



TOWN OF FARMVILLE

CODE OF ORDINANCES

CHAPTER 10 – FIRE PROTECTION AND REGULATION

Section 1.0 FIRE DEPARTMENT

1.1 Organization

The fire department shall consist of the chief of the fire department and a sufficient number of firemen (voluntary, part or full time) to maintain and operate the department. The Board of Commissioners shall appoint the chief and may approve the appointment to the department of all officers. The department may, from time to time, adopt its own rules and regulations governing the department subject to the approval of the Board of Commissioners. However, any such rules and regulations shall include provisions for at least one training period each month and shall provide that any member who is absent for two consecutive meetings without a bona fide reason will be dropped from the department.

1.2 Duties of the Chief

The duties of the chief, subject to supervision by the Board shall be as follows:

- 1.2.1 General. He shall have general control of the department, personnel, apparatus, and fire alarm systems.
- 1.2.2 Firefighting Command. He shall command the department and supervise the firefighting and extinguishing of all fires and to have authority to keep away from the vicinity of all fires, any and all idle, disorderly or suspicious persons.
- 1.2.3 Equipment Inspection. He shall inspect or cause to be inspected all trucks and other equipment of the fire department each and every week to ascertain that such equipment is being kept in proper condition.
- 1.2.4 Reports. He shall report annually to the Board of Commissioners the condition of all equipment, fire hydrants, and fire alarms.
- 1.2.5 Fire Inspections
 - 1.2.5.1 The chief shall assume the functions of Fire Inspector and shall enforce regulations pertaining to fire hazards and fire

districts. As such he (or his designated agent) shall have authority to enter any and all premises, at reasonable times, for purposes of inspection.

1.2.5.2 He shall make annual inspections of all structures located within the fire districts.

1.2.5.3 He shall, upon receipt of a complaint, forthwith investigate.

1.2.5.4 He shall investigate the causes of fires and keep records of his findings as to origin, location, owner, extent of damage or injury, and amount of insurance carried. The findings must be reported to the North Carolina Insurance Commissioner at regular intervals.

1.2.5.5 He shall cause the removal of fire hazards by serving a proper order to the owner or agent of the premises in question, such order to state a reasonable time limit. Failure to comply with such orders shall be considered a misdemeanor.

1.3 Fire Suppression Regulations

1.3.1 Summoning Aid. The fire officer in command at the scene of a fire shall have authority to summon aid and no citizen so summoned may unreasonably refuse to help in extinguishing the fire or in protecting exposed property.

1.3.2 Congregating Near Fires. It shall be unlawful to congregate on the streets or alleys near a fire in a manner which would interfere with the activities of the fire department.

1.3.3 Fire Trucks Have Right-of-Way. In the event of an alarm of fire, the apparatus of the fire department responding to it shall have the right-of-way in and upon all streets, lanes, alleys, and other public ways. The drivers of vehicles, upon the approach of fire apparatus, shall immediately bring their vehicle to a stop on the right hand side of the street in the direction they are facing and shall not move their vehicles until such apparatus has passed.

1.3.4 Following Fire Equipment. It shall be unlawful to follow any fire apparatus which is responding to a call, by automobile or any other vehicle (unless such is used for transporting firemen to the scene of fire) at a distance closer than one city block, or to pass such apparatus, or to park within the same block in which fire is in progress.

1.3.5 Interfering with Firemen or Fire Apparatus. No person shall interfere with a fireman in the discharge of his duty, or hinder him in the performance of said duty; nor shall any person other than members of the fire department loiter about any fire station, or change, handle, or meddle in any manner with any fire engine or other fire apparatus.

1.3.6 Only Firemen and Policemen On Trucks. No person other than a bona fide member of the fire department shall mount any fire engine, wagon, or apparatus before it leaves the station or while on its way to or from a fire, or at any other time unless by permission of the driver or officer in command of such engine, wagon, or other apparatus.

1.4 Fire Alarm System

1.4.1 Interfering with Fire Alarm Apparatus. No person shall interfere carelessly or willfully with the fire alarm system or injure the poles, wires, boxes, or other apparatus connected therewith.

1.4.2 Giving False Fire Alarm. No person shall give or cause to be given any false alarm of fire by means of the fire alarm system, telephone, or otherwise. A fifty (\$50.00) Dollar reward will be paid to anyone furnishing information leading to the conviction of anyone intentionally giving a false fire alarm. Firemen and Policemen are excluded from receiving such reward.

1.5 Firemen's Benefits

1.5.1 Fraternal Insurance. The Town of Farmville will pay into the Firemen's Fraternal Insurance Fund an amount sufficient to cover each member of the department in good standing and recognized by the Chief of the Fire Department to the extent such member is entitled to be covered. If any member in good standing is called into military service, state or federal, the Town shall remain responsible for the purchases of these insurance payments, until such time as the Chief finds such person no longer a member in good standing with the Fire Department. The Town will also pay these insurance payments for members who retire in good standing with twenty years or more of service.

1.5.2 Accident Insurance. The Town of Farmville will pay for adequate accident insurance to cover all members of the Farmville Fire Department in good standing, as recognized by the Chief of the Fire Department.

1.5.3 Hospital Insurance. The Town of Farmville will pay for hospitalization insurance to cover each member of the department in good standing and recognized by the Chief of the Fire Department to the extent such member is entitled to be covered.

1.5.4 State Fireman Fund. The Town of Farmville shall pay Five (\$5.00) Dollars for each new member of the Farmville Fire Department to the North Carolina State Fireman Fund.

1.5.5 Retirement. The Town Board is to be consulted on each individual case as to the disposition of retirement funds contributed by the Town in the event a fireman leaves the department before being eligible for retirement.

1.6 Mutual Aid

The Farmville Fire Department shall be a party to the Pitt County Mutual Emergency Fire Aid Pact. (April 7, 1970)

1.7 Services Revenue

Any funds derived for services rendered by the Fire Department shall be placed into the general funds of the Town of Farmville.

1.8 Water for Rural Department

All county rural fire departments may refill their water tanks free from the Town of Farmville hydrants for use in any fire fighting effort in progress.

Section 2.0 FIRE PREVENTION CODE

The Town of Farmville adopts by reference the Fire Prevention Code of the American Insurance Association, 1970 edition, as amended from time to time.

Section 3.0 FIRE HAZARDS

3.1 Burning Trash Within Fire District Prohibited

No person shall burn or cause to be burned any trash, refuse, shavings, paper, leaves, litter, or other material of any kind outside any house, or on any street, sidewalk, alley, lot, or yard within the First Fire District of the Town.

3.2 Burning of Trash Outside First Fire District

Trash or rubbish shall not be burned on any private lot outside the first fire district except by permit from the Fire Chief.

3.3 Permit Required for Bonfire

No person shall kindle or maintain any bonfire, or shall knowingly furnish the material for any such fire, or authorize any such fire to be kindled or maintained on or in any street, avenue, road, lane, or public ground, or upon any private lot within the limits of the Town unless a written permit so to do shall have first been secured from the chief of the fire department.

3.4 Encumbrances Before Or On Fire Exit

No person shall at any time, place any encumbrances of any kind whatsoever before or upon any door, fire escape, balcony, or ladder intended as a means of escape from fire. It shall be the duty of every member of the police and fire departments who shall discover any fire escape encumbered in any manner to forthwith report the same through his department channels to the Chief of the Fire Department, who shall immediately notify the owner or owners, their agent or agents, tenant or tenants, to remove such encumbrance, and encumbrances shall thereupon immediately be removed.

3.5 Exit Signs in Theaters and Motion Picture Houses

Every exit in any theater or motion picture house shall be plainly indicated by a sign bearing the word "EXIT" which sign shall be kept lighted throughout each performance.

3.6 Passageways and Exit Doors in Places of Public Assemblage

All doors, aisles, and passageways within and leading into or out of theaters, churches, and all other places of public assemblage, shall, during the entire time which any show, performance, service, exhibition, lecture, concert, ball, or other assemblage may be held therein, kept adequately lighted and free from easels, signs, standards, campstools, chairs, sofas, benches, and any other article or articles that might obstruct or delay the exit of the audience, congregation, or assemblage and doors of such buildings while occupied shall not be fastened so that they cannot easily be opened by anyone from within. No person shall sit or stand or remain seated or standing, nor shall the owner or operator of such place allow any person to remain in any such place of public assemblage in any aisle under any circumstances, or in any exit, or passage required for the safe exit of the assemblage. Clear passage from all exits and on outside sidewalks of all theaters and other places of public assemblage shall be maintained at all times. No aisle, passageway, or stairway in any store shall be obstructed with tables, show cases, or other obstructions during the hours such store is open to the public.

3.7 Lots Kept Free From Fire Hazard

It shall be unlawful for any person to permit or suffer rubbish, refuse, or articles of combustible or inflammable nature to accumulate or remain on any lot or premises.

3.8 Certain Fires to be Guarded by Watchmen

All persons, firms, or corporations who shall burn any tar kiln or pit of charcoal, or set fire to or burn any brush, grass or other material, whereby any property may be endangered or destroyed, shall keep and maintain a careful and competent watchman in charge of such kiln, pit, brush, or other material while burning. Fire escaping from such kiln, pit, brush, or other material while burning shall be prima facie evidence of neglect of these provisions.

3.9 Junkyards in Fire District

It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, or corporation to establish, operate, or otherwise conduct a place of business for the purpose of buying and selling scrap iron, old automobiles, or junk of any nature within the fire districts of the Town of Farmville as they are now constituted or may be hereafter constituted. Violation of this ordinance is punishable in the discretion of the Court.

3.10 Storage of Dangerous Fuels

It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, or corporation to permit fuel oil or liquefied gas to be stored above ground in storage tanks that have a capacity of 300 gallons or more or to permit gasoline or natural gas to be stored above ground within the areas designated as Central, General, and Neighborhood Business on the Zoning Map of the Town of Farmville.

3.11 Junkyards

Section 4.0 FIRE DISTRICTS

4.1 Fire District One

Fire District number one of the Town of Farmville shall be bounded as follows:

Beginning at the intersection of Main Street and Grimmersburg Street, running in an easterly direction down the center of Grimmersburg Street for one-half block to an alley, thence in a southerly direction down the center of said alley for 225 feet, thence in an easterly direction to the center of Contentnea Street, thence in a southerly direction for 450 feet to a point 190 feet south of the intersection of Contentnea and Wilson Street, thence in a westerly direction for 200 feet, thence in southerly direction, down the center of Church Street to Walnut Street; thence with Walnut Street in a northerly direction, two blocks down the center of Walnut Street to Belcher Street, thence down the center of Belcher Street in an easterly direction to Main Street, being one block; thence in a northerly direction with Main Street to Grimmersburg Street, the point of beginning, the last distance being but a fraction of a block.

4.2 Fire District Two

Fire District number two consists of four areas within the corporate limits of Farmville (excluding dwellings):

- 4.2.1 Beginning at the intersection of Belcher Street and Walnut Street running in a westerly direction for one block to George Street, thence in southerly direction down the center of George Street to a point being the rear property line of the lots fronting on Wilson Street, thence along these rear property lines to a point being the center of Barrett Street, thence in a northerly direction to Belcher Street, thence in a westerly direction along the center of Belcher Street to Turnage Street, thence south along the center of Turnage Street to a point 200 feet north of Wilson Street, thence in a westerly direction to the East Carolina Railroad right-of-way, thence southerly to a point 200 feet south of Wilson Street, thence in an easterly direction following the rear property lines of the lots fronting on Wilson Street to Walnut Street, thence north on Walnut Street running down the center of the street to Belcher Street the beginning point.
- 4.2.2 Beginning at a point being the center of the intersection of Church Street and Walnut Street, running in a southerly direction down the center of Walnut Street to the Norfolk Southern Railroad, thence in an easterly direction to Contentnea Street, thence northerly running along the center of Contentnea Street to a point 400 feet north of the intersection of Contentnea and Church Street, thence westerly for 200 feet, thence southerly for 400 feet to a point in the center of Church Street, thence running westerly for one and one half blocks to the intersection of Walnut and Church Street the beginning point.
- 4.2.3 Beginning at the intersection of Main Street and Grimmersburg Street, running northerly along the center of Main Street for 150 feet, thence easterly for 200 feet, thence northerly for 50 feet, thence easterly for 350 feet to a point being center of Contentnea Street, thence southerly to a point 350 feet south of the intersection of Grimmersburg and Contentnea Street, thence west for 250 feet to an alley, thence northerly along the center of said alley to Grimmersburg Street, thence in westerly direction running along the center of Grimmersburg Street to Main Street the beginning point.
- 4.2.4 Beginning at the center of the intersection of Main Street and 264 By-Pass, running northerly along the center of Main Street for 300 feet, thence westerly to the city limits of Farmville, thence southerly to a point 250 feet south of 264 By-Pass, thence easterly

for 1000 feet, thence southerly for 700 feet to the southern most city limits of the Town of Farmville, thence easterly across Main Street and proceeding 200 feet, thence northerly for 350 feet, thence easterly for 650 feet, thence north across 264 By-Pass to a point being the north side of the highway and the city limits of Farmville, thence westerly for 600 feet, thence northerly for 200 feet, thence westerly for 200 feet, thence northerly for 100 feet, thence westerly for 650 feet to a point being the center of Main Street, thence south running down the center of Main street to the center of the intersection of Main Street and 264 By-Pass being the beginning point.

4.3 Application

Within the fire districts, the special statutes, laws, and ordinances of the State of North Carolina and the Town of Farmville apply, and building, repair, and inspection, among other things, are governed by these aforementioned laws.

4.4 Map

Fire Districts described in this ordinance shall be on a map entitled "Fire Districts of the Town of Farmville" kept in the Building Inspector's Office.

Section 5.0 FARMVILLE RURAL FIRE ASSOCIATION

The Town of Farmville, pursuant to an agreement entered into by and between the Farmville Rural Fire Association and the Town of Farmville on or about September 1st, 1953, shall maintain and operate such fire fighting equipment as the Farmville Rural Fire Association shall pay for and deliver to the Town of Farmville and the Town of Farmville shall answer fire calls from the members of the Farmville Rural Fire Association, and the Town shall have the right to use said equipment to answer fire calls within the town limits of the Town of Farmville.