ORDINANCE NO. 31

AN ORDINANCE BY THE CITY OF LAKEWOOD TO PROVIDE FOR THE CUTTING OF WEEDS AND/OR ANY VEGETATION THAT WOULD CREATE A FIRE HAZARD ON VACANT PROPERTY AND TO MAKE MANDATORY UPON THE OWNERS THEREOF THE REASONABLE CARE AND CUTTING OF SUCH PROPERTY SO AS TO PREVENT THE GROWTH OF SUCH VEGETATION THEREON, AND TO PROVIDE THAT IN THE EVENT SUCH OWNER FAILS TO CUT SUCH VEGETATION ON VACANT PROPERTY, AFTER NOTIFICATION BY THE CITY MANAGER,HE MAY AT THE EXPENSE OF THE CITY HAVE SUCH VACANT PROPERTY CUT AND RECOVER THE COSTS THEREOF FROM THE OWNER OF SAID PROPERTY.

SECTION 1. BE IT ORDAINED, by the City of Lakewood, Tennessee, That the growth of weeds and/or any vegetation that would create a fire hazard on vacant property in the City of Lakewood is hereby recognized, and declared to be, a menance, to the health and safety of the citizens of Lakewood and especially to those citizens thereof who are susceptible to hay fever and other respiratory disesses.

SECTION 2. BE IT ORDAINED, by the City of Lakewood, Tennessee, That the owners of vacant property located within the City of Lakewood are hereby required to keep such vacant property from growing up in weeds and/or any vegetation that would create a fire hazard by having same cut by a mower or otherwise at least twice during each annual growing season, and one cush cutting shall be made not later than the 10th of June each year and the other of said cuttings shall be made not later than the 20th of August of each year.

SECTION 3. BE IT ORDAINED, by the City of Lakewood, Tennessee, That the City Manager of the City of Lakewood is hereby directed to make regular inspection of all of the vacant property located within the City limits of the City of Lakewood and if such property owner of such property has failed to have or make wither of such cuttings hereinbefore required by Section 2 hereof, the City Manager is authorized and directed to give notice by registered mail to any persons shown by the tax books to be an owner of such vacant property, said notice to be mailed to the last known post office address of such owner. Such notice shall state to the owner that he has failed to observe the requirements of this Ordinance as set forth in Section 2 hereof and shall further advise said owner that unless the owner has

said cutting done within two weeks, from the date of notice, then and in that event the City of Lakewood, acting through its City Manager, will have said cutting done.

SECTION 4. BE IT ORDAINED, by the City of Lakewood, Tennessee, That the City Manager is hereby authorized whenever the owner of any vacant property within the City of Lakewood has failed to respond to the notice set forth in Section 3 hereinabove by not having the vacant property property cut and cleared of weeds and/or any vegetation that would create a fire hazard within two weeks from the date of the mailing of said notice, to go upon said property and have the weeds and/or other vegetation that would create a fire hazard thereon cut by mower or otherwise, as the judgment of the City Manager in each individual case may recommend. The City Manager is authorized and directed to undertake and to do said cutting at the expense of the City of Lakewood and to pay therefor with the funds of the City of Lakewood.

SECTION 5. BE IT ORDAINED, by the City of Lakewood, Tennessee, That the owners of vacant property located within the City Limits of Lakewood shall reimburse the City of Lakewood for all expenditures in the cutting of such vacant property in accordance with the provisions of Section 2 hereinabove and after the failure of said lot owners to respond to the notice set forth in Section 3 hereinabove all such owners are hereby declared to be liable to the City of Lakewood for all sums spent by the City of Lakewood in cutting vacant property of such owners under the circumstances aforesaid. Such lot owners' liability may be enforced either by action against the owners or against the property itself or both.

SECTION 6. BE IT ORDAINED, by the City of Lakewodd, Tennessee That the City Manager is directed to notify the City Attorney of the City of Lakewood of all amounts so expended for the cutting of vacant property and the City Attorney is authorized and directed to institute suits in the name of the City of Lakewood for the recovery of all such sums so expended.

SECTION 7. BE IT ORDAINED, by the City of Lakewood, Tennessee, That this Ordinance shall become effective upon the day of its final passage, the Board of Commissioners hereby making the statement that an emergency exists in that such vacant property within the City Limits is growing up in weeds and/or vegetation that would create a fire hazard and that not later than the date of the first cutting required; to wit: June 10, 1968, the growth of these weeds and/or vegetation that would create a fire hazard and the seeds and pollen therefrom will become a definite menace to the health and safety of the Citizens of Lakewood and it is, therefore, necessary that this Ordinance becomes effective upon the date of its final passage.

Mrs. E. J. Windom
Recorder

E. L. Ferrell
Mayor

[illegible]
Commissioner

[illegible]
Commissioner

APPROVED AS TO LEGALITY AND FORM:

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City Attorney

PASSED FIRST READING Oct 19, 1967

PASSED SECOND READING Nov. 2, 1967

PASSED THIRD READING Nov. 16, 1967