

TITLE 16

STREETS AND SIDEWALKS, ETC¹

CHAPTER

1. MISCELLANEOUS.
2. EXCAVATIONS AND CUTS.

CHAPTER 1

MISCELLANEOUS

SECTION

- 16-101. Trees projecting over streets, etc., regulated.
- 16-102. Trees, etc., obstructing view at intersections prohibited.
- 16-103. Projecting signs and awnings, etc., restricted.
- 16-104. Banners and signs across streets and alleys restricted.
- 16-105. Gates or doors opening over streets, alleys, or sidewalks prohibited.
- 16-106. Littering streets, alleys, or sidewalks prohibited.
- 16-107. Obstruction of drainage ditches.
- 16-108. Abutting occupants to keep sidewalks clean, etc.
- 16-109. Parades, etc., regulated.
- 16-110. Animals and vehicles on sidewalks.
- 16-111. Fires in streets, etc.

16-101. 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 (14) feet or over any sidewalk at a height of less than eight (8) feet. (1990 Code, § 12-101)

16-102. 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. (1990 Code, § 12-102)

16-103. Projecting signs and awnings, etc., restricted. Signs, awnings, or other structures which project over any street or other public way

¹Municipal code reference

Related motor vehicle and traffic regulations: title 15.

shall be erected subject to the requirements of the building code. (1990 Code, § 12-103)

16-104. 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. (1990 Code, § 12-104)

16-105. 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. (1990 Code, § 12-105)

16-106. 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. (1990 Code, § 12-106)

16-107. Obstruction of drainage ditches. It shall be unlawful for any person to permit or cause the obstruction of any drainage ditch in any public right of way. (1990 Code, § 12-107)

16-108. 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. (1990 Code, § 12-108)

16-109. 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 recorder. No permit shall be issued by the recorder unless such activity will not unreasonably interfere with traffic and unless such representative shall agree to see to the immediate cleaning up of all litter which shall be left on the streets as a result of the activity. Furthermore, it shall be unlawful for any person obtaining such a permit to fail to carry out his agreement to clean up the resulting litter immediately. (1990 Code, § 12-109)

16-110. 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. (1990 Code, § 12-110)

16-111. 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. (1990 Code, § 12-111)

CHAPTER 2

EXCAVATIONS AND CUTS¹

SECTION

- 16-201. Permit required.
- 16-202. Applications.
- 16-203. Fee.
- 16-204. Deposit or bond.
- 16-205. Manner of excavating--barricades and lights--temporary sidewalks.
- 16-206. Restoration of streets, etc.
- 16-207. Insurance.
- 16-208. Time limits.
- 16-209. Supervision.
- 16-210. Driveway curb cuts and driveways.

16-201. Permit required. It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, corporation, association, or others 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 recorder is open for business, and said permit shall be retroactive to the date when the work was begun. (1990 Code, § 12-201)

16-202. Applications. Applications for such permits shall be made to the recorder, 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

¹State law reference

§§ 16-201 through 16-209 in this chapter were patterned substantially after the ordinance upheld by the Tennessee Supreme Court in City of Paris, Tennessee V. Paris-Henry County Public Utility District, 207 Tenn. 388, 340 S.W.2d 885 (1960).

to the work to be done. Such application shall be rejected or approved by the recorder within twenty-four (24) hours of its filing. (1990 Code, § 12-202)

16-203. Fee. The fee for such permits shall be two dollars (\$2.00) for excavations which do not exceed twenty-five (25) square feet in area or tunnels not exceeding twenty-five (25) feet in length; and twenty-five cents (\$0.25) for each additional square foot in the case of excavations, or lineal foot in the case of tunnels; but not to exceed one hundred dollars (\$100.00) for any permit. (1990 Code, § 12-203)

16-204. Deposit or bond. No such permit shall be issued unless and until the applicant therefor has deposited with the recorder a cash deposit. The deposit shall be in the sum of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) if no pavement is involved or seventy-five dollars (\$75.00) 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 recorder may increase the amount of the deposit to an amount considered by him to be adequate to cover the said cost. From this deposit shall be deducted the expense to the town of relaying the surface of the ground or pavement and of making the refill if this is done by the town 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 recorder a surety bond in such form and amount as the recorder shall deem adequate to cover the costs to the town if the applicant fails to make proper restoration. (1990 Code, § 12-204)

16-205. Manner of excavating--barricades and lights--temporary sidewalks. 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. (1990 Code, § 12-205)

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 the Town of Benton shall restore said street, alley, or public place to its original condition except for the surfacing, which shall be done by the town 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 recorder 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 town 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 town, 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. (1990 Code, § 12-206)

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 recorder in accordance with the nature of the risk involved; provided, however, that the liability insurance for bodily injury shall not be less than \$250,000.00 for each person and \$600,000.00 for each accident, and for property damages not less than \$85,000.00 for any one (1) accident. (1990 Code, § 12-207, 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 town if the town 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 recorder. (1990 Code, § 12-208)

16-209. Supervision. The street superintendent 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 town 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. (1990 Code, § 12-209)

16-210. Driveway curb cuts and driveways. No one shall cut, build, or maintain a driveway across a curb or sidewalk without first obtaining a permit from the recorder. Such a permit will not be issued when the contemplated driveway is to be so located or constructed as to create an unreasonable hazard to pedestrian and/or vehicular traffic. No driveway shall

exceed thirty-five (35) feet in width at its outer or street edge, and when two (2) or more adjoining driveways are provided for the same property, a safety island of not less than ten (10) feet in width at its outer or street edge shall be provided to separate said driveways. Driveway aprons shall not extend into the street.

No one shall build or maintain a driveway that intersects with a town street, alley, or other public place without first obtaining a permit from the recorder. Such a permit will not be issued when the contemplated driveway is to be so located or constructed as to create an unreasonable hazard to pedestrian and/or vehicular traffic. No driveway approach shall be permitted to encompass any municipal or other public facilities. Under the permit provided for herein the applicant may be authorized to relocate any such utility upon application to the subject utility provider and upon making suitable arrangements for financial reimbursements to the provider. No driveway approach shall be permitted within twenty-five (25) feet of the right-of-way of the intersecting street, and no more than one driveway approach shall be permitted per lot when the lot is seventy-five (75) feet or less in width fronting on any street. All new constructions or replacement of driveway drainage culverts shall have minimum dimensions of 15 inches in diameter for metal corrugated pipe or 12 inches in diameter for concrete pipe, and twenty (20) feet in length, and shall be constructed in a manner not to impede adequate drainage along the road right-of-way. (1990 Code, § 12-210)