TOWN OF KENNETH CITY

PUBLIC RESPONSE PACKET – ORDINANCE 2026-04

Parking, Storage, and Vehicle Regulations – Resident Comment Responses

Introduction

The Town of Kenneth City received numerous resident comments regarding Ordinance 2026-04, which updates Chapter 54 of the Town Code related to parking, vehicle storage, recreational vehicles, approved parking surfaces, overnight restrictions, and special event permits.

This packet provides clear, straightforward responses to each concern in a **professional and approachable** tone. Comments are **summarized** for readability, and ordinance citations are included **only where necessary for clarity**.

SECTION 1 — GENERAL PARKING & ENFORCEMENT QUESTIONS

1. Concern: Will drones be used to enforce parking in backyards?

Response:
No. The Town does not use drones for code enforcement. Enforcement is based on visual observation from public areas or complaint investigation.

2. Concern: Are parking meters going to be installed next?

Response:
No. The ordinance does not authorize parking meters, and no plans exist to install any.

3. Concern: Is the Town becoming like an HOA?

Response:
No. These are standard municipal regulations adopted for public safety, access, traffic flow, and property standards. They do not create or resemble HOA membership or rules.

4. Concern: Where can guests park if driveways are full?

Response:
Guests may park on the street anywhere parking is permitted and where at least 20 feet of roadway clearance remains.

5. Concern: Families with multiple drivers feel they don't have enough parking.

Response:
Residents may park vehicles on streets that allow parking and maintain proper roadway clearance or expand driveways with an approved parking surface. The ordinance does not restrict how many vehicles a household may have.

6. Concern: Does the ordinance require paying for a permit to install or expand driveway?

Response:
No permits are required for rock, or shell driveway or driveway expansions. If using asphalt or concrete a Utility ROW permit could apply in any part of yard, as well as Town planning and zoning approval.

7. Concern: Residents claim it is unconstitutional for the Town to regulate parking on private yards.

Response:
Municipalities have long-established authority to regulate parking and property use for public safety and welfare. These rules fall well within standard local authority.

8. Concern: Why were people allowed to park on grass during the parade?

Response:
Special events often involve temporary allowances or controlled exceptions. Daily parking rules still apply outside those events.

9. Concern: Will gatherings at homes require parking permits?

Response:
No. Only organized events affecting streets or public access require special event permits. Private residential gatherings do not.

10. Concern: Not enough notice was provided; residents expected door-hanger notices.

Response:
The Town followed legally required public notification procedures, including public meetings and newspaper publication more than 10 days prior to adoption.

SECTION 2 — GRASS PARKING, DRIVEWAYS, AND APPROVED SURFACES

11. Concern: If someone currently parks on the grass, will they be fined until they pave the area?

Response:
(See #37 for single driveway exception). Parking on grass is not allowed under the ordinance, but fines are not automatic. Enforcement allows time for correction. Residents may use **affordable approved surfaces** such as rock, shell, gravel, or stone (Sec. 54-110).

12. Concern: Shouldn't longstanding parking habits be grandfathered?

Response:
The ordinance does not include grandfathering. All properties follow the same standard once adopted.

13. Concern: Are RVs and boats allowed in the front yard?

Response:
Yes — **RVs and boats are allowed** on **approved parking surfaces** in front yards.
Approved surfaces include:

- Rock
- Shell
- Gravel
- Concrete
- Asphalt
- Pavers
  (Contained and permeable, per Sec. 54-110)

14. Concern: Can RVs or trailers be stored in the backyard?

Response:
Yes. Backyard storage is expressly allowed under Sec. 54-172.

15. Concern: Claims that regulating grass parking violates constitutional rights.

Response:
The Constitution does not address vehicle parking. Local governments regulate parking under authority provided by state law.

16. Concern: Residents feel it's "nobody's business" if they park on their own grass.

Response:
Approved surfaces protect emergency access, sight visibility, drainage, and erosion control. These rules apply town-wide for safety reasons.

17. Concern: Rules keep changing over the years.

Response:
Many of these rules existed previously, but the ordinance consolidates and clarifies them for consistency and ease of enforcement.

18. Concern: Narrow streets shouldn't prohibit parking if people can maneuver.

Response:
The ordinance requires **20 feet of roadway clearance** to ensure emergency vehicles can pass safely.

SECTION 3 — STREET PARKING, OVERFLOW PARKING, AND NEIGHBORS

19. Concern: Families with multiple cars need additional spaces for older children.

Response:
Street parking remains available wherever permitted by signage and clearance rules. No limit exists on the number of household vehicles. Driveways can be expanded on either side.

20. Concern: Residents joke that neighbors must now build pads for each other.

Response:
Residents may park on another person's property only with permission **and** on an approved surface. Street parking remains the primary overflow option.

21. Concern: The ordinance looks identical to old rules that were unevenly enforced.

Response:
Many elements existed already. The new ordinance improves clarity and consistency, making enforcement fair and predictable.

22. Concern: Financial struggles make improvements difficult.

Response:
The ordinance does not require residents to pave or create new parking. Affordable approved-surface options (rock, shell, gravel) remain available when residents choose to create new parking areas.

23. Concern: Not being able to park across from a driveway feels unreasonable.

Response:
Parking opposite a driveway can obstruct access and sight lines. This provision enhances roadway safety.

24. Concern: Narrow streets are manageable; people can still get around.

Response:
Emergency vehicles need reliable clearance. The 20-foot requirement ensures safe passage.

SECTION 4 — RVs, BOATS, TRAILERS, AND STORAGE RULES

25. Concern: Are RVs and boats allowed on approved front-yard surfaces?

Response:
Yes. RVs and boats are fully allowed on approved parking surfaces, including affordable materials such as rock or shell.

26. Concern: Can RVs be stored in the backyard?

Response:
Yes. Backyard storage is permitted under Sec. 54-172.

27. Concern: Is RV parking being banned?

Response:
No. RV parking is allowed in front, side, or rear yards when on approved surfaces. Storage rules simply prevent RVs from blocking sidewalks or roadways.

28. Concern: RVs sometimes extend into the roadway — is that allowed?

Response:
No. RVs must fit entirely on the approved surface and cannot protrude into sidewalks and provide a 3 foot safety visibility area from edge of pavement.

29. Concern: Can RVs be used as temporary living quarters?

Response:
Generally no, except when approved by the Town Manager or during a natural disaster (Sec. 54-174).

30. Concern: Are boats allowed if registered?

Response:
Yes. Boats and boat trailers are treated as recreational vehicles and follow the same approved-surface rules.

31. Concern: Can RVs be parked temporarily for loading/unloading?

Response:
Yes. Up to **48 hours** is allowed for loading/unloading (Sec. 54-172(4)).

32. Concern: RV repairs — can an RV remain outside?

Response:
RVs may be stored in the rear yard for repair for up to **60 days** (Sec. 54-174).

33. Concern: Are semi-trucks, or heavy duty construction equipment allowed at homes?

Response:
No. These vehicles may only be present briefly for deliveries or services.

34. Concern: Can tractor-trailers stay overnight on commercial property?

Response:
Only at garages or licensed rental facilities when repairs or rental operations require it.

35. Concern: Can construction trailers be parked temporarily?

Response:
Yes, when tied to active services and/or permitted construction and maintaining the required roadway clearance.

SECTION 5 — DRIVEWAYS, SURFACES, AND PROPERTY USE

36. Concern: What qualifies as an approved parking surface?

Response:
Approved surfaces (Sec. 54-110) include:

- Shell
- Rock
- Gravel
- Stone
- Pavers

- Asphalt
- Concrete
  These offer affordable options for residents.

37. Concern: Can a vehicle park beside a single-wide driveway?

Response:
Yes — one vehicle may park next to a single-wide driveway on the garage side as long as visibility is not obstructed within three feet of the pavement.

38. Concern: Parking on vacant lots?

Response:
Allowed only with property owner permission and only on approved surfaces.

39. Concern: Is the Town forcing residents to pave yards?

Response:
No. No one is required to pave yards. Only those expanding parking areas into new spaces must use an approved surface. (See 36.)

40. Concern: Will fines be immediate?

Response:
No. Enforcement allows correction time. Fines follow civil penalty procedures.

41. Concern: Financial hardship concerns.

Response:
Residents are not required to modify existing driveways or pave new areas. Affordable surface options remain available if residents choose to expand parking. (See 36.).

42. Concern: Why are landscaping trailers allowed but not RVs?

Response:
Landscaping trailers are allowed only while actively providing services and must maintain roadway clearance. RVs are long-term vehicles subject to separate storage rules.

43. Concern: Can work trailers be parked overnight?

Response:
Utility trailers may be parked on approved surfaces. Heavy duty commercial construction equipment trailers are restricted.

44. Concern: Can cars park overnight on the street?

Response:
Yes, unless signage prohibits it or roadway clearance is blocked.
The overnight parking restriction applies only to Town-owned property.

45. Concern: Are mailbox parking restrictions new?

Response:
No mailboxes are not to be blocked. This rule reflects long-standing traffic standards and remains in place.

46. Concern: Some feel the ordinance is overreach.

Response:
These regulations ensure emergency access, safety, sight lines, and drainage protection. They remain within standard municipal authority.

SECTION 6 — SPECIAL EVENTS, PERMITS, AND TEMPORARY USES

47. Concern: Do small home gatherings require permits?

Response:
No. Only large, organized events affecting streets or public access require special event permits.

48. Concern: Will contractors still be able to park?

Response:
Yes. Contractors may park as needed, maintaining roadway clearance.

49. Concern: Can organizations still host large events?

Response:
Yes. They may apply for special event permits when temporary parking adjustments are needed.

50. Concern: Are temporary exemptions easy to obtain?

Response:
Yes. The Town Manager may approve them, typically within 10 business days (Sec. 54-117).

SECTION 7 — ENFORCEMENT, SAFETY, AND CITATIONS

51. Concern: Will towing increase?

Response:
Towing occurs only when violations specifically allow it or when emergency access is blocked. Most violations result in citations first.

52. Concern: Will Code Enforcement be aggressive?

Response:
No. Enforcement remains complaint-driven and focused on safety.

53. Concern: Will neglected or unregistered vehicles be penalized?

Response:
Yes — neglected, incomplete, or unregistered vehicles may not be stored in front/side yards. They may be kept in the rear for up to 60 days for repair.

54. Concern: Will exceptions be available for long-term residents?

Response:
Yes — certain exceptions (for prohibited vehicles and similar cases) may be granted through the Police Chief, Town Manager, or designee.

Closing Statement

The Town of Kenneth City remains committed to providing clear, reasonable, and safety-focused parking regulations that support residents, protect neighborhoods, ensure emergency access, and maintain community standards. This packet is intended to help residents understand the ordinance and how it applies to everyday situations.