

TITLE 13

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE REGULATIONS¹

CHAPTER

1. MISCELLANEOUS.
2. SLUM CLEARANCE.

CHAPTER 1

MISCELLANEOUS

SECTION

- 13-101. Health officer.
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- 13-105. Dead animals.
- 13-106. Health and sanitation nuisances.
- 13-107. House trailers.
- 13-108. Automobile graveyards.
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13-101. Health officer. The "health officer" shall be such municipal, county, or state officer as the board of mayor and aldermen shall appoint or designate to administer and enforce health and sanitation regulations within the town. (1978 Code, § 8-101)

13-102. Smoke, soot, cinders, etc. It shall be unlawful for any person to permit or cause the escape of such quantities of dense smoke, soot, cinders, noxious acids, fumes, dust, or gases as to be detrimental to or to endanger the health, comfort, and safety of the public or so as to cause or have a tendency to cause injury or damage to property or business. (1978 Code, § 8-105)

13-103. Stagnant water. It shall be unlawful for any person knowingly to allow any pool of stagnant water to accumulate and stand on his property without treating it so as to effectively prevent the breeding of mosquitoes. (1978 Code, § 8-106)

¹Municipal code references
 Animal control: title 10.
 Littering streets, etc.: § 16-107.

13-104. Weeds. Every owner or tenant of property shall periodically cut the grass and other vegetation commonly recognized as weeds on his property, and it shall be unlawful for any person to fail to comply with an order by the town recorder or chief of police to cut such vegetation when it has reached a height of over one (1) foot. (1978 Code, § 8-107)

13-105. Dead animals. Any person owning or having possession of any dead animal not intended for use as food shall promptly bury the same or notify the health officer and dispose of such animal in such manner as the health officer shall direct. (1978 Code, § 8-108)

13-106. Health and sanitation nuisances. It shall be unlawful for any person to permit any premises owned, occupied, or controlled by him to become or remain in a filthy condition, or permit the use or occupation of same in such a manner as to create noxious or offensive smells and odors in connection therewith, or to allow the accumulation or creation of unwholesome and offensive matter or the breeding of flies, rodents, or other vermin on the premises to the menace of the public health or the annoyance of people residing within the vicinity. (1978 Code, § 8-109)

13-107. House trailers. It shall be unlawful for any person to park, locate, or occupy any house trailer or portable building unless it complies with all plumbing, electrical, sanitary, and building provisions applicable to stationary structures and the proposed location conforms to the zoning provisions of the town and unless a permit therefor shall have been first duly issued by the building official, as provided for in the building code. (1978 Code, § 8-104)

13-108. Automobile graveyards. (1) For the purposes of this chapter "automobile graveyard" means any lot or place which is exposed to the weather and upon which more than five (5) motor vehicles of any kind, incapable of being operated, and which it would not be economically practical to make operative, are placed, located or found. The term "automobile graveyard" or "automobile junkyard" shall not be construed to mean an establishment having facilities for processing iron, steel or nonferrous scrap and whose principal produce is scrap iron, steel or nonferrous scrap for sale for remelting purposes only.

(2) No person shall own or maintain any "automobile graveyard" within the town until he shall receive a permit so to do from the town recorder. The town recorder shall issue such a permit to any applicant whose premises comply with the requirements of this section and all other applicable ordinances of the town. Any permit so issued may be revoked by the town recorder for failure to comply with any requirement of this section. However, charges shall be preferred in writing by the recorder and served upon the permittee and he shall be given the right to be heard as to why his license should not be revoked.

Any person aggrieved by the town recorder's action relative to the issuance or revocation of an "automobile graveyard" permit may appeal to the board of mayor and aldermen which shall hold a hearing and decide whether or not the town recorder's action was reasonable. Based upon its findings at such hearing the board shall affirm or reverse the town recorder's action.

The cost for issuing such permit shall be \$250.00 per year and no permit shall be issued for less than one year at any one time.

(3) All "automobile graveyards" within the town shall be operated and maintained subject to the following regulations:

(a) All motor vehicles stored or kept in such yards shall be so kept that they will not catch and hold water in which mosquitoes may breed and so that they will not constitute a place or places in which rats, mice, or other vermin may be harbored, reared, or propagated.

(b) All such "automobile graveyards" shall be enclosed within a close fitting plank or metal solid fence touching the ground on the bottom and being not less than six (6) feet in height, such fence to be so built that it will be impossible for stray cats and/or stray dogs to have access to such "automobile graveyards."

(c) Such "automobile graveyards" shall be so maintained as to be in a sanitary condition and so as not to be a menace to the public health or safety.

(4) No permit for an "automobile graveyard" shall be issued if said "automobile graveyard" is not operated as a business by anyone, and is not used for any purpose whatsoever, and no one claims ownership of said "automobile graveyard."

(5) Any owner and/or operator of an "automobile graveyard" in existence at the time the provisions in this section become effective shall have sixty (60) days in which to get a permit or remove the offending vehicles.

(6) Any person owning or maintaining an "automobile graveyard" in violation of any provision of this section shall be punishable under the general penalty clause for this municipal code. (1978 Code, § 8-111)

13-109. Burning rubbish, etc., without a permit prohibited. (1) It shall be unlawful for any person to burn or attempt to burn refuse or rubbish on private or public property within the corporate limits of the town without first securing a permit from the town.

(2) A permit for the burning of refuse or rubbish may be obtained by contacting town hall and/or the Perry County Sheriff's Department. The Perry County Sheriff's Department will be notified of all permits issued.

(3) Upon violation of burning refuse or rubbish without a permit, the offender may be fined up to \$50.00 in the discretion of the city judge. (Ord. #91-5, Dec. 1991)

CHAPTER 2

SLUM CLEARANCE

SECTION

- 13-201. Findings of board.
- 13-202. Definitions.
- 13-203. "Public officer" designated; powers.
- 13-204. Initiation of proceedings; hearings.
- 13-205. Orders to owners of unfit structures.
- 13-206. When public officer may repair, etc.
- 13-207. When public officer may remove or demolish.
- 13-208. Lien for expenses; sale of salvage materials; other powers not limited.
- 13-209. Basis for a finding of unfitness.
- 13-210. Service of complaints or orders.
- 13-211. Enjoining enforcement of orders.
- 13-212. Additional powers of public officer.
- 13-213. Powers conferred are supplemental.
- 13-214. Structures unfit for human habitation deemed unlawful.

13-201. Findings of board. Pursuant to Tennessee Code Annotated, § 13-21-101, et seq., the board of mayor and aldermen finds that there exists in the town structures which are unfit for human occupation due to dilapidation, defects increasing the hazards of fire, accident or other calamities, lack of ventilation, light or sanitary facilities, or due to other conditions rendering such dwellings unsafe or unsanitary, or dangerous or detrimental to the health, safety and morals, or otherwise inimical to the welfare of the residents of the town. (Ord. #95-5, Sept. 1995, as replaced by Ord. #96-2, § 1, July 1996)

13-202. Definitions. (1) "Municipality" shall mean the Town of Linden, Tennessee, and the areas encompassed within existing town limits or as hereafter annexed.

(2) "Governing body" shall mean the board of mayor and aldermen charged with governing the town.

(3) "Public officer" shall mean the officer or officers who are authorized by this chapter to exercise the powers prescribed herein and pursuant to Tennessee Code Annotated § 13-21-101, et seq.

(4) "Public authority" shall mean any housing authority or any officer who is in charge of any department or branch of the government of the town or state relating to health, fire, building regulations, or other activities concerning structures in the town.

(5) "Owner" shall mean the holder of title in fee simple and every mortgagee of record.

(6) "Parties in interest" shall mean all individuals, associations, corporations and others who have interests of record in a dwelling and any who are in possession thereof.

(7) "Structures" shall mean any dwelling or place of public accommodation or vacant building or structure suitable as a dwelling or place of public accommodation. (Ord. #95-5, Sept. 1995, as replaced by Ord. #96-2, § 1, July 1996)

13-203. "Public officer" designated; powers. There is hereby designated and appointed a "public officer," to be the mayor of the town, to exercise the powers prescribed by this chapter, which powers shall be supplemental to all others held by the mayor. (Ord. #95-5, Sept. 1995, as replaced by Ord. #96-2, § 1, July 1996)

13-204. Initiation of proceedings; hearings. Whenever a petition is filed with the public officer by a public authority or by at least five (5) residents of the town charging that any structure is unfit for human occupancy or use, or whenever it appears to the public officer (on his own motion) that any structure is unfit for human occupation or use, the public officer shall, if his preliminary investigation discloses a basis for such charges, issue and cause to be served upon the owner of, and parties in interest of, such structure a complaint stating the charges in that respect and containing a notice that a hearing will be held before the public officer (or his designated agent) at a place therein fixed, not less than ten (10) days nor more than thirty (30) days after the service of the complaint; and the owner and parties in interest shall have the right to file an answer to the complaint and to appear in person, or otherwise, and give testimony at the time and place fixed in the complaint; and the rules of evidence prevailing in courts of law or equity shall not be controlling in hearings before the public officer. (Ord. #96-2, § 1, July 1996)

13-205. Orders to owners of unfit structures. If, after such notice and hearing as provided for in the preceding section, the public officer determines that the structure under consideration is unfit for human occupancy or use, he shall state in writing his finding of fact in support of such determination and shall issue and cause to be served upon the owner thereof an order:

(1) If the repair, alteration or improvement of the structure can be made at a reasonable cost in relation to the value of the structure (not exceeding fifty percent [50%] of the reasonable value), requiring the owner, during the time specified in the order, to repair, alter, or improve such structure to render it fit for human occupancy or use or to vacate and close the structure for human occupancy or use; or

(2) If the repair, alteration or improvement of said structure cannot be made at a reasonable cost in relation to the value of the structure (not to exceed

fifty percent [50%] of the value of the premises), requiring the owner within the time specified in the order, to remove or demolish such structure. (Ord. #96-2, § 1, July 1996)

13-206. When public officer may repair, etc. If the owner fails to comply with the order to repair, alter, or improve or to vacate and close the structure as specified in the preceding section hereof, the public officer may cause such structure to be repaired, altered, or improved, or to be vacated and closed; and the public officer may cause to be posted on the main entrance of any dwelling so closed, a placard with the following words: "This building is unfit for human occupancy or use; the use or occupation of this building for human occupancy or use is prohibited and unlawful." (Ord. #96-2, § 1, July 1996)

13-207. When public officer may remove or demolish. If the owner fails to comply with an order, as specified above, to remove or demolish the structure, the public officer may cause such structure to be removed and demolished. (Ord. #96-2, § 1, July 1996)

13-208. Lien for expenses, sale of salvaged materials; other powers not limited. The amount of the cost of such repairs, alterations or improvements, or vacating and closing, or removal or demolition by the public officer shall be assessed against the owner of the property, and shall upon the filing of the notice with the office of the register of deeds of Perry County, be a lien on the property in favor of the municipality, second only to liens of the state, county and municipality for taxes, any lien of the municipality for special assessments, and any valid lien, right, or interest in such property duly recorded or duly perfected by filing, prior to the filing of such notice. These costs shall be collected by the municipal tax collector or county trustee at the same time and in the same manner as property taxes are collected. If the owner fails to pay the costs, they may be collected at the same time and in the same manner as delinquent property taxes are collected and shall be subject to the same penalty and interest as delinquent property taxes. In addition, the municipality may collect the costs assessed against the owner through an action for debt filed in any court of competent jurisdiction. The municipality may bring one action for debt against more than one or all of the owners of properties against whom said costs have been assessed and the fact that multiple owners have been joined in one action shall not be considered by the court as a misjoinder of parties. If the structure is removed or demolished by the public officer, he shall sell the materials of such structure and shall credit the proceeds of such sale against the cost of the removal or demolition, and any balance remaining shall be deposited in the chancery court of Perry County by the public officer, shall be secured in such manner as may be directed by such court, and shall be disbursed by such court provided, however, that nothing in this section shall be construed to impair or limit in any way the power of the Town of Linden to define and declare

nuisances and to cause their removal or abatement, by summary proceedings or otherwise. (Ord. #96-2, § 1, July 1996)

13-209. Basis for a finding of unfitness. The public officer defined herein shall have the power and may determine that a structure is unfit for human occupation and use if he finds that conditions exist in such structure which are dangerous or injurious to the health, safety or morals of the occupants or users of such structure, the occupants or users of neighboring structures or other residents of the Town of Linden; such conditions may include the following (without limiting the generality of the foregoing): defects therein increasing the hazards of fire, accident, or other calamities; lack of a dequate ventilation, light, or sanitary facilities; dilapidation; disrepair; structural defects; and uncleanliness. (Ord. #96-2, § 1, July 1996)

13-210. Service of complaints or orders. Complaints or orders issued by the public officer pursuant to this chapter shall be served upon, persons, either personally or by registered mail, but if the whereabouts of such person is unknown and the same cannot be ascertained by the public officer in the exercise of reasonable diligence, and the public officer shall make an affidavit to that effect, then the serving of such complaint or order upon such persons may be made by publishing the same once each week for two (2) consecutive weeks in a newspaper printed and published in the town. In addition, a copy of such complaint or order shall be posted in a conspicuous place on the premises affected by the complaint or order. A copy of such complaint or order shall also be filed for record in the Register's Office of Perry County Tennessee, and such filing shall have the same force and effect as other lis pendens notices provided by law. (Ord. #96-2, § 1, July 1996)

13-211. Enjoining enforcement of orders. Any person affected by an order issued by the public officer served pursuant to this chapter may file a suit in chancery court for an injunction restraining the public officer from carrying out the provisions of the order, and the court may, upon the filing of such suit, issue a temporary injunction restraining the public officer pending the final disposition of the cause; provided, however, that within sixty (60) days after the posting and service of the order of the public officer, such person shall file such suit in the court.

The remedy provided herein shall be the exclusive remedy and no person affected by an order of the public officer shall be entitled to recover any damages for action taken pursuant to any order of the public officer, or because of noncompliance by such person with any order of the public officer. (Ord. #96-2, § 1, July 1996)

13-212. Additional powers of public officer. The public officer, in order to carry out and effectuate the purposes and provisions of this chapter, shall have the following powers in addition to those otherwise granted herein:

- (1) To investigate conditions of the structures in the town in order to determine which structures therein are unfit for human occupation or use;
- (2) To administer oaths, affirmations, examine witnesses and receive evidence;
- (3) To enter upon premises for the purpose of making examination, provided that such entry shall be made in such manner as to cause the least possible inconvenience to the persons in possession;
- (4) To appoint and fix the duties of such officers, agents and employees as he deems necessary to carry out the purposes of this chapter; and
- (5) To delegate any of his functions and powers under this chapter to such officers and agents as he may designate. (Ord. #96-2, § 1, July 1996)

13-213. Powers conferred are supplemental. This chapter shall not be construed to abrogate or impair the powers of the town with regard to the enforcement of the provisions of its charter or any other ordinances or regulations, nor to prevent or punish violations thereof, and the powers conferred by this chapter shall be in addition and supplemental to the powers conferred by the charter and other laws. (Ord. #96-2, § 1, July 1996)

13-214. Structures unfit for human habitation deemed unlawful. It shall be unlawful for any owner of record to create, maintain or permit to be maintained in the town structures which are unfit for human occupation due to dilapidation, defects increasing the hazards of fire, accident or other calamities, lack of ventilation, light or sanitary facilities, or due to other conditions rendering such dwellings unsafe or unsanitary, or dangerous or detrimental to the health, safety and morals, or otherwise inimical to the welfare of the residents of the town.

Violations of this section shall subject the offender to a penalty of up to five hundred dollars (\$500) for each offense. Each day a violation is allowed to continue shall constitute a separate offense. (Ord. #96-2, § 1, July 1996)