



CAT ORDINANCE

At their 02/15/23 Council Meeting, the Council approved an Ordinance requiring the licensing of cats. Effective immediately, cats will be required to be annually licensed in Vergas. Licenses can be obtained at the City Office, and the fee is \$8 and \$10 respectively for altered and unaltered animals. Proof of vaccination(s) is also required. If the cat leaves your property, its tag must be worn. If your pet is picked up by the animal control officer without their tag, there is a \$50 fee, which doubles with each subsequent violation. Ordinance 91.19, also prohibits the feeding of any stray dog or cat in the City. "Feral or homeless cats are a nationwide problem. Cats kill songbirds and other wildlife, carry a variety of diseases, and the life expectancy of a homeless cat is less than two years. Programs are available to humanely box trap, spay or neuter, and to find homes for homeless cats. Feral cats live short, hard lives on the streets, and usually never die of 'old age'. The street is no place for a cat" (www.aphis.usda.gov) The Ordinance was enacted because of numerous complaints, and two incidents in 2022, one requiring a person who was bitten to get rabies shots. The City looks forward to working with our citizens in this regard.

Questions or comments, please contact the City office.

Bruce Albright, Councilman

Important Information Regarding Property Assessments

This may affect your 2024 property taxes. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the Board of Appeal & Equalization for VERGAS City will meet on April 5, 2023, 1:00 PM VERGAS CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS.

The purpose of the meeting is to determine whether property in the jurisdiction had been properly valued and classified by the assessor.



Where all the profits, profit Vergas

The Vergas Liquor Store

218-302-1516

MON-THU 9am- 9 pm

FRI-SAT 9am-9:55pm

SUN 11am – 5pm

Stop in April 1st during Maple Syrup Fest for free samples from:

Klockow Brewery sampling craft beers locally made in Grand Rapids, MN

North Forest Kreme

including Maple Bourbon Liqueur Locally made in Kasota, MN

Vergas Lions Club

Appreciation

Dinner

Free for Residents & Business Owners

Sat., Mar. 11

11:30 am-1:30 pm

St. John's Lutheran Church

Serving until food runs out.

2023 CITY MEETINGS

To access Hybrid Meetings

Via Zoom: Meeting ID:

267 094 2170

Password 56587

or Attend In Person

@ VEC Smart Room

Changes in our meetings

to be posted on the

City of Vergas website

www.cityofvergas.com

and on the

Vergas Event Center sign

Vergas City Council

Meeting:

Tuesday – Mar. 14th 6:30 p.m.

Vergas Event Center

(2nd Tuesday of the month)

(If you would like to be on the agenda, please have information to City Clerk by the Wed. before mtg.)

Park Board Meeting:

Thursday – Mar. 23rd 3:00 p.m.

Vergas Event Center- Smart Room

(4th Thursday of the month)

Planning Commission Mtg:

Monday – Mar. 27th 6:00 p.m.

Vergas Event Center

(4th Monday of the month)

Vergas Event Center

Advisory Board:

Tuesday–Apr. 4th 5:30 p.m.

Vergas Event Center- Smart Room

(1st Tuesday of the month)

EDA/HRA Meeting:

Tuesday– Apr. 4th 2:00 p.m.

Vergas Event Center- Smart Room

(1st Tuesday of the month)

2023 DOG and CAT LICENSES DUE MAY 1!

Apply for License at City Office or Liquor Store.

Record of Vaccination required.

\$30 Letter delivery fee after 5/1/2023.



THE BIG BUILD: 2022 Progress

Housing Growth & Investment Initiative

2022 Investments



499 new and rehabbed units



\$116.4 million

housing investment added in Otter Tail County from new construction and rehab

New Construction

permitted units

343 single-family

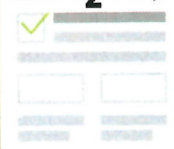
26 twin home

75 multi-family

13% increase in new construction countywide
Measured by permitted units compared to 2021

87 Property Tax Rebate Program applications

Provided Down Payment Assistance for **2** homebuyers



6 NEW Housing Finance Programs for homeowners, builders, and cities

Progress to Goal

= total of 2019-2022 new and rehabbed units

40% of goal completed

5,000 new, preserved or significantly rehabbed units by **2025**



bigbuildotc.com



'91.02 DOGS AND CATS.

(A) *Running at large prohibited.*

It shall be unlawful for the dog or cat of any person who owns, harbors, or keeps a dog or cat, to run at large. A person, who owns, harbors, or keeps a dog or cat which runs at large shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. Dogs or cats on a leash and accompanied by a responsible person or accompanied by and under the control and direction of a responsible person, so as to be effectively restrained by command as by leash, shall be permitted in streets or on public land unless the city has posted an area with signs reading "Dogs or Cats Prohibited".

(B) *License required.*

(1) All dogs and cats over the age of three months kept, harbored, or maintained by their owners in the city, shall be licensed and registered with the city. Cat and dog licenses shall be issued by the City Clerk upon payment of the license fee as established by the Ordinance Establishing Fees and Charges adopted pursuant to ' 30.11 of this code, as that ordinance may be amended from time to time. The owner shall state, at the time application is made for the license and upon forms provided, his or her name and address and the name, breed, color, and sex of each cat and/or dog owned or kept by him or her. No license shall be granted for a dog or cat that has not been vaccinated against distemper and rabies, as evidenced by a certificate by a veterinarian qualified to practice in the state in which the dog or cat is vaccinated.

(2) It shall be the duty of each owner of a dog or cat subject to this section to pay to the City Clerk the license fee established in the Ordinance Establishing Fees and Charges adopted pursuant to ' 30.11, as it may be amended from time to time.

(3) Upon payment of the license fee as established by the Ordinance Establishing Fees and Charges adopted pursuant to ' 30.11 of this code, as that ordinance may be amended from time to time, the Clerk shall issue to the owner a license certificate and metallic tag for each cat and dog licensed. The tag shall have stamped on it the year for which it is issued and the number corresponding with the number on the certificate. Every owner shall be required to provide each cat and/or dog with a collar to which the license tag must be affixed and shall see that collar and tag are worn when animal is at large. In case a cat or dog tag is lost or destroyed, a duplicate shall be issued by the City Clerk. A charge shall be made for each duplicate tag in an amount established in the Ordinance Establishing Fees and Charges adopted pursuant to ' 30.11, as it may be amended from time to time. Cat and dog tags shall not be transferable from one cat or dog to another, and no refunds shall be made on any dog or cat license fee or tag because of death of a cat or dog or the owner's leaving the city before the expiration of the license period.

(4) The licensing provisions of this division (B) shall not apply to cats and dogs whose owners are nonresidents temporarily (staying less than 14 consecutive days) within the city, nor to cats or dogs brought into the city for the purpose of participating in any cat or dog show. If the animal owned is a service animal which is capable of being properly identified as from a recognized school for seeing eye, hearing ear, service or guide animals, and the owner is a blind or deaf person, or a person with physical or sensory disabilities, then no license shall be required.

(5) The funds received by the City Clerk from all cat and dog licenses and metallic tags fees as established by the Ordinance Establishing Fees and Charges adopted pursuant to ' 30.11 of this code, as that ordinance may be amended from time to time, shall first be used to defray any costs incidental to the enforcement of this chapter; including, but not restricted to, the costs of licenses, metallic tags, and impounding and maintenance of the dogs.

2023

COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Changes in our meetings to be posted on the City of Vergas website

www.cityofvergas.com

and on the

Vergas Event Center sign

Vergas Lions Club

FREE Appreciation Dinner

Saturday—Mar. 11th 11:30 a.m.

St. John's Lutheran Church

Serving until food runs out.

Vergas Lions Club:

Tuesday—Mar. 14th 5:30 p.m.

NOTE DATE & LOCATION CHANGE!

St. John's Lutheran Church

(2nd Tuesday of the month)

Community Club Meeting:

Monday—Apr. 3rd 5:00 p.m.

Vergas State Bank/ Lower Level

(1st Monday of the month)

2023 Save the Dates...

Lions FREE Appreciation Dinner

- Mar. 11-

Maple Syrup Festival - Apr. 1

Chmielewski Polka Dance

- Apr. 16-

Seltzer Stroll - May 2023

Downtown Art Camp - June 10

Business Expo/Craft Beer Tour

- June 17-

Hazardous Waste Collection

- June 29 -

Prairie Fire Theatre - July 16-22

Looney Days - Aug. 11-13

Hairyman Festival - Sept. 30

CDH-Vergas

Fire & Rescue Fundraiser

- Oct. 14-

Wine Walk - Oct. 21

Pumpkins on Main Oct. 28 - 30

Halloween Party - Oct. 31

Holiday Tour of Homes - Nov. 18

Small Town Christmas - Nov. 25