

**Franklin County, Georgia**  
**Building and Building Regulations Ordinance**  
**PROPOSED AMENDED**

The Purpose of the Building and Building Regulations Ordinance is to:

- 1) protect the health, safety and welfare of the people of Franklin County
- 2) safeguard public safety thru code compliance
- 3) reduce risk as much as possible
- 4) ensure new construction and additions are building code compliant
- 5) promote responsible growth by assisting citizens, builders, contractors/developers
- 6) securing the beneficial interest of the community which are public safety, health and general welfare through the structural strength, stability, sanitation, adequate light and ventilation, and safety of life and property from fire and other hazards incident to the construction, alteration, repair, removal, demolition, use and occupancy of buildings, structures or premises

**A. TECHNICAL CODES**

(a) It is the intent of the Franklin County government to enforce the latest edition of the following Georgia State Minimum Standard Codes, as adopted and amended by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs:

- (1) International Building Code;
- (2) International Mechanical Code;
- (3) International Fuel Gas Code;
- (4) International Plumbing Code;
- (5) National Electric Code;
- (6) International Fire Code;
- (7) International Residential Code for One- and Two- Family Dwellings; and
- (8) Georgia State Energy Code.

(b) The following appendices of said codes, as adopted and amended by the state department of community affairs, are hereby adopted by reference as though they were copied herein fully:

- (1) Standard Building Code: Appendix C, J;
- (2) Standard Mechanical Code: Appendix: n/a
- (3) Standard Plumbing Code: Appendix D;
- (4) Standard Gas Code: Appendix : n/a
- (5) Standard fire Prevention Code: Appendix n/a
- (6) IRC One- and Two-Family Dwelling Code: Appendix n/a.

**B. ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT**

(a) *Purpose* . The purpose of this article is to provide for the administration and enforcement of the Georgia State Minimum Standard Codes as allowed heretofore adopted. Hereinafter all of the codes heretofore adopted shall be referred to as the "technical codes," as may be adopted by the state or local jurisdiction.

(b) *Code remedial*

(1) *General*. These codes are hereby declared to be remedial, and shall be construed to secure the beneficial interests and purposes thereof, which are **public safety, health, and general welfare**; through structural strength, stability, sanitation, adequate light and ventilation, and safety to life and property from fire and other hazards attributed to the built environment including alteration, repair, removal, demolition, use and occupancy of buildings, structures, or premises, and by regulating the installation and maintenance of all electrical, gas, mechanical and plumbing systems, which may be referred to as service systems.

(2) *Quality control*. Quality control of materials and workmanship is not within the purview of this code except as it relates to the purposes stated herein.

(3) *Permitting and inspection*. The inspection or permitting of any building, system, or plan, under the requirements of this code shall not be construed in any court as a warranty of the physical condition of such building, system or plan or their adequacy. The county, nor any employee thereof, shall be liable in tort for damages for any defect or hazardous or illegal condition or inadequacy in such building, system, or plan, nor for any failure of any component of such, which may occur subsequent to inspection or permitting.

(c) *Scope*.

(1) *Applicability*.

a. *General* . Where, in any specific case, different sections of these codes specify different materials, methods of construction or other requirements, the most restrictive shall govern. Where there is a conflict between a general requirement and a specific requirement, the specific requirement shall be applicable.

b. *Building* . The provisions of the Standard Building Code, as amended, shall apply to the construction, alteration, repair, equipment, use and occupancy, location, maintenance, removal and demolition, of every building or structure or any appurtenances connected or attached to such buildings or structures except in one- and two- family dwellings.

c. *Electrical* . The provisions of the National Electric Code, as amended, shall apply to the installation of electrical systems, including alteration, repairs, replacement, equipment, appliances, fixtures, fittings and appurtenances thereto.

d. *Gas* . The provisions of the Standard Gas Code, as amended, shall apply to the installation of consumer's gas piping, gas appliances, and related accessories as covered in this code. These requirements apply to gas piping systems extending from the point of delivery to the inlet connections of appliances and the installation and operation of residential and commercial gas appliances and related accessories, except in one- and two- family dwellings.

e. *Mechanical* . The provisions of the Standard Mechanical Code, as amended, shall apply to the installation of mechanical systems, including alterations, repairs, replacement, equipment, appliances, fixtures, fittings and/or appurtenances, including ventilating, heating, cooling, air conditioning and refrigeration systems, incinerators, and other energy-related systems, except in one- and two- family dwellings.

f. *Plumbing* . The provisions of the Standard Plumbing Code, as amended, shall apply to every plumbing installation, including alterations, repairs, replacement, equipment, appliances, fixtures, fittings and appurtenances, and when connected to a water or sewage system.

g. *Fire prevention* . The provisions of the Standard Fire Prevention Code, as amended, shall apply to the construction, alteration, repair, equipment, use and occupancy, location, maintenance of every building or structure or any appurtenances connected or attached to such buildings or structures.

h. *Energy* . The provisions of the International Energy Conservation Code, as amended, shall regulate the design of building envelopes for adequate thermal resistance and low air leakage and the design and selection of mechanical, electrical, service water heating and illumination systems and equipment that will enable the effective use of energy in new building construction.

i. *International Residential One- and Two- Family Dwelling* . The provisions of the International One- and Two- Family Dwelling Code, as amended, shall apply to the construction, alteration, repair, equipment, use and occupancy, location, maintenance, of every one- and two-family dwelling or appurtenances connected or attached to such buildings or structures.

j. *The Unsafe Building Abatement Code* . The provisions of this code provide code enforcement personnel with the necessary tools to have dangerous and unsafe buildings repaired or demolished.

(2) Federal and state authority. The provisions of this code shall not be held to deprive any federal or state agency, or any applicable governing authority having jurisdiction, of any power or authority which it had on the effective date of the adoption of this code or of any remedy then existing for the enforcement of its orders, nor shall it deprive any individual or corporation of its legal rights as provided by law.

(3) Appendices. Appendices referenced in the code text of the technical codes shall be considered an integral part of the codes.

(4) Referenced standards. Standards referenced in the text of the technical codes shall be considered an integral part of the codes. If specific portions of a standard are denoted by code text, only those portions of the standard shall be enforced. Where code provisions conflict with a standard, the code provisions shall be enforced. Permissive and advisory provisions in a standard shall not be construed as mandatory.

(5) Maintenance. All buildings, structures, electrical, gas, mechanical and plumbing systems, both existing and new, and all parts thereof, shall be maintained in a safe and sanitary condition. All devices or safeguards, which are required by the technical codes when constructed, altered, or repaired, shall be maintained in good working order. The owner, or his designated agent, shall be responsible for the maintenance of buildings, structures, electrical, gas, mechanical and plumbing systems.

## C. **BUILDING DEPARTMENT**

There is hereby established a department to be called the building inspection department and the person in charge shall be called the building official. The qualifications for the building official and other code enforcement personnel to be established by the governing body.

(1) Restrictions on employees. An officer or employee connected with the department, except one whose only connection is as a member of the board established by this code, shall not be financially interested in the furnishing of labor, material, or appliances for the construction, alteration, or maintenance of a building, structure, service, system, or in the making of plans or of the specifications thereof, unless he is the owner of such. This officer or employee shall not engage in any other work which is inconsistent with his duties or conflict with the interests of the department.

(2) Records. The building official shall keep, or cause to be kept, a record of the business of the department. The records of the department shall be open to public inspection.

(3) Liability. Any officer or employee, or member of the board of adjustments and appeals, charged with the enforcement of this code, acting for the applicable governing authority in the discharge of his duties, shall not thereby render himself personally liable, and is hereby relieved from all personal liability, for any damage that may occur to persons or property as a result of any act required or permitted in the discharge of his duties. Any suit brought against any officer or employee or member because of such act performed by him in the enforcement of any provision of this code shall be defended by the department of law until the final termination of the proceedings.

(4) Reports. The building official shall submit annually a report to the governing body covering the work of the building department during the preceding year. He may incorporate in said report as summary of the decisions of the board of adjustments and appeals during said year.

(e) *Existing buildings.*

Existing Buildings will be exempt from the Building Inspection

#### **D. VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES**

Any person, firm, corporation or agent who shall violate a provision of the technical codes, or fail to comply therewith, or with any of the requirements thereof, or who shall erect, construct, alter, install, demolish or move any structure, electrical, gas, mechanical or plumbing system, or has erected, constructed, altered, repaired, moved or demolished a building, electrical, gas, mechanical or plumbing system, in violation of a detailed statement or drawing submitted and permitted thereunder, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. Each such person shall be considered guilty of a separate offense for each and every day or portion thereof during which any violation of any of the provisions of this code is committed or continued, and upon conviction of any such violation such person shall be punished within the limits and as provided by state laws.

#### **E. POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE BUILDING OFFICIAL**

(a) *General.* The building official is hereby authorized and directed to enforce the provisions of the technical codes. The building official is further authorized to render interpretations of the technical codes, which are consistent with its intent and purpose.

(b) *Right of entry.*

(1) Whenever necessary to make an inspection to enforce any provisions of this code, or whenever the building official has reason to believe that there exists in any building or upon any premises any condition or code violation which makes such building, structure, premises, electrical gas, mechanical or plumbing systems unsafe, dangerous or hazardous, the building official may enter such building, structure or premises at all reasonable times to inspect the same or to perform any duty imposed upon the building official by these technical codes, provided that if such building or premises is occupied, he shall first show proper credentials and request entry. If such building, structure, or premises is unoccupied, he shall first make a reasonable effort to locate the owner or other persons having charge or control of such and request entry. If entry is refused, the building official shall have recourse to every remedy provided by law to secure entry.

(2) Whenever the building official shall have first obtained an administrative warrant or other remedy provided by law to secure entry, no owner or occupant or any other persons having charge, care or control of any building, structure or premises shall fail or neglect, after proper request is made as herein provided, to promptly permit entry therein by the building official for the purpose of inspection and examination pursuant to this code.

(c) *Stop work orders.* Upon notice from the building official, work on any building, structure, electrical, gas, mechanical or plumbing system that is being done contrary to the provisions of the technical codes or in a dangerous or unsafe manner, shall immediately cease. Such notice shall be in writing and shall be given to the owner of the property, or to his agent, or to the person doing the work, and shall state the conditions under which work may be resumed.

(d) *Revocation of permits.*

(1) Misrepresentation of application. The building official may revoke a permit or approval issued under the provisions of this code in case there has been any false statement or misrepresentation as to the material fact in the application or plans on which the permit or approval was based.

(2) Violation of code provisions. The building official may revoke a permit upon determination by the building official that the construction, erection, alteration, repair, moving, demolition, installation or replacement of the building, structure electrical, gas, mechanical or plumbing systems for which the permit was issued is in violation of, or not in conformity with, the provisions of this code.

(e) *Unsafe buildings or systems.* All buildings, structures, electrical, gas, mechanical or plumbing systems which are unsafe, unsanitary, or do not provide adequate egress, or which constitute a fire hazard, or are otherwise dangerous to human life, or which in relation to existing use, constitute a hazard to safety or health, are considered unsafe buildings or service systems. All such unsafe buildings, structures, or service systems are hereby declared illegal and shall be abated by repair and rehabilitation or by demolition in accordance with the provisions of the Standard Unsafe Building Abatement Code.

(f) *Requirements not covered by code.* Any requirements necessary for strength, stability or proper operation of an existing or proposed building, structure, electrical, gas, mechanical or plumbing system, or for the public safety, health and general welfare, not specifically covered by this or the other technical codes, shall be determined by the building official.

(g) *Alternate materials and methods.* The provisions of the technical codes are not intended to prevent the use of any material or method of construction not specifically prescribed by them, provided any such alternate has been reviewed by the building official. The building official shall approve any such alternate, provided the building official finds the alternate for the purpose intended is at least the equivalent of that prescribed in the technical codes, in quality, strength, effectiveness, fire resistance, durability and safety. The building official shall require that sufficient evidence or proof be submitted to substantiate any claim made regarding the alternate.

## **F. PERMITS REQUIRED**

**NOTE REQUIRED PERMITS LANGUAGE IS IN THE ZONING DOCUMENTS; WE SHOULD CROSS REFERENCE AND NOT CONTRADICT**

### **Section 1702. Building Permit Required.**

*A building permit shall be required in advance of the initiation of construction, erection, or moving of any building or structure which is equal to or greater than 150 square feet, or for any building addition which is equal to or greater than 150 square feet.*

*All Building Permits shall be issued by the Building Official, under guidelines set forth by the Planning Director, the Planning Commission and the Board of Commissioners. In cases of uncertainty regarding whether a proposed building or structure conforms to any provisions within this Resolution, the Building Official shall consult with the Planning Director for his interpretation and ruling.*

*Building Permits shall become invalid unless the work authorized by it shall have been commenced within ninety (90) days of its date of issue, or if the work authorized by it is suspended or abandoned for a period of six (6) months or more.*

## **G. PERMITS VIOLATIONS**

The enforcement of the building permit ordinance will be placed with the board of commissioners or their designee and will include the following penalties:

(a) Any person violating any provision of this article shall be guilty of violating a duly adopted ordinance of Franklin County, and upon conviction such a violation shall be punishable as a misdemeanor, pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 15-10-60, subject to a fine not to exceed \$1,000.00 and subject to imprisonment for no more than 60 days or both, except where otherwise provided by general law, or by subsequent amendment of O.C.G.A. § 15-10-60. O.C.G.A. § 15-10-60, et seq. shall govern the trial of any violation of this article, and any violation of this article may be tried upon citation as contemplated by O.C.G.A. § 15-10-63. Each day during which the violation or failure or refusal to comply continues shall constitute a separate violation. The county board of commissioners or its designee will have the authority to issue stop work orders when violations are discovered.

## **H. PROVISIONS OF ELECTRIC POWER**

(a) No electric power is to be connected to property and no construction or grading may take place until a building permit is issued. Minor land clearing activity unrelated to a building construction project is allowable without a building permit, unless the property is in a mountain protection zone or a stream buffer, and provided that such clearing is not in violation of local or state law.

## **I. COMPLIANCE WITH REQUIREMENT**

(a) No building permit will be issued until all other local and state laws have been met. These ordinances include, but are not limited to: minimum lot size ordinance; soil erosion and sedimentation control ordinance; Georgia Planning Act, O.C.G.A. 111-12-3.01; Franklin County Mobile Home Ordinance; watershed ordinance; wetland protection ordinance; subdivision ordinance; and state law dealing with state highway access.

## **J. PERMIT EXPIRATION**

(a) Building permits will be valid for one year from the date of application for new structures and six months for a mobile home. Building permits are not renewable and if the permit expires prior to completion of the project a replacement permit must be purchased.

## **K. PERMIT VIOLATION**

Failure to secure a building permit required by this article shall be a violation of a duly adopted ordinance of the county. The procedure for enforcement of this article shall be as provided in article 4 of chapter 10 of title 15 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated (O.C.G.A. § 15-10-60 et seq.). Any person, firm, or corporation convicted of a violation of any provision of this article shall be punished as provided in section 1-9.

## **L. APPLICATION FOR PERMIT**

(a) *Application.*

(1) *When required.* Any owner, authorized agent, or contractor who desires to construct, enlarge, move, demolish, or change the occupancy of a building or structure, or to erect, install, enlarge, alter, remove, convert or replace any electrical, gas, mechanical, or plumbing system, the installation of which is regulated by the technical codes, or to cause any such work to be done, shall first make application to the building official and obtain the required permit for the work.

EXCEPTION: Permits shall not be required for the following mechanical work:

- a. Any portable heating appliance;
- b. Any portable ventilation equipment;
- c. Any portable cooling unit;
- d. Any steam, hot or chilled water piping within any heating or cooling equipment regulated by this code;
- e. Replacements of any part which does not alter its approval or make it unsafe;
- f. Any portable evaporative cooler;



g. Any self-contained refrigeration system containing ten pounds (4.54 kg) or less of refrigerant and actuated by motors of one horsepower (746 W) or less.

(2) *Work authorized.* A building, electrical, gas, mechanical or plumbing permit shall carry with it the right to construct or install the work, provided the same are shown on the drawings and set forth in the specifications filed with the application for the permit. Where these are not shown on the drawings and covered by the specifications submitted with the application, separate permits will be required.

(3) *Minor repairs.* Normal repairs may be made with the approval of the building official without a permit, provided that such repairs shall not violate any of the provisions of the technical codes.

(4) *Information required.* Each application for a permit, with the required fee, shall be filed with the building official on a form furnished for that purpose, and shall contain a general description of the proposed work and its location. The application shall be signed by the owner, or his agent. The building permit application shall indicate the proposed occupancy of all parts of the building and of that portion of the site or lot, if any, not covered by the building or structure, and shall contain such other information as may be required by the building official.

(5) *Time limitations.* An application for a permit for any proposed work shall be deemed to have been abandoned (building) 12 months, (mobile home) six months after the date of filing for the permit, unless an inspection is conducted within six months of the permit issuance, and a minimum of one approved inspection must be conducted within one year of last inspection to keep permit active.

(b) *Drawings and specifications.*

(1) *Requirements.* When required by the building official, two or more copies of specifications, and of drawings drawn to scale with sufficient clarity and detail to indicate the nature and character of the work, shall accompany the application for a permit. Such drawings and specifications shall contain information, in the form of notes or otherwise, as to the quality of materials, where quality is essential to conformity with the technical codes. Such information shall be specific, and the technical codes shall not be cited as a whole or in part, nor shall the term "legal" or its equivalent be used, as a substitute for specific information. All information, drawings, specifications and accompanying data shall bear the name and signature of the person responsible for the design.

(2) *Additional data.* The building official may require details, computations, stress diagrams, and other data necessary to describe the construction or installation and the basis of calculations. All drawings, specifications and accompanying data required by the building official to be prepared by an architect or engineer shall be affixed with their official seal.

(3) *Design professional.*

a. The design professional shall be an architect or engineer legally registered under the laws of this state regulating the practice of architecture or engineering and shall affix his official seal to said drawings, specifications and accompanying data for the following:

1. All group A, E, and I occupancies.
2. Buildings and structures three stories or more high.
3. Buildings and structures 5,000 square feet (465 m<sup>2</sup>) or more in area.

b. For all other buildings and structures, the submittal shall bear the certification of the applicant that some specific state law exception permits its preparation by a person not so registered.

c. EXCEPTION: Single-family dwellings, regardless of size, shall require neither a registered architect nor engineer, nor a certification that an architect or engineer is not required.

(4) *Structural and fire resistance integrity.* Plans for all buildings shall indicate how required structural and fire resistance integrity will be maintained where a penetration of a required fire resistance wall, floor or partition will be made for electrical, gas, mechanical, plumbing, signal and communication conduits, pipes and systems and also indicate in sufficient detail how the fire integrity will be maintained where required fire resistance floors intersect the exterior walls.

(5) *Site drawings.* Drawings shall show the location of the proposed building or structure and of every existing building or structure on the site or lot. The building official may require a boundary line survey prepared by a qualified surveyor.

(6) *Hazardous occupancies.* The building official may require the following:

a. *General site plan.* A general site plan drawn at a legible scale which shall include, but not be limited to, the location of all buildings, exterior storage facilities, permanent access ways, evacuation routes, parking lots, internal roads, chemical loading areas, equipment cleaning areas, storm and sanitary sewer accesses, emergency equipment and adjacent property uses. The exterior storage areas shall be identified with the hazard classes and the maximum quantities per hazard class of hazardous materials stored.

b. *Building floor plan.* A building floor plan drawn to a legible scale, which shall include, but not be limited to, all hazardous materials storage facilities within the building and shall indicate rooms, doorways, corridors, exits, fire rated assemblies with their hourly rating, location of liquid tight rooms, and evacuation routes. Each hazardous materials storage facility shall be identified on the plan with the hazard classes and quantity range per hazard class of the hazardous materials stored.

(c) *Examination of documents.*

(1) *Plan review.* The building official shall examine or cause to be examined each application for a permit and accompanying documents, consisting of drawings, specifications, computations, and additional data, and shall ascertain by such examinations whether the construction indicated and described is in accordance with the requirements of the technical codes and all other pertinent laws or ordinances.

(2) *Affidavits.* The building official may accept a sworn affidavit from a registered architect or engineer stating that the plans submitted conform to the technical codes. For buildings and structures the affidavit shall state that the plans conform to the laws as to egress, type of construction and general arrangement and if accompanied by drawings showing the structural design, and by a statement that the plans and design conform to the requirements of the technical codes as to strength, stresses, strains, loads and stability. The building official may without any examination or inspection accept such affidavit, provided the architect or engineer who made such affidavit agrees to submit to the building official, copies of inspection reports as inspections are performed and upon completion of the structure, electrical, gas, mechanical or plumbing systems a certification that the structure, electrical, gas, mechanical or plumbing system has been erected in accordance with the requirements of the technical codes. Where the building official relies upon such affidavit, the architect or engineer shall assume full responsibility for the compliance with all provisions of the technical codes and other pertinent laws or ordinances.

(d) *Issuing permits.*

(1) *Action on permits.* The building official shall act upon an application for a permit without unreasonable or unnecessary delay. If the building official is satisfied that the work described in an application for a permit and the contract documents filed therewith conform to the requirements of the technical codes and other pertinent laws and ordinances, he shall issue a permit to the applicant.

(2) *Refusal to issue permit.* If the application for a permit and the accompanying contract documents describing the work do not conform to the requirements of the technical codes or other pertinent laws or ordinances, the building official shall not issue a permit, but shall return the contract documents to the applicant with his refusal to issue such permit. Such refusal shall, when requested, be in writing and shall contain the reason for refusal.

(3) *Special foundation permit.* When application for permit to erect or enlarge a building has been filed and pending issuance of such permit, the building official may, at his discretion, issue a special permit for the foundation only. The holder of such a special permit is proceeding at his own risk and without assurance that a permit for the remainder of the work will be granted nor that corrections will not be required in order to meet provisions of the technical codes.

(4) *Public right-of-way.* A permit shall not be given by the building official for the construction of any building, or for the alteration of any building where said building is to be changed and such change will affect the exterior walls, bays, balconies, or other appendages or projections fronting on any street, alley or public lane, or for the placing on any lot or premises of any building or structure removed from another lot or premises, unless the applicant has made application at the office of the Board of Commissioners/road department for the lines of the public street on which he proposes to build, erect or locate said building; and it shall be the duty of the building official to see that the street lines are not encroached upon except as provided for in [chapter 22](#) of the Standard Building Code.



(e) *Contractors' responsibilities.* It shall be the duty of every contractor who shall make contracts for the installation or repairs of building, structure, electrical, gas mechanical, sprinkler or plumbing systems, for which a permit is required, to comply with state or local rules and regulations concerning licensing which the applicable governing authority may have adopted. In such case that the state requires a contractor to have obtained a state license before they permitted to perform work, the contractor shall supply the local government with their license number before receiving a permit for work to be performed.

(f) *Conditions of the permit.*

(1) *Permit intent.* A permit issued shall be construed to be a license to proceed with the work and not as authority to violate, cancel, alter, or set aside any of the provisions of the technical codes, nor shall issuance of a permit prevent the building official from thereafter requiring a correction of errors in plans, construction, or violations of this code. An application for a permit for any proposed work shall be deemed to have been abandoned (building) 12 months, (mobile home) six months after the date of filing for the permit, unless an inspection is conducted within six months of the permit issuance, and a minimum of one approved inspection must be conducted within one year of last inspection to keep permit active.

(2) *Permit issued on basis of affidavit.* Whenever a permit is issued in reliance upon an affidavit or whenever the work to be covered by a permit involves installation under conditions which, in the opinion of the building official, are hazardous or complex, the building official shall require that computations shall supervise such work. In addition, they shall be responsible for conformity with the permit, provide copies of inspection reports as inspections are performed, and upon completion make and file with the building official written affidavit that the work has been done in conformity with the reviewed plans and with the structural provisions of the technical codes. In the event such architect or engineer is not available, the owner shall employ in his stead a competent person or agency whose qualifications are reviewed by the building official.

(3) *Plans.* When the building official issues a permit, he shall enforce, in writing or by stamp, both sets of plans "reviewed for code compliance". One set of drawings so reviewed shall be retained by the building official and the other set shall be returned to the applicant. The permitted drawings shall be kept at the site of work and shall be open to inspection by the building official or his authorized representative.

(g) *Fees.*

(1) *Prescribed fees.* A permit shall not be issued until the fees prescribed by the governing body have been paid. Nor shall an amendment to a permit be released until the additional fee, if any, due to an increase in the estimated cost of the building, structure, electrical, plumbing, mechanical or gas system, etc. has been paid.

(2) *Work commencing before permit issuance.* Any person who commences any work on a building, structure, electrical, gas, mechanical or plumbing, etc. system before obtaining the necessary permits, shall be subject to a fine not to exceed \$1,000.00 and subject to imprisonment for no more than 60 days or both.

(3) *Accounting.* The building official shall keep a permanent and accurate accounting of all permit fees and other money collected, the names of all persons upon whose account the same were paid, along with the date and amount thereof.

(4) *Schedule of permit fees.* On all buildings, structures, electrical, plumbing, mechanical and gas systems or alterations requiring a permit, a fee for each permit shall be paid as required at the time of filing application, in accordance with the fee schedules as set by the governing body.

(5) *Building permit valuations.* If, in the opinion of the building official, the valuation of building, alteration, structure, electrical, gas, mechanical or plumbing systems appears to be underestimated on the application, permit shall be denied, unless the applicant can show detailed estimates to meet the approval of the building official. Permit valuations shall include total cost, such as electrical, gas, mechanical, plumbing equipment and other systems, including materials and labor.

## **M. PERMIT FEES**

Fees for building permits required by this article shall be as set by the board of commissioners by resolution.

## N. INSPECTIONS

(a) *Existing building inspections.* Before issuing a permit the building official may examine or cause to be examined any building, electrical, gas, mechanical or plumbing system for which an application has been received for a permit to enlarge, alter, repair, move, demolish, install or change the occupancy. He shall inspect all buildings, structures, electrical, gas, mechanical or plumbing systems, from time to time, during and upon completion of the work for which a permit was issued. He shall make a record of every such examination and inspection and of all violations of the technical codes.

(b) *Manufacturers and fabricators.* When deemed necessary by the building official he shall make, or cause to be made, an inspection of materials or assemblies at the point of manufacture or fabrication. A record shall be made of every such examination and inspection and of all violations of the technical codes.

(c) *Inspection service.* The building official may make, or cause to be made, the inspections required by subsection [18-76\(b\)](#). He may accept reports of inspectors of recognized inspection services provided that after investigation he is satisfied as to their qualifications and reliability. A certificate called for by any provision of the technical codes shall not be based on such reports unless the same are in writing and certified by a responsible officer of such service.

(d) *Inspections prior to issuance of certificate of occupancy or completion.* The building official shall inspect or cause to be inspected at various intervals all construction or work for which a permit is required, and a final inspection shall be made of every building, structure, electrical, gas, mechanical or plumbing system upon completion, prior to the issuance of a certificate of occupancy or completion.

(e) *Posting of permit.* Work requiring a permit shall not commence until the permit holder or his agent posts the permit card in a conspicuous place on the premises. The permit shall be protected from the weather and located in such position as to permit the building official or representative to conveniently make the required entries thereon. This permit card shall be maintained in such position by the permit holder until the certificate of occupancy or completion is issued by the building official.

(f) *Required inspections.* The building official upon notification from the permit holder or his agent shall make the following inspections and as many inspections as necessary until the building official is satisfied that the technical codes have been met, and shall either release that portion of the construction or shall notify the permit holder or his agent of any violations which must be corrected in order to comply with the technical code:

### (1) *Building.*

a. *Foundation inspection.* To be made after trenches are excavated and forms erected.

b. *Frame inspection.* To be made after the roof, all framing, fire blocking and bracing are in place, all concealed wiring, all pipes, chimneys, ducts, and vents are complete.

c. *Final inspection.* To be made after the building is completed and ready for occupancy.

### (2) *Electrical.*

a. *Underground inspection.* To be made after trenches or ditches are excavated, conduit or cable installed, and before any backfill is put in place.

b. *Rough-in inspection.* To be made after the roof, framing, fire blocking and bracing is in place and prior to the installation of wall or ceiling membranes. All branch circuit wiring is in place for all receptacles and lighting outlets, all feeders to panel.

c. *Final inspection.* To be made after the building is complete, all required electrical fixtures are in place and properly connected or protected, and the structure is ready for occupancy.

### (3) *Plumbing.*

a. *Underground inspection.* To be made after trenches or ditches are excavated, piping installed and before backfill is put into place.

b. *Rough-in inspection.* To be made after the roof, framing, fire blocking and braces are put in place and all soil, waste and vent piping is complete, DWV and water tests are in place, and prior to the installation of wall or ceiling membranes.

c. *Final inspection.* To be made after the building is complete, all plumbing fixtures are in place and properly connected, and the structure is ready for occupancy.

d. *Note:* See section 311 of the Standard Plumbing Code for required tests.

(4) *Mechanical.*

a. *Underground inspection.* To be made after trenches or ditches are excavated, underground duct and fuel piping installed, and before any backfill is put in place.

b. *Rough-in inspection.* To be made after the roof, framing, fire blocking and bracing are in place and all ducting, and other concealed components are complete, and prior to installation of wall or ceiling membranes.

c. *Final inspection.* To be made after the building is complete, the mechanical system is in place and properly connected, and the structure is ready for occupancy.

(5) *Gas.*

a. *Rough piping inspection.* To be made after all new piping authorized by the permit has been installed, test placed on piping and before any such piping has been covered or concealed or any fixtures or gas appliances have been connected.

b. *Final piping inspection.* To be made after all piping authorized by the permit has been installed and after all portions which are to be concealed by plastering or otherwise have been so concealed, and before any fixtures or gas appliances have been connected. The inspection shall include a pressure test.

c. *Final piping inspection.* To be made on all new gas work authorized by the permit and such portions of existing systems as may be affected by new work or any changes in order to insure compliance with all the requirements of this code and to assure that the installation and construction of the gas system is in accordance with reviewed plans.

(6) *Energy.*

a. *Foundation inspection.* To be made before slab concrete is poured in place. To verify that perimeter insulation has been installed correctly on any slab on grade foundations, if required.

b. *Frame inspection.* To be made before exterior wall insulation concealed by wall board to check installation of exterior wall insulation and to inspect that all holes and cracks through the structure envelope have been sealed in an appropriate manner as to restrict air passage.

c. *Final inspection.* To be made after the building is completed and ready for occupancy. To verify installation and R-value of ceiling and floor insulation. To verify correct SEER ratings on appliances.

(g) *Written release.* Work shall not be done on any part of a building, structure, electrical, gas, mechanical or plumbing system beyond the point indicated in each successive inspection without first obtaining a written release from the building official. Such written release shall be given only after an inspection has been made of each successive step in the construction or installation as indicated by each of the foregoing three inspections.

(h) *Reinforcing steel, structural frames, insulation, plumbing, mechanical, or electrical systems.* Reinforcing steel, structural frames insulation, plumbing, work of any part of any building or structure shall not be covered or concealed without first obtaining a release from the building official.

(i) *Plaster fire protection.* In all buildings where plaster is used for fire protection purposes, the permit holder or his agent shall notify the building official after all lathing and backing is in place. Plaster shall not be applied until the release from the building official has been received.

## O. CERTIFICATES

(a) *Certificate of occupancy.*

(1) *Building occupancy.* A new building shall not be occupied or a change made in the occupancy, nature or use of a building or part of a building until after the building official has issued a certificate of occupancy. Said certificate shall not be issued until all required electrical, gas, mechanical, plumbing and fire protection systems have been inspected for compliance with the technical codes and other applicable laws and ordinances and released by the building official.

(2) *Issuing certificate of occupancy.* Upon satisfactory completion of construction of a building or structure and installation of electrical, gas, mechanical and plumbing systems in accordance with the technical codes, reviewed plans and specifications, and after the final inspection, the building official shall issue a certificate of occupancy stating the nature of the occupancy permitted, the number of persons for each floor when limited by law.

(3) *Temporary/partial occupancy.* A temporary/partial certificate of occupancy may be issued for a portion of a building, which may safely be occupied prior to final completion of the building.

(4) *Existing building certificate of occupancy.* A certificate of occupancy for any existing building may be obtained by applying to the building official and supplying the information and data necessary to determine compliance with the technical codes for the occupancy intended. Where necessary, in the opinion of the building official, two sets of detailed drawings, or a general inspection, or both may be required. When, upon examination and inspection, it is found that the building conforms to the provisions of the technical codes and other applicable laws and ordinances for such occupancy, a certificate of occupancy shall be issued.

(b) *Certificate of completion.* Upon satisfactory completion of a building, structure, electrical, gas, mechanical or plumbing system, a certificate of completion may be issued. This certificate is proof that a structure or system is complete and for certain types of permits is released for use and may be connected to a utility system. This certificate does not grant authority to occupy or connect a building, such as a shell building, prior to the issuance of a certificate of occupancy.

(c) *Service utilities.*

(1) *Connection of service utilities.* No person shall make connections from a utility, source of energy, fuel or power to any building or system which is regulated by the technical codes for which a permit is required, until released by the building official and a certificate of occupancy or completion is issued.

(2) *Temporary connection.* The building official may authorize the temporary connection of the building for acclimatization of sensitive materials systems to the utility source of energy, fuel or power for the purpose of testing building service systems or for use under a temporary certificate of occupancy.

(3) *Authority to disconnect service utilities.* The building official shall have the power to authorize disconnection of utility service to the building, structure or system regulated by the technical codes, in case of emergency where necessary to eliminate an immediate hazard to life or property. The building official shall notify the serving utility, and whenever possible the owner and occupant of the building, structure or service system of the decision to disconnect prior to taking such action. If not notified prior to disconnecting, the owner or occupant of the building, structure or service system shall be notified in writing, as soon as practical thereafter.

(h) *Posting floor loads.*

(1) *Occupancy.* An existing or new building shall not be occupied for any purpose which will cause the floors thereof to be loaded beyond their safe capacity. The building official may permit occupancy of a building for mercantile, commercial or industrial purposes, by a specific business, when he is satisfied that such capacity will not thereby be exceeded.

(2) *Storage and factory-industrial occupancies.* It shall be the responsibility of the owner, agent proprietor or occupant of group S and group F occupancies, or any occupancy where excessive floor loading is likely to occur, to employ a competent architect or engineer in computing the safe load capacity. All such computations shall be accompanied by an affidavit from the architect or engineer stating the safe allowable floor load on each floor in pounds per square foot uniformly distributed. The computations and affidavit shall be filed as a permanent record of the building department.

(3) *Signs required.* In every building or part of a building used for storage, industrial or hazardous purposes, the safe floor loads, as reviewed by the building official on the plan, shall be marked on plates or approved design which shall be supplied and securely affixed by the owner of the building in a conspicuous place in

each story to which they relate. Such plates shall not be removed or defaced, and if lost, removed or defaced, shall be replaced by the owner of the building.

## **P. TEST**

The building official may require tests or test reports as proof of compliance. Required tests are to be made at the expense of the owner, or his agent, by an approved testing laboratory or other approved agency.

## **Q. CONSTRUCTION BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT AND APPEALS**

- (a) A Board of Appeals is hereby established. The Board of Appeals shall perform all of its duties and exercise all of its powers in such a way that the purpose and intent of the building code regulations shall be: (1) accomplished, (2) public health, safety and welfare secured, and (3) substantial justice done.
- (b) The Board of Commissioners shall serve as the Board of Appeals.

### *(d) Appeals.*

(1) *Decision of the building official.* The owner of a building, structure or service system, or his duly authorized agent, may appeal a decision of the building official to the construction board of adjustment and appeals whenever any one of the following conditions are claimed to exist:

- a. The building official rejected or refused to approve the mode or manner of construction proposed to be followed or materials to be used in the installation or alteration of a building, structure or service system.
- b. The provisions of this code do not apply to this specific case.
- c. That an equally good or more desirable form of installation can be employed in any specific case.
- d. The true intent and meaning of this code or any of the regulations thereunder have been misconstrued or incorrectly interpreted.

(2) *Variations.* The construction board of adjustments and appeals, when so appealed to and after a hearing, may vary the application of any provision of this code to any particular case when, in its opinion, the enforcement thereof would do manifest injustice and would be contrary to the spirit and purpose of this or the technical codes or public interest, and also finds all of the following:

- a. That special conditions and circumstances exist which are peculiar to the building, structure or service system involved and which are not applicable to others.
- b. That the special conditions and circumstances do not result from the action or inaction of the applicant.
- c. That granting the variance requested will not confer on the applicant any special privilege that is denied by this code to other buildings, structures or service systems.
- d. That the variance granted is the minimum variance that will make possible the reasonable use of the building, structure or service system.
- e. That the grant of the variance will be in harmony with the general intent and purpose of this code and will not be detrimental to the public health, safety and general welfare.

(3) *Condition of variations.* In granting the variance, the board may prescribe a reasonable time limit within which the action for which the variance is required shall be commenced or completed or both. In addition, the board may prescribe appropriate conditions and safeguards in conformity with this code. Violation of the conditions of a variance shall be deemed a violation of this code.

(4) *Notice of appeal.* Notice of appeal shall be in writing and filed 15 calendar days after the building official renders his decision. Appeals shall be in the form acceptable to the building official.

(5) *Unsafe or dangerous buildings or service systems.* In the case of a building, structure, or service system, which, in the opinion of the building official, is unsafe, unsanitary or dangerous, the building official may, in his order, limit the time for such notice of appeals to a shorter period.

(e) *Rules and regulations.* The board shall establish rules and regulations for its own procedure not inconsistent with the provisions of these procedures. The board shall meet on call of the chairman. The board shall meet within 15 calendar days after the notice of appeal has been received.

(1) *Decisions.* The construction board of adjustment and appeals shall, in every case, reach a decision without unreasonable or unnecessary delay. Each decision of the board shall also include the reasons for the decision. If a decision of the board reverses or modifies a refusal order, or disallowance of the building official or varies the application of any provision of this code, the building official shall immediately take action in accordance with such decision. Every decision shall be promptly filed in writing in the office of the building official and shall be open to public inspection. A certified copy of the decision shall be sent by mail or otherwise to the appellant and a copy shall be kept publicly posted in the office of the building official for two weeks after filing. Every decision of the board shall be final, subject however to such remedy as any aggrieved party might have at law or in equity.

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