

TITLE I: GENERAL PROVISIONS

Chapter

10. GENERAL PROVISIONS

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SECTION 10.01 TITLE OF CODE.

(A) All ordinances of a permanent and general nature of the city, as revised, codified, rearranged, renumbered, and consolidated into component codes, titles, chapters, and sections, shall be known and designated as the “city code,” for which designation “code of ordinances,” “codified ordinances” or “code” may be substituted. Code title, chapter, and section headings do not constitute any part of the law as contained in the code.

(B) All references to codes, titles, chapters, and sections are to the components of the code unless otherwise specified. Any component code may be referred to and cited by its name, such as the “Traffic Code.” Sections may be referred to and cited by the designated number, such as “ 10.01.”

SECTION 10.02 RULES OF INTERPRETATION.

(A) *Generally.* Unless otherwise provided herein, or by law or implication required, the same rules of construction, definition, and application shall govern the interpretation of this code as those governing the interpretation of state law.

(B) *Specific rules of interpretation.* The construction of all ordinances of this city shall be by the following rules, unless that construction is plainly repugnant to the intent of the

legislative body or of the context of the same ordinance:

(1) **AND or OR.** Either conjunction shall include the other as if written “and/or,” whenever the context requires.

(2) **Acts by assistants.** When a statute, code provisions or ordinance requires an act to be done which, by law, an agent or deputy as well may do as the principal, that requisition shall be satisfied by the performance of the act by an authorized agent or deputy.

(3) **Gender; singular and plural; tenses.** Words denoting the masculine gender shall be deemed to include the feminine and neuter genders; words in the singular shall include the plural, and words in the plural shall include the singular; the use of a verb in the present tense shall include the future, if applicable.

(4) **General term.** A general term following specific enumeration of terms is not to be limited to the class enumerated unless expressly so limited.

SECTION 10.03 APPLICATION TO FUTURE ORDINANCES.

All provisions of Title I compatible with future legislation shall apply to ordinances hereafter adopted which amend or supplement this code unless otherwise specifically provided.

SECTION 10.04 CAPTIONS.

Headings and captions used in this code other than the title, chapter, and section numbers are employed for reference purposes only and shall not be deemed a part of the text of any section.

SECTIONS 10.05 DEFINITIONS.

(A) **General rule.** Words and phrases shall be taken in their plain, or ordinary and usual sense. However, technical words and phrases having a peculiar and appropriate meaning in law shall be understood according to their technical import.

(B) **Definitions.** For the purpose of this code, the following definitions shall apply unless the context clearly indicates or requires a different meaning:

CITY. The area within the corporate boundaries of the city as presently established or as amended by ordinance, annexation or other legal actions at a future time. The term **CITY** when used in this code may also be used to refer to the City Council and its authorized representatives.

CODE, THIS CODE or THIS CODE OF ORDINANCES. This city code as modified by amendment, revision, and adoption of new titles, chapters, or sections.

COUNTY. Wright County, Minnesota.

MAY. The act referred to is permissive.

MONTH. A calendar month.

OATH. An affirmation in all cases in which, by law, an affirmation may be substituted for an oath, and in those cases the words **SWEAR** and **SWORN** shall be equivalent to the words **AFFIRM** and **AFFIRMED**. All terms shall mean a pledge taken by the person and administered by an individual authorized by state law.

OFFICER, OFFICE, EMPLOYEE, COMMISSION, or DEPARTMENT. An officer, office, employee, commission, or department of this city unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

PERSON. Extends to and includes an individual, person, persons, firm, corporation, copartnership, trustee, lessee, or receiver. Whenever used in any clause prescribing and imposing a penalty, the terms **PERSON** or **WHOEVER** as applied to any unincorporated entity shall mean the partners or members thereof, and as applied to corporations, the officers or agents thereof.

PRECEDING or FOLLOWING. Next before or next after, respectively.

SHALL. The act referred to is mandatory.

SIGNATURE or SUBSCRIPTION. Includes a mark when the person cannot write.

STATE. The State of Minnesota.

SUBCHAPTER. A division of a chapter, designated in this code by a heading in the chapter analysis and a capitalized heading in the body of the chapter, setting apart a group of sections related by the subject matter of the heading. Not all chapters have subchapters.

WRITTEN. Any representation of words, letters, or figures, whether by printing or otherwise.

YEAR. A calendar year, unless otherwise expressed.

SECTION 10.06 SEVERABILITY.

If any provision of this code as now or later amended or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the invalidity does not affect other provisions that can be given effect without the invalid provision or application.

SECTION 10.07 REFERENCE TO OTHER SECTIONS.

Whenever in one section reference is made to another section hereof, that reference shall extend and apply to the section referred to as subsequently amended, revised, recodified, or renumbered unless the subject matter is changed or materially altered by the amendment or revision.

SECTION 10.08 REFERENCE TO OFFICES.

Reference to a public office or officer shall be deemed to apply to any office, officer, or employee of this city exercising the powers, duties, or functions contemplated in the provision, irrespective of any transfer of functions or change in the official title of the functionary.

SECTION 10.09 ERRORS AND OMISSIONS.

If a manifest error is discovered, consisting of the misspelling of any words; the omission of any word or words necessary to express the intention of the provisions affected; the use of a word or words to which no meaning can be attached; or the use of a word or words when another word or words was clearly intended to express the intent, the spelling shall be corrected and the word or words supplied, omitted, or substituted as will conform with the manifest intention, and the provisions shall have the same effect as though the correct words were contained in the text as originally published. No alteration shall be made or permitted if any question exists regarding the nature or extent of the error.

SECTION 10.10 OFFICIAL TIME.

The official time, as established by applicable state and federal laws, shall be the official time within this city for the transaction of all city business.

SECTION 10.11 REASONABLE TIME.

(A) In all cases where an ordinance requires an act to be done in a reasonable time or requires reasonable notice to be given, reasonable time or notice shall be deemed to mean the time which is necessary for a prompt performance of the act or the giving of the notice.

(B) The time within which an act is to be done, as herein provided, shall be computed by excluding the first day and including the last. If the last day is a legal holiday or a Sunday, it shall be excluded.

SECTION 10.12 ORDINANCES REPEALED.

This code, from and after its effective date, shall contain all of the provisions of a general nature pertaining to the subjects herein enumerated and embraced. All prior ordinances pertaining to the subjects treated by this code shall be deemed repealed from and after the effective date of this code.

SECTION 10.13 ORDINANCES UNAFFECTED.

All ordinances of a temporary or special nature and all other ordinances pertaining to subjects not embraced in this code shall remain in full force and effect unless herein repealed expressly or by necessary implication.

SECTION 10.14 EFFECTIVE DATE OF ORDINANCES.

All ordinances passed by the legislative body requiring publication shall take effect from and after the due publication thereof, unless otherwise expressly provided.

SECTION 10.15 REPEAL OR MODIFICATION OF ORDINANCE.

(A) Whenever any ordinance or part of an ordinance shall be repealed or modified by a subsequent ordinance, the ordinance or part of an ordinance thus repealed or modified shall continue in force until the publication of the ordinance repealing or modifying it when publication is required to give effect to it, unless otherwise expressly provided.

(B) No suit, proceedings, right, fine, forfeiture, or penalty instituted, created, given, secured, or accrued under any ordinance previous to its repeal shall in any way be affected, released, or discharged, but may be prosecuted, enjoyed, and recovered as fully as if the ordinance had continued in force unless it is otherwise expressly provided.

(C) When any ordinance repealing a former ordinance, clause, or provision shall be itself repealed, the repeal shall not be construed to revive the former ordinance, clause, or provision, unless it is expressly provided.

SECTION 10.16 ORDINANCES WHICH AMEND OR SUPPLEMENT CODE.

(A) If the City Council shall desire to amend any existing chapter or section of this code, the chapter or section shall be specifically repealed and a new chapter or section, containing the desired amendment, substituted in its place.

(B) Any ordinance which is proposed to add to the existing code a new chapter or section shall indicate, with reference to the arrangement of this code, the proper number of the chapter or section. In addition to this indication as may appear in the text of the proposed ordinance, a caption or title shall be shown in concise form above the ordinance.

SECTION 10.17 PRESERVATION OF PENALTIES, OFFENSES, RIGHTS AND LIABILITIES.

All offenses committed under laws in force prior to the effective date of this code shall be prosecuted and remain punishable as provided by those laws. This code does not affect any rights or liabilities accrued, penalties incurred, or proceedings begun prior to the effective date of this code. The liabilities, proceedings and rights are continued; punishments, penalties, or forfeitures shall be enforced and imposed as if this code had not been enacted. In particular, any agreement granting permission to utilize highway right-of-ways, contracts entered into or franchises granted, the acceptance, establishment or vacation of any highway, and the election of corporate officers shall remain valid in all respects, as if this code had not been enacted.

SECTION 10.18 COPIES OF CODE.

The official copy of this code shall be kept in the office of the City Clerk for public inspection. The Clerk shall provide a copy for sale for a reasonable charge.

SECTION 10.19 ADOPTION OF STATUTES AND RULES BY REFERENCE.

It is the intention of the City Council that, when adopting this City Code, all future amendments to any state or federal rules and statutes adopted by reference in this code or referenced in this code are hereby adopted by reference or referenced as if they had been in existence at the time this code was adopted, unless there is clear intention expressed in the code to the contrary.

SECTION 10.99 PENALTY PROVISIONS.

(A) ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTIES.

1. Purpose. The City Council determines that there is a need for alternative methods

of enforcing this code. While criminal fines and penalties have been the most frequent mechanism, there are certain negative consequences for the City and the accused. The delay in the criminal justice system does not ensure prompt resolution, citizens resent being labeled as criminals for violating administrative regulations, the high burden of proof and potential incarceration are not appropriate for many Code violations, and the criminal process does not always regard City Code violations as important. As a result, the City Council finds the use of administrative citations and imposition of civil penalties is a legitimate and necessary alternative enforcement method, which will be in addition to any other legal remedy that may be pursued for Code violations.

2. Administrative Offense. An administrative offense is a violation of any section of this Code when one performs an act prohibited, or fails to act when the failure is prohibited, and is subject to the penalties set forth in this code and the City's penalty schedule which may be amended from time to time.

3. Notice. Any Police Officer, the Building Inspector, the Public Works Director, or any designee by the City with authority to enforce this code shall, upon determining that there has been a violation, notify the violator, person responsible for the violation, or in the case of a vehicular violation, attach notice of the violation to the vehicle. The notice shall state the nature, date, and time of the violation, the name of the official issuing the notice, the amount of the scheduled initial penalty and any applicable charges.

4. Payment. Once notice is given, the person responsible for the violation shall, within seven (7) days after the notice is issued, pay the penalty amount to the City Administrator/Clerk in person or by mail, and payment shall be an admission of the violation. A late charge may be imposed for each seven (7) days the penalty remains unpaid after the first seven(7) day period.

5. Contest. Any person who wishes to contest an administrative offense under this section shall notify the City Administrator/Clerk in writing within seven (7) days after the notice is issued. Upon receiving a notice of contest, the violation shall be dismissed and the City may bring a misdemeanor or petty misdemeanor charge against the alleged violator.

6. Failure to Pay. If a violator fails to pay a penalty imposed by this section, the City may bring a misdemeanor or petty misdemeanor charge against the alleged violator according to this Code and applicable law. If the violator pays the penalty, the City shall not bring a criminal charge for the same violation.

7. Disposition of Penalties. All penalties collected under this Section shall be paid over to the City Administrator/Clerk, who shall deposit the penalty in the City's general fund.

8. Scheduled Penalties. Penalties shall be imposed for violating administrative offenses according to a penalty schedule the City Council establishes periodically by Resolution.

9. Option to Withdraw. The procedures are intended to be voluntary on the part of those who have been charged with administrative offenses. At any time before paying the administrative penalty as is provided in this ordinance, the individual may withdraw from participation in the procedures whereupon the City may bring criminal charges according to this code and State law. Likewise, the City in its discretion, may choose not to pursue an administrative offense and may bring criminal charges instead.

(B) CRIMINAL PENALTIES.

1. Any person, firm, or corporation who violates any provision of this code for which another penalty is not specifically provided, shall, upon conviction, be guilty of a misdemeanor. The penalty which may be imposed for any crime which is a misdemeanor under this code, including Minnesota Statutes specifically adopted by reference, shall be a sentence of not more than 90 days or a fine of not more than \$700, or both.

2. Any person, firm or corporation who violates any provision of this code, including Minnesota Statutes specifically adopted by reference, which is designated to be a petty misdemeanor shall, upon conviction be guilty of a petty misdemeanor. The penalty which may be imposed for any petty offense which is a petty misdemeanor shall be a sentence of a fine of not more than \$200.

3. In either the case of a misdemeanor or a petty misdemeanor, the costs of prosecution may be added. A separate offense shall be deemed committed upon each day during which a violation occurs or continues.

4. The failure of any officer or employee of the city to perform any official duty imposed by this code shall not subject the officer or employee to the penalty imposed for a violation.