

SEC. 11-2-7 LOUD AND UNNECESSARY NOISE PROHIBITED.

- (a) **Loud and Unnecessary Noise Prohibited.** It shall be unlawful for any person to make, continue or cause to be made or continued any loud and unnecessary noise. It shall be unlawful for any person knowingly or wantonly to use or operate, or to cause to be used or operated any mechanical device, machine, apparatus or instrument for intensification or amplification of the human voice or any sound or noise in any public or private place in such manner that the peace and good order of the neighborhood is disturbed or that persons owning, using or occupying property in the neighborhood are disturbed or annoyed.
- (b) **Types of Loud and Unnecessary Noises.** The following acts are declared to be loud, disturbing and unnecessary noises in violation of this Section, but this enumeration shall not be deemed to be exclusive:
- (1) Horns, signaling devices. The sounding of any horn or signaling device on any automobile, motorcycle or other vehicle on any street or public place in the City for longer than three (3) seconds in any period of one (1) minute or less, except as a danger warning; the creation of any unreasonable loud or harsh sound by means of any signaling device and the sounding of any plainly audible device for an unnecessary and unreasonable period of time; the use of any signaling device except one operated by hand or electricity; the use of any horn, whistle or other device operated by engine exhaust and the use of any signaling device when traffic is for any reason held up.
 - (2) Radios, phonographs, similar devices. The using, operating or permitting to be played, used or operated any radio receiving set; musical instrument, phonograph or other machine or device for the producing or reproducing of sound in a loud and unnecessary manner. The operation of any set, instrument, phonograph, machine or device between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. in a manner as to be plainly audible at the property line of the building, structure or vehicle in which it is located shall be prima facie evidence of a violation of this Section.
 - (3) Loudspeakers, amplifiers for advertising. The using, operating or permitting to be played, used or operated of any radio receiving set, musical instrument, phonograph, loudspeaker, sound amplifier or other machine or device for the producing or reproducing of sound which is cast upon the public street for the purpose of commercial advertising or attracting attention of the public to any building or structure. Announcements over loudspeakers can only be made by the announcer in person and without the aid of any mechanical device.
 - (4) Animals, birds. The keeping of any animal or bird which causes frequent or long continued unnecessary noise.
 - (5) Steam whistles. The blowing of any steam whistle attached to any stationary boiler except to give notice of the time to begin or stop work or as a warning of fire or danger or upon request of City authorities.
 - (6) Exhausts. The discharge into the open air of the exhaust of any steam engine, stationary internal combustion engine or motor boat except through a muffle or other device which will effectively prevent loud or explosive noises therefrom.
 - (7) Construction or repair of buildings. The erection (including excavation), demolition, alteration or repair of any building, as well as the operation of any pile driver, steam shovel, pneumatic hammer, derrick, steam or electric hoist, or any other similar equipment attended by loud or unusual noise, other than between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. on weekdays; provided, however, the Chief of Police shall have the authority, upon determining that the loss of inconvenience which would result to any party in interest would be extraordinary and of such nature as to warrant special consideration, to grant a permit for a period necessary within which time such work and operation may take place within the hours of 10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.

- (8) Schools, courts, churches, hospitals. The creation of any excessive noise on any street adjacent to any school, institution of learning, church or court while in use, or adjacent to any hospital, which unreasonably interferes with the normal operation of that institution, or which disturbs or unduly annoys patients in the hospital provided that conspicuous signs are displayed in those streets indicating a school, hospital or court street. No person, while on public or private grounds adjacent to any building, or while within any building in which a school or any class thereof is in session, shall willfully make or assist in the making of any noise or diversion which disturbs or tends to disturb the peace or good order and operation of such school session or class thereof.
- (9) Outdoor Power Equipment. For purposes of this subsection, “outdoor power equipment” means any powered device used for lawn care, yard maintenance, landscaping, or snow removal, including but not limited to lawn mowers (walk-behind and riding), leaf blowers, string trimmers, chainsaws, edgers, hedge trimmers, and snow throwers.

The operation of any outdoor power equipment that produces a sound level exceeding seventy (70) dB(A) as measured at a distance of fifty (50) feet from the source between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. in a manner as to be plainly audible at the property line shall be prima facie evidence of a violation of this Section.

Outdoor power equipment that produces a sound level at or below seventy (70) dB(A) as measured at a distance of fifty (50) feet from the source may be operated at any time, subject only to the general prohibition in this Section.

Sound level shall be determined by reference to the manufacturer’s published noise rating for the equipment or by measurement using a sound level meter meeting American National Standards Institute (ANSI) standard for Type 2 instruments. The manufacturer’s published rating shall be presumptive evidence of the equipment’s sound level.

This subsection shall not apply to snow removal operations during or within twenty-four (24) hours following a snowfall event, or to emergency operations performed by or on behalf of any governmental agency. (adopted 4/9/26)

- (10) Exceptions. The provisions of this Section shall not apply to:
 - a. Any vehicle of the City while engaged in necessary public business.
 - b. Excavations or repairs of streets or other public construction by or on behalf of the City, County, or State at night when public welfare and convenience renders it impossible to perform such work during the day.
 - c. The reasonable use of amplifiers or loudspeakers in the course of public addresses which are noncommercial in nature.
 - d. Any municipal public safety or emergency siren.
- (c) **Stationary Noise Limits; Maximum Permissible Sound Levels.**
 - (1) Noise from a stationary source shall not exceed the following standards for maximum sound pressure levels measured at the property line.

<u>Zone</u>	<u>Noise Rating-Daytime</u>	<u>Noise Rating-Nighttime</u>
Residential	75 db	65 db
Commercial	85 db	75 db
All Other Zones	75 db	75 db

- (2) Ambient noise is the all-encompassing noise associated with a given source, usually being a composite of sounds with many sources near and far, but excluding the noise source being measured. Ambient noise is a factor and the subject noise shall exceed the ambient noise by 5 db in any octave band to be designated excessive.
 - (3) Pure tones and impulsive noises are factors. Five noise rating numbers shall be taken from the table in Subsection a. above, if the subject noise consists primarily of a pure tone or if it is impulsive in character.
- (d) **Permits for Amplifying Devices.**
- (1) Permit Required. The use of loudspeakers or amplifying devices on the streets or in the parks of the City of Galesville is prohibited unless the party desiring to use such loudspeaker or amplifying device first obtains a permit from the Chief of Police.
 - (2) Grounds or Reasons for Denial or Allowance. The Chief of Police shall have the authority to revoke such permit when he/she believes such loudspeaker or amplifying device is becoming a nuisance because of the volume, the method in which it is being used or the location in which it is being operated.
 - (3) Time Restrictions. The Chief of Police shall not grant a permit to use a loudspeaker or amplifying device before the hours of 9:00 a.m. or after 10:00 p.m. No permit shall be granted to anyone who, in the opinion of the Chief of Police, uses said loudspeaker or amplifying device in such a manner or for such a purpose as to constitute a nuisance.