

TITLE 16

STREETS AND SIDEWALKS, ETC¹

CHAPTER

1. MISCELLANEOUS.
2. EXCAVATIONS AND CUTS.

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. Projecting signs and awnings, etc., restricted.
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- 16-106. Gates or doors opening over streets, alleys, or sidewalks prohibited.
- 16-107. Littering streets, alleys, or sidewalks prohibited.
- 16-108. Obstruction of drainage ditches.
- 16-109. Abutting occupants to keep sidewalks clean, etc.
- 16-110. Parades, etc., regulated.
- 16-111. Operation of trains at crossings regulated.
- 16-112. Animals and vehicles on sidewalks.
- 16-113. Fires in streets, etc.

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. (1980 Code, § 12-101)

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 out 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. (1980 Code, § 12-102)

16-103. Trees, etc., obstructing view at intersections prohibited. It shall be unlawful for any property owner or occupant to have or maintain on

¹Municipal code reference

Related motor vehicle and traffic regulations: title 15.

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. (1980 Code, § 12-103)

16-104. 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 (1980 Code, § 12-104)

16-105. 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 any public street or alley except when expressly authorized by the city council after a finding that no hazard will be created by such banner or sign. (1980 Code, § 12-105)

16-106. 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 statute. (1980 Code, § 12-106)

16-107. Littering streets, alleys, or sidewalks prohibited. It shall be unlawful for any person to litter, place, throw, blow, 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, drainage areas, and places for their intended purposes; and it shall be unlawful for any person to allow grass or leaves to be placed or blown onto any street, alley, sidewalk, or drainage area. (1980 Code, § 12-107, as replaced by Ord. #19-59, July 2019 *Ch12_12-06-12*)

16-108. 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. From and after June 19, 1984, all drain tile utilized in the construction of new driveways, or reconstruction of existing driveways, shall be not less than twelve inches (12") in diameter, and that in areas of the city prone to flooding in times of heavy rainfall the city, through the director of public works, may require such drain tile to exceed twelve inches (12") in diameter. All drainage tiles utilized in the construction of new driveways, or used in the reconstruction of existing driveways shall be not less than 16 feet in length. (1980 Code, § 12-108)

¹Municipal code reference
Building code: title 12, chapter 1.

16-109. 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. (1980 Code, § 12-109)

16-110. Parades, etc., regulated. It shall be unlawful for any club, organization, or similar 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. (1980 Code, § 12-110)

16-111. 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. It shall 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. (1980 Code, § 12-111, modified)

16-112. 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. (1980 Code, § 12-112)

16-113. 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. (1980 Code, § 12-113)

CHAPTER 2

EXCAVATIONS AND CUTS¹

SECTION

- 16-201. Permit required.
- 16-202. Applications for permits.
- 16-203. Fee.
- 16-204. Cutting of road.
- 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. Enforcement and penalties.

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 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 any 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 offices of the public works superintendent and the recorder are open for business, and said permit shall be retroactive to the date when the work was begun. (1980 Code, § 12-201)

16-202. Applications for permits. Applications for such permits shall be made to the public works superintendent, 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

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).

ordinances and laws relating to the work to be done. Such application shall be rejected or approved by the public works superintendent within three (3) days of its filing. (1980 Code, § 12-202)

16-203. Fee. The fee for such permits shall be ten dollars (\$10.00) for all excavations or tunnels, and permits shall not be issued until a surety bond has been received by the city recorder, for not less than \$1,000.00 and not to exceed \$5,000.00. This bond will insure the proper restoration of the ground and laying of the pavement, and amount of bond will be determined by the public works superintendent, to correspond with the type of work being done. (1980 Code, § 12-203)

16-204. Cutting of road. (1) If any blacktop should have to be cut, it must be back filled with crushed stone, within 2" of the top surface, and 2" of asphalt on top.

(2) Any gravel road that has to be cut, must be completely refilled with crushed stone.

(3) At no time shall more than one half of any road be cut, and cause traffic to be blocked.

(4) City of Portland Street Department will furnish a supervisor to inspect any road to be cut and the repair to specifications.

(5) Proper caution signs will be furnished by each utility and contractor to insure safety of the public. (1980 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. (1980 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 shall restore it to its original condition. This shall be paid for by such person, firm, corporation, association, or others promptly upon the completion of the work 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, on advice of the public works superintendent, 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 municipality 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. (1980 Code, § 12-206)

16-207. Insurance. The applicant for a permit under this chapter shall submit satisfactory evidence that he has sufficient assets or insurance to indemnify the city for any costs, losses or liabilities that it may incur by reason of such excavation, and to satisfy any judgements or liabilities arising out of the excavation. (1980 Code, § 12-207)

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 pavement, or until the refill is made ready for the pavement to be put on by the municipality if the municipality 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 superintendent of public works. (1980 Code, § 12-208)

16-209. Enforcement and penalties. Any person or persons violating this chapter shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be punished by a fine not less than twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) nor more than fifty dollars (\$50.00). (1980 Code, § 12-209)