

CHAPTER 25  
CONSTRUCTION AND EFFECT OF ORDINANCES

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25.01 RULES OF CONSTRUCTION. In the construction of this General Code, the following rules shall be observed unless such construction would be inconsistent with the manifest intent of the ordinance:

(1) WISCONSIN STATUTES. All references to “Wisconsin Statutes” or “Wis. Stats.” shall mean the Wisconsin Statutes for the years 1983-84 and shall include the 1985-86 Biennial Session.

(2) GENDER, SINGULAR AND PLURAL. Every word in this Code and in any ordinance imparting the masculine gender may extend and be applied to females as well as males, and every word imparting the singular number only may extend and be applied to several persons or things as well as to one person or thing; provided these rules of construction shall not be applied to any provision which contains any express language excluding such construction, or when the subject matter or context of such provision may be repugnant thereto.

(3) PERSON. The word “person” extends and applies to natural persons, firms, corporations, associations, partnerships or other bodies politic and to all entities capable of being sued, unless plainly inapplicable.

(4) ACTS OF AGENTS. When a provision requires an act to be done which may by law as well be done by an agent as by the principal, such requirement shall be construed to include all such acts when done by an authorized agent.

25.02 CONFLICT AND SEPARABILITY.

(1) CONFLICT OF PROVISIONS. If the provisions of the different chapters of this Code conflict with or contravene each other, the provisions of each chapter shall prevail as to all matters and questions arising out of the subject matter of such chapter.

(2) SEPARABILITY OF CODE PROVISIONS. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of the Code is for any reason held to be invalid or unconstitutional by reason of any decision of any court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity of any other section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase or portion thereof.

25.03 CLERK TO FILE DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE.

Whenever in this Code any standard, code, rule, regulation or other written or printed matter is adopted by reference, it shall be deemed incorporated in this Code as if fully set forth herein and the Clerk shall file, deposit and keep in his office a copy of the code, standard, rule, regulation or other written or printed matter as adopted. Materials so filed, deposited and kept shall be public records open for examination with proper care by any person during the Clerk's office hours, subject to such orders or regulations which the Clerk may prescribe for their preservation.

25.04 PENALTY PROVISIONS.

(1) GENERAL PENALTY. Except as otherwise provided, any person who shall violate any of the provisions of this Code shall, upon conviction of such violation, be subject to a penalty which shall be as follows:

(a) First Offense. Any person who shall violate any provision of this Code shall, upon conviction thereof, forfeit not less than \$5 nor more than \$500, together with the costs of prosecution, and in default of payment of such forfeiture and costs of prosecution shall be imprisoned in the County jail until such forfeiture and costs are paid, but not exceeding 90 days.

(b) Second Offense. Any person found guilty of violating any ordinance or part of an ordinance of this Code who has previously been convicted of a violation of the same ordinance within one year shall, upon conviction thereof, forfeit not less than \$10 nor more than \$500 for each such offense, together with the costs of prosecution, and in default of payment of such forfeiture and costs shall be imprisoned in the County jail until such forfeiture and costs are paid, but not exceeding 6 months.

(2) CONTINUED VIOLATIONS. Each violation and each day a violation continues or occurs shall constitute a separate offense. Nothing in this Code shall preclude the Town from maintaining any appropriate action to prevent or remove a violation of any provision of this Code.

(3) EXECUTION AGAINST DEFENDANT'S PROPERTY. Whenever any person fails to pay any forfeiture and costs of prosecution upon the order of any court for violation of any ordinance of the Town, the court may, in lieu of ordering imprisonment of the defendant or after the defendant has been released from custody, issue an execution against the property of the defendant for such forfeiture and costs.

(4) CITATION. Violations of nontraffic ordinances of the Town shall be enforced by the issuance of a Municipal Citation.

(a) Information Required. The Municipal Citation shall contain the following information:

1. The name and address of the alleged violator.

2. Factual allegations describing the alleged violations.
3. The time and place of the offense.
4. The section of the Code violated.
5. A designation of the offense in such manner as can readily be understood by a person making a reasonable effort to do so.

6. The time at which the alleged violator may appear in court.

7. A statement which in essence informs the alleged violator:

a. That a cash deposit based on the schedule established by the Town Board as a part of this section may be made which shall be delivered or mailed to the office of the Clerk of Court prior to the time of the scheduled court appearance.

b. That if a deposit is made, no appearance in court is necessary unless he is subsequently summoned.

c. That if a cash deposit is made and the alleged violator does not appear in court, he will be deemed to have entered a plea of no contest, or, if the court does not accept the plea of no contest, a summons will be issued commanding him to appear in court to answer the complaint.

d. That if no cash deposit is made and the alleged violator does not appear in court at the time specified, an action may be commenced to collect the forfeiture.

8. A direction that if the alleged violator elects to make a cash deposit, the statement which accompanies the citation shall be signed to indicate that the statement required under par. 7. above has been read. Such statement shall be sent or brought with the cash deposit.

9. Such other information as the Town deems necessary.

(b) Schedule of Deposits. The schedule of cash deposits for use with citations issued under this section shall be as adopted by the Town Board from time to time, and such schedule shall be on file in the office of the Town Clerk.

(c) Form of Deposits. Deposits shall be in cash, money order or certified check.

(d) Issuance of Citation.

1. Law Enforcement Officer. Any Town law enforcement officer may issue citations authorized under this section.

2. Town Officials. The following Town officials and their designated agents, after clearance with the Town Attorney, may issue citations with respect to those specified sections which are directly related to their official responsibilities.

(e) Procedure. Section 66.119(3), Wis. Stats., relating to violator's options and procedure on default, is adopted and incorporated herein by reference.

(f) Nonexclusivity.

1. Other Ordinance. This section does not preclude the Town Board from adopting any other ordinance or providing for the enforcement of any law or ordinance relating to the same or other matter.

2. Other Remedies. The issuance of a citation hereunder shall not preclude the Town or any authorized officer from proceeding under any other ordinance or law or by any other enforcement method to enforce any ordinance, regulation or order.

25.05 REPEAL OF GENERAL ORDINANCES. All ordinances adopted by the Town Board prior to adoption of this Code which are in conflict with the provisions of this Code are hereby repealed.

25.06 EFFECT OF REPEALS. The repeal or amendment of any section or provision of this Code or of any other ordinance or resolution of the Board shall not:

(1) By implication be deemed to revive any ordinance not in force or existing at the time such repeal or amendment takes effect.

(2) Affect any vested right, privilege, obligation or liability acquired, accrued or incurred under any enactment so repealed or amended, unless the privilege of repealing such obligation or privilege has been reserved by the Town.

(3) Affect any offense committed, or penalty or forfeiture incurred, previous to the time when any ordinance is repealed or amended; except when any forfeiture or penalty has been mitigated by the provisions of any ordinance, such provisions shall apply to and control any judgment to be pronounced after such ordinance takes effect for any offense committed before that time.

(4) Affect any prosecution for any offense, or the levy of any penalty or forfeiture pending at the time when any ordinance is repealed or amended; but the right of action shall continue and the offender shall be subject to the penalty as provided in such ordinance, and such prosecution shall proceed, in all respects, as if such ordinance had

not been repealed; except all such proceedings had after the time this Code takes effect shall be conducted according to the provisions of this Code.

25.07 KEEPING CODE CURRENT; REVISOR'S AMENDMENTS. Whenever any ordinance amending, repealing, revising or creating any section of this Code is adopted by the Town Board, the Clerk, after recording such ordinance in the ordinance book, shall forward a copy of such ordinance or resolution to the Reviser, who shall incorporate it into the Code. The Reviser shall make no substantive changes to such ordinances and resolutions but may renumber, rearrange and edit them without first submitting them to the Town Board, and such renumbering, rearranging and editing shall not affect the validity of such ordinances and resolutions or the provisions of this Code Affected thereby.