

TITLE VII

Chapter 30

BUILDING PERMITS, BUILDING INSPECTOR, AND BUILDING CODES

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30.01 INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE:

- (1) **AUTHORITY.** These regulations are adopted under the authority granted by s. 101.65, Wisconsin Statutes.
- (2) **PURPOSE.** The purpose of this Chapter is to promote the general health, safety, and welfare, and to maintain required local uniformity with the administrative and technical requirements of the Wisconsin Uniform Dwelling Code and other Wisconsin Building Codes.
- (3) **SCOPE.** New buildings hereafter erected in, any building hereafter altered, modified, enlarged, demolished, moved within, or into, the City, or as otherwise reasonable intended to be covered by the language found in this Chapter or other related City ordinances, shall conform to all the requirements of this Chapter, except as they are herein specifically exempted from part or all of its provisions.

30.02 ADOPTION OF BUILDING CODES:

- (1) **WISCONSIN UNIFORM DWELLING CODE ADOPTED.** The Wisconsin Uniform Dwelling Code, § SPS 320-325 and § SPS 327, and their successors, of the Wisconsin Administrative Code, and all amendments thereto, is adopted and incorporated by reference.
- (2) **ADOPTION OF OTHER STATE CODES.** The following Chapters of the Wisconsin Administrative Code, as well as all subsequent revisions, are adopted by the City and shall be enforced by the Building Inspector.

Ch. SPS 305	Credentials
Ch. SPS 316	Electrical Code
Ch. SPS 327	Campgrounds
Chs. SPS 361-366	Commercial Building Code
Chs. SPS 375-379	Buildings Constructed Prior to 1914
Chs. SPS 381-387	Uniform Plumbing Code

- (3) Any act required to be performed or prohibited by an Administrative Code . provision incorporated herein by reference is required or prohibited by this Chapter. Any future amendments, revisions or modifications of the Administrative Code provisions incorporated herein are intended to be made part of this chapter.

30.03 DEFINITIONS:

As used in this Chapter, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

- (1) **ADDITION.** Any new construction performed on a building which increases the outside dimensions of the building.
- (2) **ALTERATION.** A change or modification other than a minor repair to a building or minor repair to systems involved within a building.
- (3) **DEPARTMENT.** The Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services.
- (4) **DWELLING.** Any building, the initial construction of which is commenced on or after the effective date of this Chapter, which contains one or two dwelling units; or an existing structure or that part of an existing structure, which is used or intended to be used as a one- or two-family dwelling.
- (5) **MINOR REPAIR.** Repair performed for maintenance or replacement purposes on any existing building which does not affect room arrangement, light and ventilation, access to or efficiency of any exit stairways or exits, fire protection, or exterior aesthetic appearance and which does not increase a given occupancy and use.
- (6) **ONE OR TWO-FAMILY DWELLING.** A building structure which contains one or separate households intended to be used as a home residence or sleeping place by an individual or by two or more individuals maintaining a common household, to the exclusion of all others.
- (7) **PERSON.** An individual, partnership, firm, or corporation.
- (8) **CITY COUNCIL.** The City Council of the City of Blair.

30.04

BUILDING INSPECTOR:

- (1) There is hereby created the position of Building Inspector, who shall administer and enforce this Chapter and shall be certified by the Department of Safety and Professional Services, as specified by Wisconsin Statutes, Section 101.66(2), in the category of Uniform Dwelling Code Construction Inspector. Additionally, this or other assistant inspectors shall possess the certification categories of UDC HVAC, UDC Electrical, and UDC Plumbing.
- (2) The City may hire an individual or firm to act as its Building Inspector. The initial Building Inspector for the City upon passage of this Chapter shall be General Engineering Company. The City may change who its Building Inspector is by Resolution.
- (3) The Building Inspector or an authorized certified agent of the Building Inspector may, at all reasonable hours, enter upon any public or private premises for inspection purposes. The Building Inspector may require the production of the permit for any building, plumbing, electrical, or heat work. No person shall interfere with or refuse to permit access to any such premises to the Inspector or his/her agent while in the performance of his/her duties. In the event that the Inspector is refused access to any such premises, then the Inspector is authorized to apply for a special inspection warrant pursuant to Section 66.0119, Stats.
- (4) The Building Inspector(s) shall keep a log of all inspections completed.

30.05

BUILDING PERMIT REQUIRED:

- (1) No building of which initial construction shall be commenced after the effective date of this Chapter shall be built, enlarged, altered, demolished, moved, or repaired unless a building permit for that work shall be first obtained by the owner or his agent. Application for a building permit or other permit hereunder shall be made in writing on the form provided by the Building Inspector. The term "building permit" shall include construction permits, electrical permits, heating, ventilating, and air-conditioning (HVAC) permits, moving permits, demolition permits, and plumbing permits.
- (2) No addition, alteration, or repair to an existing building, which is not deemed minor repair by the Building Inspector, shall be undertaken unless a building permit for this work shall first be obtained by the owner or his agent.
- (3) The construction which shall require a building permit includes, but is not limited to:
 - (A) New 1 & 2 family residential buildings, commercial buildings including agricultural buildings, detached structures (decks), and detached accessory buildings, "that are determined to be permanent structures by the Building Inspector or City Council."

- (B) Additions which increase the physical dimensions of any building, including decks.
 - (C) Alterations to any building's structure, or alterations to the building's HVAC, electrical, or plumbing systems.
 - (D) Replacement or addition of major building equipment including furnaces, central air conditioners, water heaters, and any other major piece of equipment, except as noted by the Building Inspector.
 - (E) Any electrical wiring for new construction or remodeling, excluding new wiring for existing industrial and manufacturing facilities that do not require State mandated building plan review.
 - (F) Any HVAC for new commercial construction or remodeling.
 - (G) Any plumbing for new commercial construction or remodeling.
 - (H) Any new or re-wired electrical service for buildings, including services for agricultural buildings.
- (4) Restoration or repair of an installation to its previous code-compliant condition as determined by the building inspector is exempt from permit requirements.
 - (5) Residing, re-roofing, finishing of interior surfaces and installation of cabinetry shall be exempt from permit requirements.
 - (6) Miscellaneous. Other sections of this Chapter may require a permit not specifically listed in this Section.

30.06

CERTIFIED MUNICIPALITY STATUS AND PLANS:

- (1) **CERTIFIED MUNICIPALITY.** The City has adopted the Certified Municipality Status as described in SPS 361.60 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code.
- (2) **RESPONSIBILITIES.** The City shall assume the following responsibilities for the Department of Safety and Professional Services (Department):
 - (A) Provide permitting and inspection of commercial buildings with certified commercial building inspectors.
 - (B) Provide plan examination of commercial buildings with certified commercial building inspectors.
- (3) **PLAN EXAMINATION.** Drawings, specifications, and calculations for all the types of commercial buildings and structures, except state-owned buildings and structures, to be constructed within the limits of the municipality shall be submitted, if the plans are for any of the following:

- (A) A new commercial building or structure containing less than 50,000 cubic feet of total volume.
 - (B) An addition to a commercial building or structure where the area of the addition results in the entire building or structure containing less than 50,000 cubic feet of total volume.
 - (C) An addition containing no more than 2,500 square feet of total floor area and no more than one floor level, provided the largest roof span does not exceed 18 feet and the exterior wall height does not exceed 12 feet.
 - (D) An alteration of a space involving less than 100,000 cubic feet of total volume.
 - (E) A certified municipality may waive its jurisdiction for the plan review of a specific project or types of projects, or components thereof, in which case plans and specifications shall be submitted to the Department for review and approval.
 - (F) The Department may waive its jurisdiction for the plan review of a specific project, where agreed to by a certified municipality, in which case plans and specifications shall be submitted to the certified municipality for review and approval.
- (4) **PLAN SUBMISSION PROCEDURES.** All commercial buildings, structures, and alterations, including new buildings and additions less than 25,000 cubic feet, require plan submission as follows:
- (A) Building permit application
 - (B) Application for review - SBD-118
 - 1.) Fees per Table SPS 302.31-2 and SPS 302.31
 - 2.) Fees apply to all commercial projects
 - (C) Four sets of plans
 - 1.) Signed and sealed per SPS 361.31
 - 2.) One set of specifications
 - 3.) Component and system plans
 - 4.) Calculations showing code compliance

- (1) **PERMIT.** A permit is required to move a building in the City of Blair. Every application for a permit to move a building shall set forth in detail, a description of the construction at the present time, its use and location, the new location, and any existing building thereon, the substructure that is to be placed upon, the use intended in the future, and the route to be traversed in the moving process. Buildings moved into the City shall meet all applicable zoning and building regulations for the site to which it will be located. Zoning and building permits for structures moved into the City will be required.
- (2) **BOND.** A bond is required to move a building in the City of Blair. The applicant shall file with the application, a bond in the sum of five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) payable to the City of Blair, with good and sufficient sureties to be approved by the City Mayor and the City Attorney, conditioned to save and keep the City harmless from all liability, and will indemnify the City against any and all judgments, claims, or every nature whatsoever, costs and expenses resulting from the moving of said proposed building. In lieu of, or in addition to, the bond referred to herein, the City Mayor and City Attorney may require a policy of liability insurance naming the City as additional insured, in an aggregate amount not less than one million dollars (\$1,000,000.00).
- (3) **PROTECTION OF PROPERTY WHILE MOVING BUILDING.** The moving, or removal, of a building shall be continuous during all hours of the day, and day by day, and at night if the Building Inspector so orders, until completed, with the least possible obstruction to thoroughfares. No building shall be allowed to remain overnight upon any street crossing or intersection, or so near thereto as to prevent easy access to any fire hydrant. Lighted lanterns displaying a red light shall be attached to every building being moved along a street during the period from thirty (30) minutes before sunset to thirty (30) minutes after sunrise.
- (4) **TREE TRIMMING.** If the movement of the building over the City streets and/or alleys requires the trimming of trees, the same shall be done by a business or individual who is regularly engaged in such service and is pre-approved by the Director of Public Works. It shall be the responsibility of said business or individual to clean all trimming debris and replace any trees substantially damaged during the move. On the failure of this business or individual to do so to the satisfaction of the Director of Public Works within ten (10) business days after said move, the City will clean up and/or replace such trees if necessary and hold the person obtaining the permit, and the bond, responsible for the payment of such expenses.
- (5) **PROTECTION OF STREETS AND IMPROVEMENTS.** Every person receiving a permit to move a building shall, within one (1) day after said building reaches its destination, report to the Building Inspector who shall notify the City Engineer. The City Engineer shall thereupon inspect the streets over which said

building has been moved and ascertain their condition. If the removal of said building has caused any damage to the streets, the building mover shall forthwith place them in as good repair as they were before the permit was granted. Upon the failure of the permit holder to repair such damage within ten (10) days thereafter to the satisfaction of the City Engineer, the City Engineer shall repair the damage done to such streets and hold the applicant, and/or the sureties on the bond given by the permit holder, responsible for the payment of the same.

30.08 DEMOLITION OF BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES:

- (1) **PERMIT REQUIRED.** No person, firm, or corporation, agent or servant shall demolish or cause to be demolished any building, structure, or part thereof, without applying for and obtaining a permit from the Building Inspector.
- (2) **PROCESS TO BE USED.** All demolitions, including demolitions of single-family dwellings, shall comply with applicable National Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants relating to asbestos promulgated by the United States Department of Environmental Protection and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Whenever a building shall be demolished, the roof and each upper story shall be taken down before the demolition of the next lower story is begun. No material shall be placed to overload any part of such building in the course of demolition. All brick, stone, timbers, and structural parts of each story shall be lowered to the ground immediately upon displacement. All dry mortar, lime, brick dust or other flying material shall, before and during removal, be dampened sufficiently to prevent it from floating or being blown into the street or on adjoining property. All sidewalks shall be protected by fences and scaffolds as required by the ordinances of the City relating to the protection of the sidewalks during the erection of buildings. Protective fencing, approved by the Building Inspector shall be used at all times for the protection of the public.
- (3) **GRADING.** The building site of any building hereafter demolished, shall be cleared of all debris and rubbish, and shall be properly filled, graded, leveled off, and seeded, so as not to spoil the appearance of the surrounding area.
- (4) **TIMELINE.** The demolition and grading shall be completed within ninety (90) days after issuance of the permit unless said time is extended by the City Council.

30.09 PERMIT FEES:

- (1) **PERMIT FEES.** The permit fees under this Chapter shall be determined by City Resolution and shall include the applicable fee per Ch. SPS 302 to be forwarded to the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services for a UDC permit seal that shall be assigned to any new dwelling. Permit fees for a Wisconsin camping unit as outlined within Wis. Admin. Code § SPS 327.09 and inspection fees as outlined within Wis. Admin. Code § 327.10(3) will also be included in this resolution.

30.10 ISSUANCE OF PERMITS:

- (1) **ISSUANCE OF PERMIT.** If the Building Inspector finds that the proposed building, repair, addition, or other applicable request for permit under this Chapter, complies with all applicable provisions of the Wisconsin Administrative Code, Wisconsin State Statutes, and the ordinances of the City, including this Chapter, then the Building Inspector shall approve the application, and a building permit shall be issued to the applicant. The issued building permit shall be posted in a conspicuous place at the building site, and a copy thereof shall be kept on file with the Building Inspector. After being approved, no building plans shall be altered in any respect which involves any the applicable provisions of the Wisconsin Administrative Code or the ordinances of the City, or which involves the safety of the building or the occupants, except with the written consent of the Building Inspector.
- (2) **TIMELINE:** Subject to the specific requirements that may be found elsewhere in this Chapter, all work/action authorized by a permit under this Chapter must be completed in a timely manner, and in no event longer than one (1) year unless otherwise approved by the City Council. Failure to complete any work authorized by a permit under this Chapter shall be deemed a violation of this Chapter and the permit shall be deemed lapsed.

30.11

VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES:

- (1) No person shall erect, use, occupy, or maintain any building in violation of any provisions of this Chapter or the Wisconsin Administrative Codes adopted, or cause or permit any such violation to be committed. Any person violating any of the provisions of this chapter shall, upon conviction, be subject to a forfeiture of not less than \$100.00 nor more than \$1,000.00 for each day of non-compliance, together with the costs of prosecution.
- (2) If an inspection reveals noncompliance with this chapter or the Wisconsin Administrative Codes adopted, the Building Inspector shall notify the applicant and the owner, in writing, of the violation(s) to be corrected. All cited violations shall be corrected within 30 days after written notification unless an extension of time is granted by the Building Inspector pursuant to any applicable provisions of the Wisconsin Administrative Codes adopted.
- (3) If, after a written notification, the violation is not corrected within 30 days, a stop-work order may be served on the owner or his or her representative, and a copy thereof shall be posted at the construction site. Such stop-work order shall not be removed except by written notice of the Building Inspector after satisfactory evidence has been supplied that the cited violation has been corrected.
- (4) Each day each violation continues after the thirty-day written notice period has run, shall constitute a separate offense. Nothing in this chapter shall preclude the City from maintaining any appropriate action to prevent or remove a violation of any provision of this chapter, or the Wisconsin Administrative Codes adopted.

- (5) If any construction or work governed by the provisions of this Chapter, or the Wisconsin Administrative Codes adopted, is commenced prior to the issuance of a permit, triple fees shall be charged.
- (6) The penalties and remedies provided in this section shall be in addition to any other penalties and remedies provided and available to either the City of Blair or the State of Wisconsin under the Wisconsin Administrative Codes adopted, or other applicable provisions by law.

30.12

APPEALS:

- (1) Any person feeling aggrieved by an order or determination of the Building Inspector or the City Council, may appeal from such order or determination to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Those procedures set forth in Chapter 47 of the Code of Ordinances for the City of Blair regarding Zoning Board of Appeals shall apply.

May 3, 2021 – created Chapter 30 relating to building permits

October 23, 2024 – amended Section 30.05(3)(A) to add words after “detached accessory buildings”