TITLE V

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY

Chapter 16 Police
Chapter 17 Fire
Chapter 18 Public Health Hazards
Chapter 19 Solid Waste Management
Chapter 20 Water Pollution
Chapter 21 Possession of Firearms

Chapter 16

POLICE

16.01 Organization
16.02 Duties
16.03 Personnel
16.04 Chief of Police
16.05 Compensation
16.06 Hours of Duty
16.07 Suspension or Discharge

16.01 ORGANIZATION

(1) Having a population of less that four thousand (4,000), the City of Blair elects to organize its Police Department pursuant to Ordinance. As such, the City does not appoint a Board of Police Commissioners. Further, the City does not adopt Sec. 62.13, Wis. Stat., except as provided in Section 16.07 of this ordinance.

16.02 DUTIES

(1) Members of the Police Department shall be responsible for the maintenance of order, enforcement of law, enforcement of the City Ordinances of the City of Blair and carrying out any other lawful orders issued by the City Council. Members of the department shall have arrest powers as conferred by this Ordinance and State Law.

(2) Members of the department shall act in a manner becoming a police officer, having regard for the safety and welfare of the citizens of the City and any visitors therein, and shall not use excessive force, employing only that amount of force necessary to protect the public and themselves in carrying out their duties.

(3) Members of the department shall ensure that all City ordinances are being complied with and deal with non-compliance in a timely manner

(4) Members of the department shall report all street and sidewalk obstructions, unlighted street lamps, defective or dangerous streets and sidewalks to the appropriate person or organization responsible for their repair or service.

16.03 PERSONNEL

(1) The Police Department shall consist of a number of police officers as shall be deemed necessary by the City Council to maintain law and order.

(2) The Department head shall be the Chief of Police. Reference is made to Section 5.05 of these Ordinances.

(3) Members of the Police Department report to and work under the direction of the Chief of Police.

16.04 CHIEF OF POLICE

(1) Such person appointed to perform the duties of Chief of Police shall perform the duties required of said office as provided by law and such other duties as are required or requested to be executed by him or her by the City Mayor from time to time. The Chief of Police shall establish and promulgate Rules of Conduct, Directives and Policies and Procedures and prescribe such duties for individual members as he or she may deem necessary for the effective and efficient command and operation of the Department, provided no such Rules of Conduct, Directive or Policy Procedure duties or assignment shall be in conflict with the statutes, ordinances, and approved City Personnel Policies, rules, and regulations.

16.05 COMPENSATION

(1) The salaries of all Police Department members shall be set by the Council.

(2) There shall be no rewards or additional compensation for arrests, apprehensions, traffic citations written, or other meritorious service.

(3) Salaries or other benefits may be established in relationship to the length of service.

16.06 HOURS OF DUTY

(1) The Council shall provide for a working day of not more than eight (8) hours in each twenty-four (24) hour day except in case of certain police officers under the direction of the police chief allowing them to work a normal twelve (12) hour shift or if necessity by some sudden or serious emergency, which in the judgment of the Chief of Police, demands that such workday be extended beyond the eight (8) hour or twelve (12) hour period. Overtime credit, consistent with the personnel policies of the City, shall be granted in the event of such work extending beyond the eight (8) hour and twelve (12) hour period as directed by the Police Chief. Police officers working twelve (12) hour days; shall not exceed 84 hours in a pay period, unless authorized by the Chief of Police in an emergency.

(2) The Council shall provide one full rest day of twenty-four (24) consecutive hours during each one hundred ninety-two (192) hours for every member of the department, except in cases of sudden or serious emergency, which in the judgment of the Chief of Police, demands that such day of rest not be given at that time. Arrangements shall be made so that each full rest day may not be had at such time, or times, as will impair the efficiency of the Department. A rest period in excess of twenty-four (24) hours may be allowed.

16.07 SUSPENSION OR DISCHARGE.

(1) The City may not suspend, reduce, suspend and reduce, or remove any Police Chief or other Law Enforcement Officer who is not probationary, unless the City does one of the following:

(A) Establishes a committee of not less than three (3) members, none of whom may be an elected or appointed official of the City or be employed by the City. The committee shall act pursuant to Section 62.13(5), Wis. Stat., in place of a Board of Police Commissioners. The City Council may provide for some payment to each member's cost of serving on the committee at a rate established by the City Council.

(B) Appoint a person who is not an elected or appointed official of the City and who is not employed by the City. The person shall act under Section 62.13(5), Wis. Stat., in place of the Board of Police Commissioners. Such person may be a hearing examiner employed by the Wisconsin Division of Hearings and Appeals. The City may provide for compensation to serve in this capacity at such rate established by the City Council. Should the person selected be a hearing examiner, such reimbursement would be paid to the State consistent with their requirements.

(2) Section 62.13(5) and 62.13(5m), Wis. Stat., is hereby adopted by reference.

September 12, 2016 – repeal Section 16.04 (5)
August 16, 2023 – amended Section 16.06(1)
November 22, 2023 – repealed Section 16.20(3) and (4)
April 23, 2025 – repealed Section 16.01(2) & 16.04(1)(C)
June 11, 2025 – created Section 16.02(3)(4)and (5)
June 11, 2025 – created Section 16.04(1) (G)(H)(I) and (J)
October 15, 2025 – repealed Sections 16.02(3), 16.04(1)(C), 16.04(1)(G), and 16.04(1)(H)
November 19, 2025 – repealed Section 16.04 and replaced