice of this ordinance in accordance with law.

DULY PASSED by the City Council of the City of Bardwell, Texas, on the 7th day of April 2025.

APPROVED:


Jodie Odlozil, Mayor

ATTEST:


Debbie Strunc, City Secretary