

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 8, "CONSTRUCTION REGULATIONS," ARTICLE IV, "UNIFORM CODES AND OTHER REGULATIONS," DIVISION 2, "BUILDING CODE," OF THE ABILENE MUNICIPAL CODE, BY AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS AS SET OUT BELOW; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; AND DECLARING A PENALTY.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ABILENE, TEXAS:

PART 1: That Chapter 8, Article IV, Division 2, "Building Code," of the Abilene Municipal Code be amended as set out in Exhibit "A," attached hereto and made a part of this ordinance for all purposes.

PART 2: That if any provision or any section of this ordinance shall be held to be void or unconstitutional such holding shall in no way effect the validity of the remaining provisions or sections of this ordinance, which shall remain in full force and effect.

PART 3: That any person, firm or corporation violating any of the provisions of this chapter shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine of not more than Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00). Each day such violation shall continue or be permitted to continue, shall be deemed a separate offense. Said Ordinance, being a penal ordinance, becomes effective ten (10) days after its publication in the newspaper, as provided by Section 19 of the Charter of the City of Abilene.

PASSED ON FIRST READING this 26 day of May, A.D. 19 83.

PASSED ON SECOND AND FINAL READING this 9 day of June, A.D. 19 83.

ATTEST:

Kelly Board, Asst
CITY SECRETARY

Juelary
MAYOR

APPROVED:

Harvey Caygill
CITY ATTORNEY

EXHIBIT A

Ordinance No. 60-1983

PART 1. Amend Chapter 8, Section 8-551 of the Abilene City Code by deleting the current section in its entirety and substituting therefore the following:

"The 1979 Uniform Housing Code is hereby adopted by reference subject to certain changes, additions and deletions. Copies of the 1979 Uniform Housing Code as amended and adopted are on file in the Building Official's and City Secretary's office."

PART 2. The following chapters of the Uniform Housing Code are adopted in their entirety:

1, 4, 5, 6 9, 10.

PART 3. The following chapters of the Uniform Housing Code are deleted in their entirety:

11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16.

PART 4. The remaining chapters of the 1979 Uniform Housing Code are adopted subject to the following exceptions:

-June 9, 1983-

CHAPTER 2

ENFORCEMENT

Adopt 1979 Uniform Housing Code in its entirety with the following exceptions:

HOUSING ADVISORY AND APPEALS BOARD

Section 203 (Delete in its entirety and insert:)

In order to determine the suitability of alternate materials and methods of construction and to provide for reasonable interpretations of this Housing Code, the "Board of Building Standards," as established in Section 16-3 of the City Code of this city, is charged with hearing appeals from any decision of the Building Official concerning the Housing Code. Any reference to the Board of Appeals in the Housing Code shall be construed to mean and does mean the "Board of Building Standards" as established in Section 16-3 of the City Code of this city. In ruling on such appeals, the Board of Building Standards shall render no decision which is contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Code. In the event the Board should be of the opinion that any provision or provisions of this Code should be amended, it shall make such recommendation to the City Council for consideration.

VIOLATIONS

Section 204 (Delete in its entirety and insert:)

It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, or corporation to erect, construct, enlarge, alter, repair, move, improve, remove, convert or demolish, equip, use, occupy or maintain any building or structure, or to cause or to permit the same to be done, contrary to or in violation of any of the provisions of this Code.

Any such violation shall be a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof, shall be punishable by a fine not to exceed that which is set forth in Section 12.23 of the Texas Penal Code regarding Class C Misdemeanors and Article 4.14 of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, now in effect or as hereafter amended. Each day a violation of any of the provisions of this Code is committed, or each day any such violation continues, shall constitute a separate offense and shall be subject to prosecution as stated above.

CHAPTER 3

PERMITS AND INSPECTIONS

Adopt 1979 Uniform Housing Code in its entirety with the following exceptions:

FEES

Section 302 (Delete in its entirety and insert:)

Whenever a building permit is required by Section 301 of this code, the appropriate fees shall be paid as specified Section 304 of the Building Code.

CHAPTER 7

MECHANICAL REQUIREMENTS

Adopt 1979 Uniform Housing Code in its entirety with the following exceptions:

HEATING AND VENTILATION

Section 701 (a) Heating. (Delete in its entirety and insert:)

Every dwelling unit and guest room shall be provided with heating facilities capable of maintaining a room temperature of 70° F. at a point 3 feet above the floor in all habitable rooms. Such facilities shall be installed and maintained in a safe condition and in accordance with Chapter 37 of the Building Code, the Mechanical Code, and all other applicable laws.

Existing Group R occupancies containing unvented fuel-burning room heaters may continue to be maintained if installed and used in a safe manner. New R occupancies shall not have unvented fuel-burning room heaters installed, used, maintained or permitted to exist.

All heating devices or appliances shall be of an approved type.

CHAPTER 8

EXITS

Adopt 1979 Uniform Housing Code in its entirety with the following exceptions:

GENERAL

Section 801 (Delete in its entirety and insert:)

Every dwelling unit or guest room shall have access directly to the outside or to a public corridor. All buildings or portions thereof shall be provided with exits, exitways and appurtenances as required by Chapter 33 of the Building Code.

Every sleeping room below the fourth story shall have at least one operable window or exterior door approved for emergency egress or rescue. The units shall be operable from the inside to provide a full clear opening without the use of separate tools.

All egress or rescue windows from sleeping rooms shall have a minimum net clear opening of 3.7 square feet. The minimum net clear opening height dimension shall be 16 inches. The minimum net clear opening width dimension shall be 20 inches. Where windows are provided as a means of egress or rescue, they shall have a finished sill height not more than 48 inches above the floor.

Part 5. Add a new chapter entitled Chapter 11, Notices, Appeals and Recovery of Cost of Demolition; which follows:

CHAPTER 11

NOTICES, APPEALS AND RECOVERY OF COST OF DEMOLITION

Sec. 1101. NOTICE OF CONDITIONS.

Whenever the building official determines, or has reasonable grounds to believe, that any existing building, or portion thereof, is substandard, as defined in the Minimum Housing Code and/or the Building Code, he shall give written notice thereof to the owner of such building. Such notice shall specify the conditions causing such building, or portion thereof, to be substandard, shall specify the corrective measures required, shall provide a reasonable time for such corrective measures to be commenced and completed, and shall prohibit occupancy of such building, or portion thereof, until completion of such corrective measures, except as provided in Section 1102 of this code. If it is not practical to correct such conditions by repair or renovation, such notice shall order the removal or demolition of such building, or portion thereof. Such notice shall also inform the owner that he may appeal from the determination and order of the building official by filing written notice of appeal with the office of the building official within ten days after service of such notice as provided herein.

Such notice shall be deemed properly served if a copy is served to the owner personally, or if a copy thereof is sent by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the last known address of the owner of such building, as shown by the tax rolls of the city, and if a copy is posted in a conspicuous place in or about the building affected by the notice. (Ord. No. 502, pt. 2.)

Sec. 1102. OCCUPANCY.

Upon service of notice, as provided for in Section 1101, the building official shall cause to be posted at each entrance to such building, or applicable portion thereof, a notice to the effect that such building has been condemned and is unsafe for occupancy. Such notice shall remain posted until the required repair, renovation, demolition or removal has been completed, and it shall be unlawful to remove, destroy or deface same without the written approval of the building official. No person shall occupy such building, or applicable portion thereof, after such posting of notice until written approval therefor is given by the building official. Provided, if such building, or applicable portion thereof, is occupied at the time notice is served the building official may allow a reasonable time for the occupants to vacate same. (Ord. No. 502, pt. 2.)

Sec. 1103. APPEAL FROM DECISION OF BUILDING OFFICIAL.

Within ten days after service of notice has been perfected, as provided in section 1101, any person aggrieved thereby may appeal the determination or requirements made by the building official by filing written notice of appeal in the office of the building official. If such appeal is properly filed within such ten day period, compliance with the notice of the building official shall not be required pending hearing of such appeal by the board. Provided, that in cases of emergency, where a delay would, in the opinion of the building official, result in eminent peril to life or property, compliance with the notice of the building official shall not be stayed by such appeal.

Failure to appeal within such ten day period shall make the determination and requirements of the building official final except as to any building ordered by the building official to be removed or demolished. (Ord. No. 502, pt. 2.)

Sec. 1104. FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH NOTICE.

If (a) the corrective measures specified in the notice of substandard conditions are not commenced or completed within the times specified in such notice, or if, after commencement, such measures are not prosecuted diligently; and (b) no appeal has been perfected, as provided in section 1103, the owner of such building shall be cited to appear before the board of building standards. Such citation shall be served in the manner provided for service of notice of substandard conditions in section 1101. (Ord. No. 502, pt. 2.)

Sec. 1105. HEARING BEFORE BOARD OF BUILDING STANDARDS

Upon hearing before the board, either after appeal or due to failure to comply with the notice of the building official, the board may make such order as it shall determine necessary; provided, that such order is not contrary to or inconsistent with any provisions of the Minimum Housing and/or the Building Code. The orders contained in the notice of the building official may be modified or overruled, and the board may order the building, or applicable portion thereof, repaired, renovated, demolished or removed, or other corrective measures taken within such time limitations as it may set.

All findings and orders of the board shall be reduced to writing, and a copy thereof mailed to the owner and occupants, if any, of such building, or applicable portion thereof. (Ord. No. 502, pt. 2.)

Sec. 1106. COSTS FOR WORK PERFORMED BY CITY.

To secure the payment of the cost of demolition or other corrective measures, pursuant to section 1105, there shall be a lien against the real estate in favor of the city when said removal or demolition is performed by the city; provided, that such lien shall not be established on a homestead, as defined under the constitution and the laws of this state. If the building, or portion thereof, is removed or demolished, the building official shall keep an accurate record of the demolition costs together with a record of any salvage recovered, which shall be applied against such demolition costs.

When such work or improvements have been completed, the building official shall cause a properly verified and acknowledged statement to be filed with the county clerk, showing the cost and expense of such work and the amount of money due and owing to the city, a legal description sufficient to identify the property and the name of the owner thereof, if known. From the date of filing, the amount shown by such statement to be due and owing to the city, together with ten per cent interest thereon from the date of completion of such work or improvements, shall be a privileged lien on such property, second only to tax liens and liens for street improvements. A suit may be instituted, and recovery and foreclosure of the lien for any such amount and interest may be had in the name of the city in any court having jurisdiction, and the statement of the building official provided in this section, or a certified copy of such statement, shall be prima facie proof of the amount due and owing to the city, and the substantial evidence rule, insofar as applicable, shall be applied in the trial of such cases. (Ord. No. 502, pt. 2.)

Sec. 1107. EMERGENCIES.

Whenever the building official finds that an emergency exists, which requires immediate action to protect the public welfare, health and safety, he may, without notice or hearing, issue an order reciting the existence of such an emergency, and requiring that such action be taken as he deems necessary to meet the emergency. Notwithstanding the provisions of the Minimum Housing Code and/or the Building Code, such order shall be effective immediately. Any person to whom such order is directed shall comply therewith immediately, but, upon petition to the building official, shall be afforded a hearing as soon as possible. After such hearing, depending upon his finding as to whether the provision of the Minimum Housing Code and/or the Building Code have been complied with, the building official shall continue such order in effect, modify it or revoke it. (Ord. No. 502, pt. 2.)

Sec. 1108. EXISTING REMEDIES.

Nothing in this chapter shall be deemed to abolish or impair existing remedies nor constitute an exclusive remedy for the removal or demolition of any buildings which are deemed a nuisance. (Ord. 502, pt. 2.)

Sec. 1109. EXEMPTIONS FROM PROVISIONS OF CHAPTER.

The parts of the Minimum Housing Code and/or the Building Code requiring running water shall not be applicable until the city has provided a water main within one hundred feet of the property in question. Those portions of wuch Minimum Housing Code and/or Building Code requiring sewer facilities, except as may be modified by chapters 8 and 32 of the Municipal Code, shall not be applicable until the city has provided sewer facilities within one hundred feet of the property in question. This section shall not be construed as requiring the city to provide such water and sewer facilities, except as provided by this Code and other ordinances of the city. (Ord. No. 502, pt. 2.)

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