

Council adopts junk law

By Brittany Woodby

A new city ordinance is making sure residents clean up their acts or at least their property.

The Alexander City council unanimously approved a new ordinance Tuesday night to make it unlawful for any person or business to keep junk or excessive building materials on property within city limits.

"This is a very important ordinance to the city, especially to all of us tired of seeing junk," Councilman Skip Worthy said. "We look forward to seeing an improvement in the beauty of the city."

The city already has an official in charge of enforcing the code. "Our efforts are not to fine anyone but just to clean up the area," Mayor Barbara Young said. "We're reasonable, we issue a warning for the first offense."

Anyone in violation of the code will be issued a written warning that expires 30 days after its receipt. Further violations will result in non-criminal financial penalties of up to \$500 for more than three offenses.

"I've already received compliments from neighborhoods, saying things are better," Young said.

"We want the quality of life to improve in Alexander City," councilman Glenn Thomas said. "The very people who can provide the jobs necessary to raise the quality of life are the ones who will notice the litter and the junk. This is part of economic development."