

TITLE 16

STREETS AND SIDEWALKS, ETC.¹

CHAPTER

1. MISCELLANEOUS.
2. EXCAVATIONS AND CUTS.

CHAPTER 1

MISCELLANEOUS

SECTION

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- 16-104. Projecting signs and awnings, etc., restricted.
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- 16-107. Littering streets, alleys, or sidewalks prohibited.
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- 16-110. Parades, etc., regulated.
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- 16-114. Moving buildings, mobile homes upon streets.
- 16-115. Violations and penalty.
- 16-116. Placement of advertising signs on city-owned rights-of-way prohibited.

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.

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 (14) feet or over any sidewalk at a height of less than eight (8) feet.

¹Municipal code reference

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.

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.

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 or above any public street or alley except when expressly authorized by the board of mayor and aldermen after a finding that no hazard will be created by such banner or sign.

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 law.

16-107. 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.

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.

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.

16-110. 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.

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 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.

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.

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.

16-114. Moving buildings, mobile homes upon streets. It shall be unlawful to move or otherwise transport any building including houses, residential or business trailers and mobile homes whether or not same are occupied, vacated or abandoned, without complying with the provisions of this section. Any person moving or otherwise transporting said buildings shall:

(1) Secure a permit from the recorder upon forms provided for that purpose, for which he shall pay a fee of \$25.00. The permit application shall give the recorder notice of when the building is to be moved, the type of building to be moved, the dimensions of the building and any other pertinent information as to its size, and the route of anticipated movement. The permit shall be good only for the building, time and route described in the permit application.

(2) Provide adequate warning to motorists in the front, rear and where appropriate such as at intersections, at the sides of the building and its transporting vehicles.

(3) In the event of a breakdown or accident, the mover of said building shall provide a watchman to guard the building and such other signalmen as are necessary to provide adequate warning to motorists under paragraph (2) above, to include adequate lights and flares during the hours of darkness.

16-115. Violations and penalty. Violations of this chapter shall subject the offender to a penalty of up to five hundred dollars (\$500) for each offense.

16-116. Placement of advertising signs on city-owned rights-of-way prohibited. (1) Definitions. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires:

(a) "Public right-of-way" means a strip of land acquired by reservation, dedication, forced dedication, prescription, or condemnation and intended to be utilized as a road, sidewalk or crosswalk, railroad, electric transmission line, oil or gas pipeline, water line, sanitary sewer or storm sewer, or other public use.

(b) "Advertising sign" means any advertising display constructed of metal, plastic, wood, cloth, canvas, light fiber paper, cardboard, or other light materials, with or without frames, permanently or temporarily installed, which is displayed for the making of public announcements, promotion of goods or services for sale or lease, or promotion of an individual or an issue on an election ballot to be voted upon by the city's electorate.

(2) Signs prohibited in public rights-of-way. It shall be unlawful for any person to place or attempt to place, any advertising sign within or upon any public right-of-way within the City of Bells.

(3) Prohibited signs to be removed by the city. The Mayor of Bells or his agent shall direct the prompt removal of all commercial, political, and temporary signs found to be within public rights-of-way or upon public grounds owned by the City of Bells.

(4) Traffic and directional signs. Nothing in this section shall be construed as prohibiting agencies of the federal, state, or municipal governments from placing authorized traffic control signs or directional signs in public rights-of-way with the City of Bells. (As added by Ord. #08-02, Sept. 2002)

CHAPTER 2

EXCAVATIONS AND CUTS¹

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.
- 16-210. Driveway curb cuts.
- 16-211. Violation and penalty.

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 recorder is open for business, and the permit shall be retroactive to the date when the work was begun.

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

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).

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 city recorder within twenty-four (24) hours of its filing.

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.

16-204. Deposit or bond. No such permit shall be issued unless and until the applicant therefor has deposited with the city 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 city recorder 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 recorder shall deem adequate to cover the costs to the city if the applicant fails to make proper restoration.

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.

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 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 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.

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 recorder in accordance with the nature of the risk involved; provided, however, that the liability insurance for bodily injury shall not be less than \$100,000 for each person and \$300,000 for each accident, and for property damages not less than \$25,000 for any one (1) accident, and a \$75,000 aggregate.

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 recorder.

16-209. Supervision. The person designated by the board of mayor and aldermen 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.

16-210. Driveway curb cuts. 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.

16-211. Violation 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.