

# City of Sebeka

## Ordinance No. 2025-01

### *An Ordinance Regulating the Use of Tents for Human Habitation Within City Limits*

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#### **Section 1. Purpose.**

The purpose of this ordinance is to protect public health, safety, and general welfare by regulating the use of tents and similar temporary structures for human habitation within the city limits. The City finds that long-term occupancy of tents as living quarters can pose risks related to sanitation, fire safety, and neighborhood stability.

#### **Section 2. Definitions.**

For the purposes of this ordinance, the following definitions shall apply:

- Tent: Any collapsible shelter made of canvas, fabric, plastic, or similar material that is supported by poles, ropes, or frames and is designed for temporary use.
- Human Habitation: The use of a structure or location for living, sleeping, cooking, or staying overnight on a temporary or permanent basis.
- City Limits: All land within the legal boundaries of the City of Sebeka.

#### **Section 3. Prohibited Use.**

It shall be unlawful for any person to use a tent or similar temporary shelter as a place of human habitation within the city limits of Sebeka, whether on public or private property, except as otherwise permitted in this ordinance.

It shall be unlawful for any person to knowingly allow or permit any person to use a tent or similar temporary shelter as a place of human habitation within city limits of Sebeka, except as otherwise permitted in this ordinance.

#### **Section 4. Exceptions.**

The following are exempt from the prohibition:

- A. Temporary camping in designated campgrounds or recreational areas authorized by the City or other governmental authority.
- B. Temporary use of tents for special events, festivals, or gatherings with prior approval or permit from the City.
- C. Emergency situations declared by the Mayor or City Council, during which temporary shelter may be permitted for displaced persons.
- D. Short-term recreational camping on private property for no more than 7 consecutive days in a 30-day period, with the property owner's consent, provided no permanent residency is established and no public nuisance occurs.

**Section 5. Enforcement and Penalties.**

- A. This ordinance shall be enforced by the Police Department or designated City official.
- B. Any person who violates this ordinance shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.
- C. The City may order removal of tents used in violation of this ordinance and may pursue additional remedies as allowed by law.

**Section 6. Severability.**

If any section, provision, or part of this ordinance is found to be invalid or unconstitutional, such invalidity shall not affect the remaining portions, which shall remain in full force and effect.

**Section 7. Effective Date.**

This ordinance shall take effect upon its passage and publication according to law.

Passed and adopted by the City Council of Sebeka this 19<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2025.

Published in the Review Messenger the 28<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2025.