

TITLE 16

STREETS AND SIDEWALKS, ETC¹

CHAPTER

1. MISCELLANEOUS.
2. EXCAVATIONS.

CHAPTER 1

MISCELLANEOUS

SECTION

- 16-101. Obstructing streets, alleys, or sidewalks prohibited.
- 16-102. Trees projecting over streets, etc., regulated.
- 16-103. Trees, etc., obstructing view at intersections prohibited.
- 16-104. Trees, vehicles etc., obstructing view of streets prohibited.
- 16-105. Projecting signs and awnings, etc., restricted.
- 16-106. Banners and signs across streets and alleys restricted.
- 16-107. Gates or doors opening over streets, alleys, or sidewalks prohibited.
- 16-108. Littering streets, alleys, or sidewalks prohibited.
- 16-109. Driveways, drainage ditches, fill-ins, etc., obstruction of drainage ditches.
- 16-110. Abutting occupants to keep sidewalks clean, etc.
- 16-111. Parades, etc., regulated.
- 16-112. Operation of trains at crossings regulated.
- 16-113. Animals and vehicles on sidewalks.
- 16-114. Fires in streets, etc.
- 16-115. Street maintenance.

16-101. Obstructing streets, alleys, or sidewalks prohibited. No person shall use or occupy any portion of any public street, alley, sidewalk, or right-of-way for the purpose of storing, selling, or exhibiting any goods, wares, merchandise, or materials. (1994 Code, § 16-101)

16-102. Trees projecting over streets, etc., regulated. It shall be unlawful for any property owner or occupant to allow any limbs of trees on his property to project over any street or alley at a height of less than fourteen feet (14') or over any sidewalk at a height of less than eight feet (8'). (1994 Code, § 16-102)

¹Municipal code reference

Related motor vehicle and traffic regulations: title 15.

16-103. Trees, etc., obstructing view at intersections prohibited.

It shall be unlawful for any property owner or occupant to have or maintain on his property any tree, shrub, sign, or other obstruction which prevents persons driving vehicles on public streets or alleys from obtaining a clear view of traffic when approaching an intersection. (1994 Code, § 16-103)

16-104. Trees, vehicles etc., obstructing view of streets prohibited. It shall be unlawful for any property owner or occupant to have or maintain or allow on his property any tree, shrub, sign, vehicle, or other obstruction which prevents persons entering public streets or alleys from private driveways from obtaining a clear view of traffic when entering the street. (1994 Code, § 16-104)

16-105. Projecting signs and awnings, etc., restricted. Signs, awnings, or other structures which project over any street or other public way shall be erected subject to the requirements of the building code.¹ (1994 Code, § 16-105)

16-106. Banners and signs across streets and alleys restricted. It shall be unlawful for any person to place or have placed any banner or sign across or above any public street or alley except when expressly authorized by the board of commissioners after a finding that no hazard will be created by such banner or sign. (1994 Code, § 16-106)

16-107. Gates or doors opening over streets, alleys, or sidewalks prohibited. It shall be unlawful for any person owning or occupying property to allow any gate or door to swing open upon or over any street, alley, or sidewalk except when required by law. (1994 Code, § 16-107)

16-108. Littering streets, alleys, or sidewalks prohibited. It shall be unlawful for any person to litter, place, throw, track, or allow to fall on any street, alley, or sidewalk any refuse, glass, tacks, mud, or other objects or materials which are unsightly or which obstruct or tend to limit or interfere with the use of such public ways and places for their intended purposes. (1994 Code, § 16-108)

16-109. Driveways, drainage ditches, fill-ins, etc., obstruction of drainage ditches. (1) It shall be unlawful for any person to permit or cause the obstruction of any drainage ditch in any public right-of-way.

¹Municipal code reference

Building code: title 12, chapter 1.

(2) Property owners making a way of ingress and egress to said property shall file with the city clerk, at city hall, a request and/or application for permission for such installation.

(3) Proper inspection of driveway shall be made by the city and said inspection and report shall determine if said driveway will effect in any way water drainage problem on city streets, and this report shall be on file at the city hall.

(4) If at the discretion of the city inspector, said driveway should have a tile installation for proper water drainage on the city's streets, then tile shall be installed at the expense of the city's streets, then tile shall be installed at the expense of the property owner; tile cost to the property owner and the city to make the proper installation; said driveway shall constitute a width of not less than twelve feet (12') of ten inch (10") tile for proper drainage.

(5) Lots to be filled in must pass the same requirements as drain tile. The fill-in shall not block any water drainage or cause a water problem to the city or a neighbor from such fill-in. (1994 Code, § 16-109)

16-110. Abutting occupants to keep sidewalks clean, etc. The occupants of property abutting on a sidewalk are required to keep the sidewalk clean. Also, immediately after a snow or sleet, such occupants are required to remove all accumulated snow and ice from the abutting sidewalk. (1994 Code, § 16-110)

16-111. Parades, etc., regulated. It shall be unlawful for any person, club, organization, or other group to hold any meeting, parade, demonstration, or exhibition on the public streets without some responsible representative first securing a permit from the city recorder. (1994 Code, § 16-111)

16-112. Operation of trains at crossings regulated. No person shall operate any railroad train across any street or alley without giving a warning of its approach as required by state law; nor shall he make such crossing at a speed in excess of twenty-five (25) miles per hour. It shall also be unlawful to stop a railroad train so as to block or obstruct any street or alley for a period of more than five (5) consecutive minutes. (1994 Code, § 16-112)

16-113. Animals and vehicles on sidewalks. It shall be unlawful for any person to ride, lead, or tie any animal, or ride, push, pull, or place any vehicle across or upon any sidewalk in such manner as unreasonably interferes with or inconveniences pedestrians using the sidewalk. It shall also be unlawful for any person knowingly to allow any minor under his control to violate this section. (1994 Code, § 16-113)

16-114. Fires in streets, etc. It shall be unlawful for any person to set or contribute to any fire in any public street, alley, or sidewalk. (1994 Code, § 16-114)

16-115. Street maintenance. (1) All maintained streets within the limits of the City of Whitwell shall have minimum width of twenty feet (20'), and pre-existing streets must be eight feet (8') to twenty feet (20') wide.

(2) All city streets within the city limits of the City of Whitwell that are to be maintained must have two (2) or more residents living on said street. (1994 Code, § 16-115)

CHAPTER 2

EXCAVATIONS¹

SECTION

- 16-201. Permit required.
- 16-202. Applications.
- 16-203. Fee.
- 16-204. Deposit or bond.
- 16-205. Safety restrictions on excavations.
- 16-206. Restoration of streets, etc.
- 16-207. Insurance.
- 16-208. Time limits.
- 16-209. Supervision.

16-201. Permit required. It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, corporation, association, or others, including utility districts to make any excavation in any street, alley, or public place, or to tunnel under any street, alley, or public place without having first obtained a permit as herein required, and without complying with the provisions of this chapter; and it shall also be unlawful to violate, or vary from, the terms of any such permit; provided, however, any person maintaining pipes, lines, or other underground facilities in or under the surface of any street may proceed with an opening without a permit when emergency circumstances demand the work to be done immediately and a permit cannot reasonably and practicably be obtained beforehand. The person shall thereafter apply for a permit on the first regular business day on which the office of the city manager is open for business, and the permit shall be retroactive to the date when the work was begun. (1994 Code, § 16-201)

16-202. Applications. Applications for such permits shall be made to the city manager, or such person as he may designate to receive such applications, and shall state thereon the location of the intended excavation or tunnel, the size thereof, the purpose thereof, the person, firm, corporation, association, or others doing the actual excavating, the name of the person, firm, corporation, association, or others for whom the work is being done, and shall contain an agreement that the applicant will comply with all ordinances and laws relating to the work to be done. Such application shall be rejected or

¹State law reference

This chapter was patterned substantially after the ordinance upheld by the Tennessee Supreme Court in the case of *City of Paris, Tennessee v. Paris-Henry County Public Utility District*, 207 Tenn. 388, 340 S.W.2d 885 (1960).

approved by the city recorder within twenty-four (24) hours of its filing. (1994 Code, § 16-202)

16-203. Fee. The fee for such permits shall be twenty dollars (\$20.00). (1994 Code, § 16-203)

16-204. Deposit or bond. No such permit shall be issued unless and until the applicant therefor has deposited with the city manager a cash deposit. The deposit shall be in the sum of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) if no pavement is involved or one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) if the excavation is in a paved area and shall insure the proper restoration of the ground and, laying of the pavement, if any. Where the amount of the deposit is clearly inadequate to cover the cost of restoration, the city manager may increase the amount of the deposit to an amount considered by him to be adequate to cover the cost. From this deposit shall be deducted the expense to the city of relaying the surface of the ground or pavement, and of making the refill if this is done by the city or at its expense. The balance shall be returned to the applicant without interest after the tunnel or excavation is completely refilled and the surface or pavement is restored.

In lieu of a deposit, the applicant may deposit with the city recorder a surety bond in such form and amount as the city manager shall deem adequate to cover the costs to the city if the applicant fails to make proper restoration. (1994 Code, § 16-204)

16-205. Safety restrictions on excavations. Any person, firm, corporation, association, or others making any excavation or tunnel shall do so according to the terms and conditions of the application and permit authorizing the work to be done. Sufficient and proper barricades and lights shall be maintained to protect persons and property from injury by or because of the excavation being made. If any sidewalk is blocked by any such work, a temporary sidewalk shall be constructed and provided which shall be safe for travel and convenient for users. (1994 Code, § 16-205)

16-206. Restoration of streets, etc. Any person, firm, corporation, association, or others making any excavation or tunnel in or under any street, alley, or public place in this city shall restore the street, alley, or public place to its original condition except for the surfacing, which shall be done by the city but shall be paid for promptly upon completion by such person, firm, corporation, association, or others for which the excavation or tunnel was made. In case of unreasonable delay in restoring the street, alley, or public place, the city manager shall give notice to the person, firm, corporation, association, or others that unless the excavation or tunnel is refilled properly within a specified reasonable period of time, the city will do the work and charge the expense of doing the same to such person, firm, corporation, association, or others. If

within the specified time the conditions of the above notice have not been complied with, the work shall be done by the city, an accurate account of the expense involved shall be kept, and the total cost shall be charged to the person, firm, corporation, association, or others who made the excavation or tunnel. (1994 Code, § 16-206)

16-207. Insurance. In addition to making the deposit or giving the bond hereinbefore required to insure that proper restoration is made, each person applying for an excavation permit shall file a certificate of insurance indicating that he is insured against claims for damages for personal injury as well as against claims for property damage which may arise from or out of the performance of the work, whether such performance be by himself, his subcontractor, or anyone directly or indirectly employed by him. Such insurance shall cover collapse, explosive hazards, and underground work by equipment on the street, and shall include protection against liability arising from completed operations. The amount of the insurance shall be prescribed by the city manager in accordance with the nature of the risk involved; provided, however, that the liability insurance for bodily injury shall not be less than three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000.00) for each person and seven hundred thousand dollars (\$700,000.00) for each accident, and for property damages not less than one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000.00) for each accident. (1994 Code, § 16-207, modified)

16-208. Time limits. Each application for a permit shall state the length of time it is estimated will elapse from the commencement of the work until the restoration of the surface of the ground or pavement, or until the refill is made ready for the pavement to be put on by the city if the city restores such surface pavement. It shall be unlawful to fail to comply with this time limitation unless permission for an extension of time is granted by the city manager. (1994 Code, § 16-208)

16-209. Supervision. The person designated by the city manager shall from time to time inspect all excavations and tunnels being made in or under any public street, alley, or other public place in the city and see to the enforcement of the provisions of this chapter. Notice shall be given to him at least ten (10) hours before the work of refilling any such excavation or tunnel commences. (1994 Code, § 16-209)