TITLE 16
STREETS AND SIDEWALKS, ETC.¹

CHAPTER
1. MISCELLANEOUS.
2. EXCAVATIONS AND CUTS.

CHAPTER 1
MISCELLANEOUS

SECTION
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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. (1964 Code, § 12-201)

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, alley or sidewalk at a height of less than fourteen feet (14’). (1964 Code, § 12-202)

16-103. **Trees, etc., obstructing views at intersections prohibited.** It shall be unlawful for any property owner or occupant to have or maintain on his property any tree, hedge, billboard, or other obstruction which prevents

¹Municipal code reference
Motor vehicle and traffic regulations: title 15.
persons driving vehicles, on public streets or alleys from obtaining a clear view of traffic when approaching an intersection. (1964 Code, § 12-203)

16-104. **Projecting signs, 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. (1964 Code, § 12-204)

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 governing body. (1964 Code, § 12-205)

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. (1964 Code, § 12-206)

16-107. **Littering streets, alleys, or sidewalks prohibited.** It shall be unlawful for any person to litter, place, throw, or allow to fall on any street, alley or sidewalk any refuse, glass, tacks, 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. (1964 Code, § 12-207)

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. (1964 Code, § 12-208)

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, or ice from the abutting sidewalk. Also, all such occupants are required to keep the sidewalk in reasonably safe repair. (1964 Code, § 12-209)

16-110. **Parades 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 immediately clean up the resulting litter. (1964 Code, § 12-210)
16-111. **Operation of trains at crossings regulated.** (1) No person shall operate any railroad train through the City of Adams, Tennessee without giving a warning of its approach to each railroad crossing as required by state law, nor shall a person operate a train at a speed in excess of forty (40) miles per hour while passing through the City of Adams, Tennessee.

(2) 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. (Ord. #31, Sept. 1978)

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 a manner as to unreasonably interfere with or inconvenience pedestrians using the sidewalk. It shall also be unlawful for any person to knowingly allow any minor under his control to violate this section. (1964 Code, § 12-212)

16-113. **Violations and penalty.** Violations of this chapter shall subject the offender to a penalty under the general penalty provision of this code.
CHAPTER 2

EXCAVATIONS AND CUTS

SECTION
16-201. Permit required.
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.
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16-201. **Permit required.** It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, corporation, association or others, to make an excavation in any street, alley or public place, or to tunnel under any street, alley or public place or sidewalk without first obtaining 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 practically 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. (1964 Code, § 12-101)

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 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 approved by the recorder within twenty-four (24) hours of its filing. (1964 Code, § 12-102)

16-203. **Fee.** The fee for such permits shall be one hundred dollars ($100.00). (1964 Code, § 12-103, modified)
16-204. **Deposit or bond.** (1) No such permit shall be issued unless and until the applicant therefor has deposited with the recorder a cash deposit to be determined by current cost estimate, but in no event less that the sum of twenty-five dollars ($25.00). If no pavement is involved, and an amount to be determined by current cost estimate, but in no event less than one hundred dollars ($100.00) if the excavation is in a paved area, to ensure the proper restoration of the ground and laying of the pavement, if any, except that 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 said cost. From this deposit shall be deducted the expense of the municipality of relaying the surface of the ground or pavement, and of making the refill if this is done by the municipality 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.

(2) 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 municipality if the applicant fails to make proper restoration. (1964 Code, § 12-104, modified)

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 protest 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. (1964 Code, § 12-105)

16-206. **Restoration of streets, etc.** Any person, firm, corporation, association or others making any excavation or tunnel in or under any street, alley, sidewalk or other public place in this municipality shall restore said street, alley, sidewalk or public place to its original condition except for the surfacing, which shall be done by the municipality, but 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, sidewalk 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 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 municipality, 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 of tunnels.  (1964 Code, § 12-106)

16-207. **Insurance.** In addition to making the deposit or giving the bond hereinbefore required to ensure 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 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).  (1964 Code, § 12-107, 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 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 recorder.  (1964 Code, § 12-108)

16-209. **Supervision.** The recorder shall from time to time inspect all excavations and tunnels being made in or under any public street, alley, sidewalk or other public place in the municipality and see to the enforcement of the provisions of this chapter. Notice shall be given to him at least ten (10) days before the work of refilling any such excavation or tunnel commences.  (1964 Code, § 12-109)

16-210. **Driveway curb cuts.** No one shall cut, bind, 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 feet (35') 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 feet (10') in width at its outer or street edge shall be provided. Driveway aprons shall not extend out into the street.  (1964 Code, § 12-110)
16-211. **Violations and penalty.** Any violation of this chapter shall constitute a civil offense and shall be punishable by a civil penalty under the general penalty provision of this code, by revocation of permit, or by both penalty and revocation. Each day a violation shall be allowed to continue shall constitute a separate offense.