

BUILDING AND PROPERTY REGULATIONS

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CHAPTER 145

DANGEROUS BUILDINGS

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145.01 ENFORCEMENT OFFICER. The Mayor is responsible for the enforcement of this chapter.

145.02 GENERAL DEFINITION OF UNSAFE. All buildings or structures that are structurally unsafe or not provided with adequate egress, or that constitute a fire hazard, or are otherwise dangerous to human life, or that in relation to existing use constitute a hazard to safety or health, or public welfare, by reason of inadequate maintenance, dilapidation, obsolescence, or abandonment, are, for the purpose of this chapter, unsafe buildings. All such unsafe buildings are hereby declared to be public nuisances and shall be abated by repair, rehabilitation, demolition, or removal in accordance with the procedure specified in this chapter.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 657A.1 & 364.12[3a])

145.03 UNSAFE BUILDING. “Unsafe building” means any structure or mobile home meeting any or all of the following criteria:

1. Various Inadequacies. Whenever the building or structure, or any portion thereof, because of: (i) dilapidation, deterioration, or decay; (ii) faulty construction; (iii) the removal, movement, or instability of any portion of the ground necessary for the purpose of supporting such building; (iv) the deterioration, decay, or inadequacy of its foundation; or (v) any other cause, is likely to partially or completely collapse.
2. Manifestly Unsafe. Whenever, for any reason, the building or structure, or any portion thereof, is manifestly unsafe for the purpose for which it is being used.
3. Inadequate Maintenance. Whenever a building or structure, used or intended to be used for dwelling purposes, because of dilapidation, decay, damage, faulty construction, or otherwise, is determined by any health officer to be unsanitary, unfit for human habitation or in such condition that it is likely to cause sickness or disease.
4. Fire Hazard. Whenever any building or structure, because of obsolescence, dilapidated condition, deterioration, damage, inadequate exits, lack of sufficient fire-resistive construction, faulty electric wiring, gas connections or heating apparatus, or other cause, is determined by the Fire Marshal or Fire Chief to be a fire hazard.
5. Abandoned. Whenever any portion of a building or structure remains on a site after the demolition or destruction of the building or structure or whenever any building or structure is abandoned for a period in excess of six months so as to constitute such building or portion thereof an attractive nuisance or hazard to the public.

145.04 NOTICE TO OWNER. The enforcement officer shall examine or cause to be examined every building or structure or portion thereof reported as dangerous or damaged and, if such is found to be an unsafe building as defined in this chapter, the enforcement officer shall give to the owner of such building or structure written notice stating the defects thereof. This

notice may require the owner or person in charge of the building or premises, within 48 hours or such reasonable time as the circumstances require, to commence either the required repairs or improvements or demolition and removal of the building or structure or portions thereof, and all such work shall be completed within 90 days from date of notice, unless otherwise stipulated by the enforcement officer. If necessary, such notice shall also require the building, structure, or portion thereof to be vacated forthwith and not reoccupied until the required repairs and improvements are completed, inspected, and approved by the enforcement officer.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 364.12[3h])

1. Notice Served. Such notice shall be served by sending by certified mail to the owner of record, according to Section 364.12[3h] of the *Code of Iowa*, if the owner is found within the City limits. If the owner is not found within the City limits, such service may be made upon the owner by registered mail or certified mail. The designated period within which said owner or person in charge is required to comply with the order of the enforcement officer shall begin as of the date the owner receives such notice.
2. Hearing. Such notice shall also advise the owner that he or she may request a hearing before the Council on the notice by filing a written request for hearing within the time provided in the notice.

145.05 CONDUCT OF HEARING. If requested, the Council shall conduct a hearing in accordance with the following:

1. Notice. The owner shall be served with written notice specifying the date, time and place of hearing.
2. Owner's Rights. At the hearing, the owner may appear and show cause why the alleged nuisance shall not be abated.
3. Determination. The Council shall make and record findings of fact and may issue such order as it deems appropriate.[†]

145.06 POSTING OF SIGNS. The enforcement officer shall cause to be posted at each entrance to such building a notice to read: "DO NOT ENTER. UNSAFE TO OCCUPY. CITY OF TABOR, IOWA." Such notice shall remain posted until the required demolition, removal or repairs are completed. Such notice shall not be removed without written permission of the enforcement officer and no person shall enter the building except for the purpose of making the required repairs or of demolishing the building.

145.07 RIGHT TO DEMOLISH; MUNICIPAL INFRACTION. In case the owner fails, neglects, or refuses to comply with the notice to repair, rehabilitate, or to demolish and remove the building or structure or portion thereof, the Council may order the owner of the building prosecuted as a violator of the provisions of this chapter and may order the enforcement officer to proceed with the work specified in such notice. A statement of the cost of such work shall be transmitted to the Council. As an alternative to this action, the City may utilize the municipal infraction process to abate the nuisance.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 364.12[3h])

[†] **EDITOR'S NOTE:** Suggested forms of notice and of a resolution and order of the Council for the administration of this chapter are provided in the APPENDIX to this Code of Ordinances. Caution is urged in the use of this procedure. We recommend you review the situation with your attorney before initiating procedures and follow his or her recommendation carefully.

CHAPTER 146

MANUFACTURED AND MOBILE HOMES

146.01 Definitions

146.02 Conversion to Real Property

146.03 Foundation Requirements

146.01 DEFINITIONS. For use in this chapter the following terms are defined:

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 435.1)

1. "Manufactured home" means a factory-built structure built under the authority of 42 U.S.C. Sec. 5403 which was constructed on or after June 15, 1976, and is required by federal law to display a seal from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.
2. "Manufactured home community" means any site, lot, field, or tract of land under common ownership upon which ten or more occupied manufactured homes are harbored, either free of charge or for revenue purposes, and includes any building, structure or enclosure used or intended for use as part of the equipment of the manufactured home community.
3. "Mobile home" means any vehicle without motive power used or so manufactured or constructed as to permit its being used as a conveyance upon the public streets and highways and so designed, constructed or reconstructed as will permit the vehicle to be used as a place for human habitation by one or more persons; but also includes any such vehicle with motive power not registered as a motor vehicle in Iowa. A mobile home means any such vehicle built before June 15, 1976, which was not built to a mandatory building code and which contains no State or federal seals.
4. "Mobile home park" means any site, lot, field or tract of land upon which three or more mobile homes or manufactured homes, or a combination of any of these homes, are placed on developed spaces and operated as a for-profit enterprise with water, sewer or septic, and electrical services available.

The term "manufactured home community" or "mobile home park" is not to be construed to include manufactured or mobile homes, buildings, tents, or other structures temporarily maintained by any individual, educational institution, or company on its own premises and used exclusively to house said entity's own labor or students. The manufactured home community or mobile home park shall meet the requirements of any zoning regulations that are in effect.

146.02 CONVERSION TO REAL PROPERTY. A mobile home or manufactured home that is located outside a manufactured home community or mobile home park shall be converted to real estate by being placed on a permanent foundation and shall be assessed for real estate taxes except in the following cases:

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 435.26 & Sec. 435.35)

1. **Retailer's Stock.** Mobile homes or manufactured homes on private property as part of a retailer's or a manufacturer's stock not used as a place for human habitation.
2. **Existing Homes.** A taxable mobile home or manufactured home that is located outside of a manufactured home community or mobile home park as of January 1, 1995,

shall be assessed and taxed as real estate, but is exempt from the permanent foundation requirement of this chapter until the home is relocated.

146.03 FOUNDATION REQUIREMENTS. A mobile home or manufactured home located outside of a manufactured home community or mobile home park shall be placed on a permanent frost-free foundation system that meets the support and anchorage requirements as recommended by the manufacturer or required by the *State Building Code*. The foundation system must be visually compatible with permanent foundation systems of surrounding residential structures. Any such home shall be installed in accordance with the requirements of the *State Building Code*.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 103A.10 & 414.28)

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CHAPTER 150

BUILDING NUMBERING

150.01 Definitions

150.02 Owner Requirements

150.03 Building Numbering Plan

150.01 DEFINITIONS. For use in this chapter, the following terms are defined:

1. "Owner" means the owner of the principal building.
2. "Principal building" means the main building on any lot or subdivision thereof.

150.02 OWNER REQUIREMENTS. Every owner shall comply with the following numbering requirements:

1. Obtain Building Number. The owner shall obtain the assigned number to the principal building from the Council.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 364.12[3d])

2. Display Building Number. The owner shall place or cause to be installed and maintained on the principal building the assigned number in a conspicuous place to the street in figures not less than four inches in height and of a contrasting color with their background.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 364.12[3d])

3. Failure to Comply. If an owner refuses to number a building as herein provided, or fails to do so for a period of 30 days after being notified in writing by the City to do so, the City may proceed to place the assigned number on the principal building and assess the costs against the property for collection in the same manner as a property tax.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 364.12[3h])

150.03 BUILDING NUMBERING PLAN. Building numbers shall be assigned in accordance with the building numbering plan on file in the office of the Clerk.

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CHAPTER 151

TREES

151.01 Purpose

151.02 Definitions

151.03 Planting Restrictions

151.04 Duty to Trim Trees

151.05 Disease Control

151.06 Inspection and Removal

151.07 Public Tree Care

151.08 Removal of Stumps

151.01 PURPOSE. The purpose of this chapter is to beautify and preserve the appearance of the City.

151.02 DEFINITIONS. For use in this chapter, the following terms are defined:

1. "Park tree" means a tree, shrub, bushes, or other woody vegetation in public parks and other areas owned by the City to which the public has free access as a park.
2. "Parking" means that part of the street, avenue, or highway in the City not covered by sidewalk and lying between the lot line and the curb line or, on unpaved streets, that part of the street, avenue, or highway lying between the lot line and that portion of the street usually traveled by vehicular traffic.
3. "Property owner" means a personal and private property owner in the City as shown on the County Assessor's records.
4. "Public property" means any and all property located within the confines of the City and owned by the City or held in the name of the City by any of the departments, commissions, or agencies within the government.
5. "Street tree" means a tree in the public space or right-of-way including trees located within the area commonly called the parking.

151.03 PLANTING RESTRICTIONS. No tree shall be planted in any parking or street except in accordance with the following:

1. **Alignment.** All trees planted in any street shall be planted in the parking midway between the outer line of the sidewalk and the curb. In the event a curb line is not established, trees shall be planted on a line 10 feet from the property line.
2. **Spacing.** Trees shall not be planted on any parking that is less than nine feet in width, or contains less than 81 square feet of exposed soil surface per tree. Trees shall not be planted closer than 20 feet from street intersections (property lines extended) and 10 feet from driveways. If it is at all possible, trees should be planted inside the property lines and not between the sidewalk and the curb.
3. **Prohibited Trees.** No person shall plant in any street any fruit-bearing tree or any tree of the kinds commonly known as cottonwood, poplar, box elder, Chinese elm, evergreen, willow, or black walnut.
4. **Distance from Curb and Sidewalk.** All new trees planted in the parking shall be planted with the following space between the curb and sidewalk:
 - A. **Small Trees.** A minimum space of two feet from the curb and the sidewalk.

B. Medium Trees. A minimum space of three feet from the curb and sidewalk.

C. Large Trees. A minimum space of four feet from the curb and sidewalk.

151.04 DUTY TO TRIM TREES. The owner or agent of the abutting property shall keep the trees on, or overhanging the street, trimmed so that all branches will be at least 15 feet above the surface of the street and eight feet above the sidewalks. If the abutting property owner fails to trim the trees, the City may serve notice on the abutting property owner requiring that such action be taken within five days. If such action is not taken within that time, the City may perform the required action and assess the costs against the abutting property for collection in the same manner as a property tax.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 364.12[2c, d & e])

151.05 DISEASE CONTROL. Any dead, diseased, or damaged tree or shrub that may harbor serious insect or disease pests or disease injurious to other trees is hereby declared to be a nuisance.

151.06 INSPECTION AND REMOVAL. The Council shall inspect or cause to be inspected any trees or shrubs in the City reported or suspected to be dead, diseased or damaged, and such trees and shrubs shall be subject to the following:

1. City Property. If it is determined that any such condition exists on any public property, including the strip between the curb and the lot line of private property, the Council may cause such condition to be corrected by treatment or removal. The Council may also order the removal of any trees on the streets of the City which interfere with the making of improvements or with travel thereon.

2. Private Property. If it is determined with reasonable certainty that any such condition exists on private property and that danger to other trees or to adjoining property or passing motorists or pedestrians is imminent, the Council shall notify by certified mail the owner, occupant or person in charge of such property to correct such condition by treatment or removal within 14 days of said notification. If such owner, occupant, or person in charge of said property fails to comply within 14 days of receipt of notice, the Council may cause the condition to be corrected and the cost assessed against the property.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 364.12[3b & h])

151.07 PUBLIC TREE CARE. The City has the right to plant, prune, maintain, and remove trees, plants, and shrubs within the lines of all streets, alleys, avenues, lanes, squares, and public grounds, as may be necessary to insure public safety or to preserve or enhance the symmetry and beauty of such public grounds. The City may remove or cause or order to be removed any tree or part thereof which is in an unsafe condition or which by reason of its nature is injurious to sewers, electric power lines, gas lines, water lines, or other public improvements, or is affected with any injurious fungus, insect, other pest. This section does not prohibit the planting of street trees by adjacent property owners providing that the selection and location of said trees is in accordance with this chapter.

151.08 REMOVAL OF STUMPS. All stumps of street trees and park trees shall be removed below the surface of the ground so that the top of the stump does not project above the surface of the ground.

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