

Memorandum

TO: City Council
FROM: Tom Simonson , Assistant City Manager and Community Development Director
DATE: July 21, 2025
SUBJECT: Weed Abatements: 563 Doris Avenue and 4818 Hodgson Road
ITEM NUMBER: 10.a
SECTION: GENERAL BUSINESS

REQUESTED MOTION

To adopt Resolution Numbers 25-54 and 25-55 approving the abatement of vegetative growth (tall grass/weeds) at 563 Doris Avenue and 4818 Hodgson Road pursuant section [Section 22-2](#):

The cost of the above listed abatements, including administrative costs, will be billed to the individual property owners. The city manager is authorized to monitor a property throughout the 2025 and 2026 growing seasons and to abate any vegetative growth on the properties that do not comply with city regulations.

INTRODUCTION

The city council is being asked to order a weed/vegetative growth abatements for the properties at 4818 Hodgson Road and 563 Doris Avenue. The council has the authority to declare and abate nuisances, including noxious weeds, grass and plant growth on private property that does not comply with the city's property maintenance standards.

DISCUSSION

ORDINANCE REQUIREMENTS

In accordance with [section 22-2](#), The following are hereby declared to be public nuisances affecting health and safety:

(4) Growth of noxious weeds as defined in state law and rules and other rank growth of vegetation upon private or public property including grass and weeds over nine inches in height and non-woody vegetation over 18 inches in height on vacant properties Landscaping shall be maintained so as to prevent unsightliness, health hazards or unsafe conditions.

In addition, [section 22-24](#), abatement procedure, outlines the notification and hearing process. When the city staff determines a public nuisance is being maintained or exists on a property, the staff shall notify in writing the owner of record or occupant of the nuisance and order the nuisance to be terminated and abated. This notice shall specify the timeframe in which the nuisance must be abated.

Weed and vegetative growth abatement notices are posted on the property and sent via mail to

the property owner of record. The notice specifies that the nuisance weeds, vegetation and grass must be mowed or removed within five working days, and if that nuisance remains, the city council will hold a hearing to order the abatement of the nuisance. The notice also identifies the time and date of the hearing scheduled before the city council. The property owner has the right to appear at the hearing.

To date, none of the properties listed above have been brought into compliance. The properties will be re-inspected on the day of the scheduled hearing. If the council orders the abatement, the city will abate the nuisance and the cost of the abatement, including administrative costs, will be charged to the property owner and certified against the property for collection with taxes if the bill is not paid.

PROPERTY CONDITIONS

Each property was given notice to abate the nuisance growth of tall grasses, weeds and other vegetation. A copy of the notice was posted on the property. The notice specifies the pertinent city regulations, the conditions constituting a violation of those regulations, and identifies that the council will hold a hearing on July 21, 2025 to consider abatement of the nuisance conditions, with costs charged to the property owner. A copy of the notice and photographs of each property are attached.

4818 Hodgson Road

On June 5th, 2024, a deputy from Ramsey County Sheriff's Office reported to code enforcement that there were violations of tall grass and weeds and a deceased dog in the yard of 4818 Hodgson Rd. After photos were received, code enforcement followed up with a letter to the homeowner providing them 14 days to cut the grass and remove the animal from the yard while also emailing the letter and attempting to call the homeowner.

563 Doris Avenue

Staff identified tall grasses, nuisance weeds and other vegetative growth in excess of nine inches in height upon inspection of the property. This vegetation is located in all portions of the yard of this property and includes tall grasses, weeds and scrub vegetative growth.

After receiving no contact from the owner after the 14 day window, City staff and a member of the Ramsey County Sheriff's office went to the property to post the notice for tall grass and weeds and refuse on 7/2/25 and attempted to speak with the owner of the home, but were unsuccessful in making contact. On 7/14/25 the city was notified that the owner of the home was deceased but the family would like to continue with abatement of the property to get it taken care of.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the city council conduct the required hearing and adopt resolution numbers 25-54 and 25-55, approving the abatement of vegetative growth (tall grass/weeds) at 4818 Hodgson Road and 563 Doris Avenue, pursuant section [Section 22-2](#), if nuisance conditions remain present on the meeting date. The resolution also authorizes the city to monitor the property throughout the 2025 and 2026 growing seasons and to abate any vegetative growth on the properties that do not comply with city regulations. Staff will continue to work with the property owners to achieve compliance. However, if the situation is not remedied, an outside firm will be hired to mow the lawn, remove vegetation and remedy the violation. Costs associated will be billed to the property owners.

ATTACHMENTS

Resolution 25-54 Tall Grass and Weeds and Nuisance - 4818 Hodgson Rd
4818 Hodgson - Abatement Packet
Resolution 25-55 Tall Grass and Weeds - 563 Doris Avenue
563 Doris Avenue - Abatement Packet