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The Burleson City Council voted August 28 to clarify restrictions concerning garage sales. The amendment changes to the secondhand goods ordinance will go into effect Sept. 11.

Effective Oct. 1, the cost of a garage sale permit fee will increase from \$5 to \$10 and the fee for extra signs will increase from \$1 to \$2.50. The fee schedule is separate from the ordinance and is part of the proposed 2008-2009 City budget.

The changes were discussed July 24 and Aug. 14 at Burleson City Council meetings.

Effective Sept. 11, the current ordinance will be amended to reinstate the provision that allows for two off-premise signs, per sale, advertising a garage sale (in March of this year, council disallowed off-premise signs). Only City-issued signs may be used (one is issued with the permit for the garage sale property and up to two additional ones may be purchased for a fee); signs advertising garage sales may only be placed on private, developed and occupied property; the person hosting the garage sale is required to have permission of the owner of the property where an off-premise sign will be placed before placing that sign; off-premise signs may not be placed in public rights-of-way, the visibility triangle or on utility poles; signs must be placed at least 10 feet from the back of the curb or edge of the street pavement; garage sale signs may not be placed on vehicles parked in the public right-of-way; and, a permitted sign may not be posted more than 24 hours prior to the start of the garage sale and shall be removed no later than 24 hours after the permit has expired.

The reconsideration by council came as a result of opposition from those who were against the prohibition of off-premise garage sale signs.

The first reading on the amendment to the ordinance took place Aug. 14, and was passed by council. The ordinance goes into effect Sept. 11. The changes in the fees for garage sale permits and extra signs goes into effect at the start of the new fiscal year, Oct. 1.

For more information call the public information office at 817-447-5400, ext. 286.