CHAPTER 135

STREET USE AND MAINTENANCE

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135.01 REMOVAL OF WARNING DEVICES. It is unlawful for a person to willfully remove, throw down, destroy, or carry away from any street or alley any lamp, obstruction, guard, or other article or things, or extinguish any lamp or other light, erected or placed thereupon for the purpose of guarding or enclosing unsafe or dangerous places in said street or alley without the consent of the person in control thereof.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 716.1)

135.02 OBSTRUCTING OR DEFACING. It is unlawful for any person to obstruct, deface or injure any street or alley in any manner.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 716.1)

135.03 PLACING DEBRIS ON. It is unlawful for any person to throw or deposit on any street or alley any glass, glass bottle, nails, tacks, wire, cans, trash, garbage, rubbish, litter, offal, leaves, grass, or any other debris likely to be washed into the storm sewer and clog the storm sewer, or any substance likely to injure any person, animal, or vehicle.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 321.369)

135.04 PLAYING IN. It is unlawful for any person to coast, sled, or play games on streets or alleys, except in the areas blocked off by the City for such purposes.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 364.12[2])

135.05 TRAVELING ON BARRICADED STREET OR ALLEY. It is unlawful for any person to travel or operate any vehicle on any street or alley temporarily closed by barricades, lights, signs, or flares placed thereon by the authority or permission of any City official, police officer, or member of the Fire Department.

135.06 USE FOR BUSINESS PURPOSES. It is unlawful to park, store or place, temporarily or permanently, any machinery or junk or any other goods, wares, and merchandise of any kind upon any street or alley for the purpose of storage, exhibition, sale, or offering same for sale, without permission of the Council.

135.07 WASHING VEHICLES. It is unlawful for any person to use any public sidewalk, street, or alley for the purpose of washing or cleaning any automobile, truck equipment, or any vehicle of any kind when such work is done for hire or as a business. This does not prevent any person from washing or cleaning his or her own vehicle or equipment when it is lawfully parked in the street or alley.

135.08 BURNING PROHIBITED. No person shall burn any trash, leaves, rubbish, or other combustible material in any curb and gutter or on any paved or surfaced street or alley.

135.09 EXCAVATIONS. No person shall dig, excavate, or in any manner disturb any street, parking, or alley except in accordance with the following:

1. Permit Required. No excavation shall be commenced without first obtaining a permit. A written application for such permit shall be filed with the City and shall contain the following:

   A. An exact description of the property, by lot and street number, in front of or along which it is desired to excavate;

   B. A statement of the purpose, for whom and by whom the excavation is to be made;

   C. The person responsible for the refilling of said excavation and restoration of the street or alley surface; and

   D. Date of commencement of the work and estimated completion date.

2. Public Convenience. Streets and alleys shall be opened in the manner that will cause the least inconvenience to the public and admit the uninterrupted passage of water along the gutter on the street.

3. Barricades, Fencing, and Lighting. Adequate barricades, fencing, and warning lights meeting standards specified by the City shall be so placed as to protect the public from hazard. Any costs incurred by the City in providing or maintaining adequate barricades, fencing, or warning lights shall be paid to the City by the permit holder/property owner.

4. Bond Required. The applicant shall post with the City a penal bond in the minimum sum of $1,000.00 issued by a surety company authorized to issue such bonds in the State. The bond shall guarantee the permittee's payment for any damage done to the City or to public property, and payment of all costs incurred by the City in the course of administration of this section. In lieu of a surety bond, a cash deposit of $1,000.00 may be filed with the City.

5. Insurance Required. Each applicant shall also file a certificate of insurance indicating that the applicant is carrying public liability insurance in effect for the duration of the permit covering the applicant and all agents and employees for the following minimum amounts:

   A. Bodily Injury - $50,000.00 per person; $100,000.00 per accident.

   B. Property Damage - $50,000.00 per accident.

6. Restoration of Public Property. Streets, sidewalks, alleys, and other public property disturbed in the course of the work shall be restored to the condition of the property prior to the commencement of the work, or in a manner satisfactory to the City, at the expense of the permit holder/property owner.

7. Inspection. All work shall be subject to inspection by the City. Backfill shall not be deemed completed, and no resurfacing of any improved street or alley surface shall begin, until such backfill is inspected and approved by the City. The permit holder/property owner shall provide the City with notice at least 24 hours prior to the time when inspection of backfill is desired.

8. Completion by the City. Should any excavation in any street or alley be discontinued or left open and unfinished for a period of 24 hours after the approved completion date, or in the event the work is improperly done, the City has the right to finish or correct the excavation work and charge any expenses for such work to the permit holder/property owner.

9. Responsibility for Costs. All costs and expenses incident to the excavation shall be borne by the permit holder and/or property owner. The permit holder and owner shall indemnify the City from any loss or damage that may directly or indirectly be occasioned by such excavation.

10. Notification. At least 48 hours prior to the commencement of the excavation, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays, the person performing the excavation shall contact the Statewide Notification Center and provide the center with the information required under Section 480.4 of the *Code of Iowa*.

11. Permit Fee. A permit fee of $25.00 shall be payable at the time of filing the application with the City. A separate permit shall be required for each excavation.

12. Permit Issued. Upon approval of the application, filing of bond and insurance certificate, and payment of any required fees, a permit shall be issued.

135.10 PROPERTY OWNER'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR MAINTENANCE. The abutting property owner shall maintain all property outside the lot and property lines and inside the curb lines upon public streets and shall keep such area in a safe condition, free from nuisances, obstructions, and hazards. In the absence of a curb, such property shall extend from the property line to that portion of the public street used or improved for vehicular purposes. The abutting property owner shall not be required to remove diseased trees or dead wood on the publicly owned property or right-of-way. Maintenance includes, but is not limited to, timely mowing, trimming trees and shrubs, and picking up litter and debris. The abutting property owner may be liable for damages caused by failure to maintain the publicly owned property or right-of-way.[†]

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 364.12[2c])

135.11 FAILURE TO MAINTAIN. If the abutting property owner does not perform an action required under the above section within a reasonable time, the City may perform the required action and assess the cost against the abutting property for collection in the same manner as a property tax.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 364.12[2e])

135.12 DUMPING OF SNOW. It is unlawful for any person to throw, push, or place or cause to be thrown, pushed or placed, any ice or snow from private property, sidewalks, or driveways onto the traveled way of a street or alley so as to obstruct gutters, or impede the passage of vehicles upon the street or alley or to create a hazardous condition therein; except where, in the cleaning of large commercial drives in the Business District it is absolutely necessary to move the snow onto the street or alley temporarily, such accumulation shall be removed promptly by the property owner or agent. Arrangements for the prompt removal of such accumulations shall be made prior to moving the snow.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 364.12[2])

[†] **EDITOR'S NOTE:** See also Section 136.04 relating to property owner's responsibility for maintenance of sidewalks.

135.13 DRIVEWAY CULVERTS. The property owner shall, at the owner's expense, install any culvert deemed necessary under any driveway or any other access to the owner's property, and before installing a culvert, permission must first be obtained from the City. In the event repairs are needed at any time with respect to culverts, it shall be the responsibility of the property owner to make such repairs, and, in the event the owner fails to do so, the City shall have the right to make the repairs. If the property owner fails to reimburse the City for the cost of said repairs, the cost shall be certified to the County Treasurer and specially assessed against the property as by law provided.

135.14 SUBSURFACE DRAINAGE.

1. Existing Drainage Systems. The discharge of groundwater from subsurface drainage systems and sump pits onto the surface of the public right-of-way may create conditions which endanger the public safety and health and is declared to be a public nuisance. If the Council determines that groundwater being discharged onto the surface of the public right-of-way from a subsurface drainage system or sump pit on a particular property is creating a nuisance, such nuisance shall be abated according to Chapter 50 of this Code of Ordinances.

2. Future Drainage Systems. All subsurface drainage systems and sump pits hereafter constructed or reconstructed for the purpose of collecting groundwater under or in the immediate vicinity of any building shall be in accordance with the following:

   A. The groundwater so collected shall not be discharged either directly or indirectly onto the surface of any public right-of-way.

   B. The groundwater so collected shall be discharged only into the storm water drainage system of the City, if the pipe carrying the discharge can be connected to the storm water drainage system at a point within 50 feet of the perimeter boundary of the affected property. The installation of the discharge pipe shall comply with the specifications of the City.

3. Extension of Collector System. If the storm water drainage system of the City is hereafter extended to within 50 feet of the perimeter boundary of a property, no groundwater shall thereafter be discharged from an existing subsurface drainage system or sump pit on the property except through a pipe connected to and discharging into the extended storm water drainage system.

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