

# TOWN OF PALM BEACH

Information for Town Council Meeting on: August 10, 2021

---

To: Mayor and Town Council

Via: Kirk Blouin, Town Manager

From: Jay Boodheshwar, Deputy Town Manager

Re: Request to Have the Ordinance, Rules and Standards Committee to Study Section 42-230 of the Town Code of Ordinances, Relative to Lawn Maintenance Hours, Equipment, and Noise

Date: August 2, 2021

---

## **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Staff requests direction from Town Council regarding the request to have the Ordinance, Rules, and Standards (ORS) Committee of the Town Council study the potential amendments of the Town Code of Ordinances at Section 42-230, relative to lawn maintenance hours, equipment, and noise.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

After several months of study by the ORS Committee, including multiple community input sessions, Ordinance No. 03-2018 (attached) was adopted by the Town Council on February 13, 2018, amending sections 42-198, 42-199, and 42-230 of the Town Code, which modified the dates and times when lawn maintenance was permitted and implemented regulations for the use of leaf blowers. Council President Pro Tem, Bobbie Lindsay, and Council Member, Julie Araskog, have both recently expressed interest in having ORS further study section 42-230, which currently reads as follows:

### **“Sec. 42-230. Lawn maintenance.**

- (a) Lawn maintenance in the town shall be limited to the hours outlined for construction work at section 42-199 and leaf blowers shall be subject to the same restrictions as heavy equipment as described in said section.
- (b) Nothing in this section shall preclude the operation of lawn maintenance equipment by residents after 9:00 a.m. on Saturdays, Sundays or legal holidays, including the Friday immediately after Thanksgiving. Further, golf course maintenance equipment within the town is not restricted during the hours outlined herein; however, such golf course maintenance equipment shall not be used before 8:00 a.m. or after 5:30 p.m. on any day at locations within 300 feet of residential properties, except in the event of valid emergencies and once per month for purposes of chemical spraying or fertilizing. The sound level meter measurement shall be

no greater than 75 dBA measured 50 feet from the point of operation of the equipment. The sound level meter measurement shall not be applicable to lawn maintenance equipment used on golf courses.

- (c) Lawn maintenance equipment includes but is not limited to lawn mowers, edgers, hedge trimmers, yard tractors, leaf blowers, lawn vacuum machines, and monofilament line grass trimmers.
- (d) Leaf blowers shall not exceed a decibel level of 65 dBA as measured at 50 feet from the point of operation. It shall be unlawful to blow, sweep or rake yard trash or clippings into the public street or storm drains.
- (e) There shall be no commencement of large scale landscape installation at any time on Saturdays.”

If Town Council agrees with the request to have ORS further study this section, please provide direction to staff and advise of any particular issues you would like examined before returning to Town Council with recommendations.

#### Attachment

cc: John C. Randolph, Town Attorney  
H. Paul Brazil, P.E., Director of Public Works  
Wayne Bergman, Director of Planning, Zoning and Building  
Nick Caristo, Police Chief  
Ben Alma, Support Services Manager