

**AMENDED ORDINANCE #2022-004
TOWN OF SPRINGFIELD
BUILDING CODE ORDINANCE**

1.0. ORDINANCE AMENDED.

Ordinance 2022-004 (which replaced 2007-01) is hereby amended as follows:

1.1. AUTHORITY.

This ordinance is adopted pursuant to the authority under Wisconsin Statutes 101.65.

1.2. PURPOSE.

The purpose of this ordinance is to promote the general health, safety and welfare of town residents, to protect property values, and to promote the uniformity of construction standards by regulating construction of and additions or alterations to one- and two-family dwellings and Commercial Buildings.

1.3. SCOPE.

Notwithstanding SPS 320.03, the scope also includes the construction and inspection of alterations and additions to one- and two-family dwellings built before June 1, 1980. Because such projects are not under state jurisdiction, petitions for variance and final appeals under SPS 320.19 and 320.21, respectively, shall be decided by municipal board of appeals. Petitions for variance shall be decided per SPS 320.19 (Intro) so that equivalency is maintained to intent of the rule being petitioned. As the board of appeals approves petitions for variance, the chief inspector is granted the power to apply the results to similar circumstance by precedent.

1.4. ADOPTION OF CODES BY REFERENCE.

A. The adoption of the Wisconsin Administrative Codes, noted below, and all amendments thereto in effect on the date of the adoption of this chapter are hereby adopted and made part of this chapter by reference and are applicable to all those classes of buildings to which said codes apply.

- SPS 316, Electrical Code;
- SPS 320-325, Uniform Dwelling Code;
- SPS 327, Camping Units;
- SPS 361-366 Commercial Building Code;
- SPS 375-379, Buildings constructed Prior to 1914 Code;
- SPS 381-384, Plumbing Code

1.5. BUILDING INSPECTOR.

A. There is hereby created the position of Building Inspector, who shall administer and enforce this chapter and who shall be certified by the Department of Commerce as specified by W.S.A. s. 101.66(2). Additionally, this or other assistant inspectors shall possess the certification categories of UDC HVAC, UDC Electric, UDC Plumbing, UDC Construction, Commercial Electrical Inspector, and Commercial Building Inspector. The Town Board shall make appointment.

B. The Building Inspector shall have the power and duty to see that the construction, reconstruction, alteration, of dwellings and Commercial buildings in the Town conform to the laws of the State of Wisconsin, the orders, rules and regulations laid down by the Department of Commerce of the State of Wisconsin and the ordinances, rules and regulations of the Town Springfield and St. Croix County and to make all inspections as required.

1.6. Building permit required.

A. RESIDENTIAL BUILDING PERMITS REQUIRED.

(1) No person shall build or cause to be built any new one- or two-family dwelling or any addition or alteration to an existing one- or two-family dwelling, or swimming pool, or solar panels, or wind turbine, or accessory structure over 200 square feet or larger, including agricultural structures, or any structure that requires electrical, plumbing, or structural footings or supports, or commercial or industrial buildings without first obtaining a state uniform building permit or a town building permit for such dwelling, structure, commercial building, etc., as determined by the Building Inspector.

B. COMMERCIAL BUILDING PERMITS REQUIRED.

(1) No person shall build or cause to be built any new public building or place of employment or any alternation or addition to an existing public building or place of employment without first obtaining a commercial building permit from the Building Inspector. This permit shall be issued after receipt of State of Wisconsin approved plans, where required, and sanitary permits, if applicable, and a determination has been made of compliance with zoning, setbacks, ordinances, St. Croix County Comprehensive Plan and regulations of the Town of Springfield, St. Croix County and the State of Wisconsin.

(2) Any contractor/builder/developer working within the Town of Springfield shall be required to provide proof of insurance with a minimum coverage of \$10,000 personal property / \$100,000 liability. Certificate of insurance shall be submitted with application.

(3) No person shall perform an electrical project on a farm, public building, structure, or premises; place of employment; campground; manufactured home community; public marina; pier, dock, or wharf, and a recreational vehicle park without first obtaining a commercial electrical permit from a building inspector.

1.7. Building permit not Required.

A. Replacement of in-kind major building HVAC equipment including furnaces, central air conditioners, water heaters, other major pieces of equipment, and plumbing, venting, electrical or gas supply systems when altered.

B. Window replacement, re-roofing and finishing or interior surfaces, installation of cabinetry, and minor repairs as determined by the Building Inspector. However, unless structural calculations are provided, no more than two (2) layers of roofing shall be

installed on a roof.

C. Agricultural buildings in properly zoned districts (however, applicable zoning setback requirements shall be complied with), except an electrical service permit is required.

D. For any interior or exterior improvements or alterations to an existing building which does not affect a structural change.

E. Building structures under 200 square feet do not require a building permit.

1.8. Fees; violations and penalties.

A. Fees. The building permit fees shall be set by resolution of the Town Board and may be changed from time to time and shall include \$25.00 to be forwarded to the Wisconsin Department of Commerce for the UDC permit seal that shall be assigned to any new dwelling.

B. Penalties.

(1) The fee will be doubled if construction is started prior to issuance of a permit.

(2) The enforcement of this chapter and all other laws and ordinances relating to building shall be by means of the withholding of building permits, imposition of forfeitures and/or injunctive action. Any person, firm or corporation violating any provision of this chapter shall, upon conviction, forfeit not less than \$25 nor more than \$500 and the costs of prosecution. Each day the violation continues after written notice is delivered to the occupant, owner (as designated on any permit application submitted to the town) or construction person apparently in charge on the site shall constitute a separate violation.

1.9. Application process; issuance of permit.

A. Application for a building permit shall be made in writing upon a form furnished by the Building Inspector. The appropriate building requirements of the town and, where applicable, of the county or the state for the contemplated improvement shall be provided to the permit applicant by the Building Inspector at or before the submission of an application for a building permit.

B. Plans and drawings. The building permit applicant shall submit with the application two complete sets of site plans and specifications, one set of blueprints and an erosion control plan.

C. County permits. The applicant must obtain any permits required by the County and include copies of such permits with the building permit application, including a county driveway permit, if necessary.

D. Driveway permits. The building permit applicant shall submit with the application a driveway permit, which shall be applied for and obtained from the Town Board for town roads or private roads. The county issues all other driveway permits.

E. Approval of plans and issuance of building permit. If the Building Inspector determines that the proposed building, addition, or alteration will comply in every respect with all the ordinances of the town and all applicable laws and regulations of the State of Wisconsin and is not in violation of the County Subdivision Ordinance or any applicable Town ordinance, he shall conditionally approve the plans and issue a building permit which shall be valid for 24 months. After being approved, the plans and specifications shall not be altered in any respect that involves any of the above-mentioned ordinances, laws or regulations or which involves the safety of the building or occupants. One copy of the approved plan shall be returned to the applicant. The town shall retain one copy.

F. State Uniform Dwelling Code seal. At such time as a building permit is issued for one- or two-family dwellings, it shall have affixed to it a State of Wisconsin Uniform Dwelling Code seal.

G. Fees. Fees shall be submitted to the Building Inspector at the time the application is filed. Fees for plan examination; inspection, driveway permit, culvert, house number, variance application and issuance of the building permit shall be set by the Town Board.

H. Waiver of plans. If the Building Inspector finds that the character of the work is sufficiently described in the application, he may waive the filing of plans for alterations or repairs, provided that the cost of such work does not exceed \$5,000.

1.10. Exceptions.

A. Minor repairs or alterations which cost less than \$10,000 and which do not change occupancy area, structural strength, fire protection, exits, natural light or ventilation do not require a permit. Repairs or alterations that change any one of the above items require a permit. Repairs and alterations costing more than \$10,000 require a permit.

B. Landscaping, not including decks, may be done without a permit.

C. Alterations. When not in conflict with any regulations, alterations to any existing building or structure accommodating a legal occupancy and use but of substandard type of construction, which involves either beams, girders, columns, bearings or other walls, room, heating and air conditioning systems, arrangement, light and ventilation, changes in location of exit stairways or exits, or any or all of the above, then such exists construction shall be made to conform to the minimum requirements of this Chapter applicable to such occupancy and use and given type of construction.

D. Repairs. Repairs for purposes of maintenance, or replacements in any existing building or structure which do not involve the structural portions or the building or structure or which do not affect room arrangement, light and ventilation, access to or efficiency of any existing stairways, or exits, fire protection, or exterior aesthetic appearance and which do not increase a given occupancy or use, shall be deemed

minor repairs.

1.11. Disapproval of plans and denial of permit.

A. If the Building Inspector determines that the building permit application or plans do not conform to the provisions of the applicable codes or ordinances or other requirements, approval shall be denied.

B. Denial of application. A copy of the denied application, accompanied by a written statement specifying the reasons for denial, shall be sent to the applicant and/or to the owner as specified on the application.

C. Stamping of plans. Plans and specifications, which do not substantially conform to the provisions of the Building Code, shall be stamped "Not approved." One copy shall be returned to the applicant and one copy retained by the town.

D. Appeals. The applicant may appeal a denial of an application to the Town Board.

1.12. Time limit for action on application; posting of permit.

A. Time for permit issuance. Action to approve or deny a building permit application shall be completed within 10 business days of receipt of all of the forms, fees, plans and documents required processing the application.

B. Posting of permit. The building permit and other permits required by the town, county, state or other municipalities shall be posted in a conspicuous place at the building site and within view of the adjacent roadway.

1.13. Compliance with permit.

All construction must comply with the building permit and the plans submitted with the building permit application. Any construction that is not authorized on the building permit, blueprint, site plan, or plans, or is not listed on the building permit application is a violation of the permit and subject to the violations and penalties established in this ordinance.

1.14. Revocation of permit.

A. If the Building Inspector finds at any time that the provisions of this chapter are not being complied with and that the holder of the permit refuses to conform after a written warning or instruction has been issued to him, he shall revoke the building permit by written notice posted at the site of the work.

B. When any permit is revoked, no further work shall be done until the permit is reissued, except such work as the Building Inspector may order as a condition precedent to the re-issuance of the permit or as he may require for the preservation of human life and safety.

1.15. Lapse of permit.

A building permit shall lapse and be void unless construction under the permit is commenced within six months from the date of issuance thereof. The building permit

shall lapse and be void if the permit purpose has not been fully completed within 24 months from the date of issuance of the permit. Once a permit has lapsed, no further work shall be performed under such lapsed permit until such time as a new permit has been issued.

1.16. Inspections.

A. All inspections for the purpose of administering and enforcing the UDC and Town Building Code shall be performed by a certified inspector who shall conduct inspections according to the respective codes being applied and enforced.

B. Notification. The builder shall give the Building Inspector, for all inspections required by UDC Chapter 20.10, 48 hours' notice as per UDC.

C. Witness to inspection. It is recommended that a representative of the developer, contractor, builder or owner be present at each required inspection. It shall be the responsibility of the developer, contractor, builder or owner to coordinate inspection times and dates with the Building Inspector.

D. Re-inspections. Any re-inspections necessary due to incomplete work or noncomplying conditions shall be subject to an additional fee per inspection to be paid in full prior to the issuance of the occupancy permit.

1.17. Unsafe buildings.

Whenever the Building Inspector finds any building or part thereof within the town to be, in his judgment, so old, dilapidated or out of repair as to be dangerous, unsafe, unsanitary, unreasonable to repair or otherwise unfit for human habitation, occupancy or use, he shall order the owner to raze and remove such building or part thereof. If a building or part thereof can be made safe by repairs, the owner may make it safe and sanitary or raze it at his own option and expense. Such order and proceedings shall be as provided in W.S.A. s. 66.05.

1.18. Enforcement; right of entry.

A. Except where otherwise provided in this code, the Building Inspector shall have the general management and control of all matters pertaining to building inspection and shall enforce all state laws, town ordinances and lawful orders relating to the construction, alteration, repair, removal and safety of buildings and other structures, dwellings, public buildings and places of employment in the Town.

B. The Building Inspector shall have the power and authority, at all reasonable hours, for any proper purpose, to enter upon any public or private premises and make inspection and to require the production of the permit for any building work being done or the required license. No person shall interfere with or refuse to permit access to any such premises to the above-described representatives of the town while in the performance of their duties. Any person who shall willfully or knowingly resist or obstruct the inspector in the performance of his duty shall be guilty of a violation of this chapter.

1.19. Records and reports.

A. The Building Inspector shall maintain a record of all permits issued, which shall be kept on file.

B. The Building Inspector shall make a monthly and annual written report to the Town Board of all permits issued, violations noted and fees collected.

1.20. Occupancy permits.

The Town of Springfield shall issue occupancy permits.

A. All inspections shall have been satisfactorily completed, the well construction report shall have been received, all required fees shall have been paid and all required terms of this Building Code shall have been met before an occupancy permit will be issued.

B. No single- or multiple-family dwelling may be occupied by any person or party until an occupancy permit has been issued.

C. A penalty will be charged if a dwelling is occupied prior to issuance of an occupancy permit.

1.21. Non-liability of Town.

This ordinance shall not be construed as creating or assuming any liability on the part of the Town or any official or employee thereof for damages to anyone injured or for any property destroyed by any defect in any building or equipment in any plumbing or electric wiring or equipment.

1.22. Severability.

If any section, clause, provision, or portion of this chapter or Wisconsin Administrative Code chapters are adjudged unconstitutional or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction the remaining provisions shall not be affected thereby.

EFFECTIVE DATE. The amended Ordinance #2022-004 shall be effective February 13th, 2023, upon passage and publication as provided by law.

Adopted this 13th, day of February 2023.



Chair, Dean Fayerweather

Attest: 

Sheri Erickson, Clerk/Treasurer