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SPOTLIGHT TOP STORY

Code officer: There's been little to no change in RV ordinance

By MARIA VASQUEZ Staff Writer Jan 22, 2019 Updated Jan 22, 2019

Pinal County Code Compliance Manager Paula Mullenix speaks to the public Jan. 15 during a "Session with the Supervisor" at the Arizona City fire station.

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ARIZONA CITY — There have been no recent changes to Pinal County's RV ordinance, a code officer said.

Community members in Arizona City showed up at the fire station to fill its meeting room on Jan. 15 during Pinal County Supervisor Anthony Smith's "Session with the Supervisor."

After Pinal County Animal Care and Control Director Audra Michael, Smith's second guest speaker was Pinal County Code Compliance Manager Paula Mullenix.

She was quick to address the RV situation and said that the RV ordinance is the same one that has been around since the 1960s.

"The only thing that has changed is the director," Mullenix said. "My community director added that you can have your RV, when it's stored on your property, connected to electric to keep the batteries charged. You are allowed to do that now."

She added that it is a new policy that is not included in the ordinance.

Mullenix also clarified that an RV can be stored on one's property, as before, since the county has not changed anything.

“You can store your own personal RV on property that you own,” she said. “As long as they’re licensed and they are operative.”

Operative is the key word, meaning if the RV is working and it is not being used for storage.

A resident can still be written up even if the RV has a current license plate if the RV is not being used as intended when it was manufactured.

“Somehow people have got the idea that the county changed this ordinance to where you could not store your RVs. You still can,” Mullenix said. “You can’t store it for a neighbor or a relative that lives somewhere else.”

Mullenix emphasized that the RV on a property has to belong to the property owner and not someone else. Additionally, people are not allowed to live in the RV when it is stored on the property.

“You cannot have people live in them,” Mullenix added. “At this time there is no guest house component of RVs. You cannot do it now. You will be written up for it. Anytime anyone sleeps in it, it’s not allowed.”

She did admit that if the guests are visiting only for a few days and are gone by the time the code compliance officer gets there, the owner will not be written up. If property owners are repeat offenders and is constantly violating the code, however, they could end up at a hearing office.

The county is currently working on a plan to permit guest housing but nothing has been made official.

“I hope we get the guest housing coming in for the RVs because it’s going to be a permitted issue,” Mullenix said.

“I’m sure it will be a small fee, but it will be a permitted thing and then it’s easier for us to manage. I want for people to just put a sign out in the front of their property with that permit so when we’re out driving by and we see an RV hooked up, we see the permit and expiration date on there. But you have to remember that we have a lot of people for it and a lot of people against it.”