

TITLE 13

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE REGULATIONS¹

CHAPTER

1. MISCELLANEOUS.
2. ABANDONED MOTOR VEHICLES ON PRIVATE PROPERTY.
3. SLUM CLEARANCE.

CHAPTER 1

MISCELLANEOUS

SECTION

- 13-101. Health officer.
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- 13-103. Stagnant water.
- 13-104. Weeds and grass.
- 13-105. Dead animals.
- 13-106. Health and sanitation nuisances.
- 13-107. Burning.
- 13-108. Overgrown and dirty lots.

13-101. Health officer. The "health officer" shall be such municipal, county, or state officer as the governing body shall appoint or designate to administer and enforce health and sanitation regulations within the town. (1997 Code, § 13-101)

13-102. Smoke, soot, cinders, etc. It shall be unlawful for any person to permit or cause the escape of such quantities of dense smoke, soot, cinders, noxious acids, fumes, or gases as to be detrimental to or to endanger the health, comfort, and safety of the public or so as to cause or have a tendency to cause injury or damage to property or business. (1997 Code, § 13-102)

13-103. Stagnant water. It shall be unlawful for any person knowingly to allow any pool of stagnant water to accumulate and stand on his property. (1997 Code, § 13-103)

¹Municipal code references
 Animal control: title 10.
 Littering streets, etc.: § 16-107.

13-104. Weeds and grass. Every owner or tenant of property shall periodically cut the grass and other vegetation commonly recognized as weeds on his property, and it shall be unlawful for any person to fail to comply with an order by the police chief or town manager to cut such vegetation when it has reached a height of over one (1) foot. (Ord. #04-10-06-74, May 2006)

13-105. Dead animals. Any person owning or having possession of any dead animal not intended for use as food shall promptly bury the same or notify the health officer and dispose of such animal in such manner as the health officer shall direct. (1997 Code, § 13-105)

13-106. Health and sanitation nuisances. It shall be unlawful for any person to permit any premises owned, occupied, or controlled by him to become or remain in a filthy condition, or permit the use or occupation of same in such a manner as to create noxious or offensive smells and odors in connection therewith, or to allow the accumulation or creation of unwholesome and offensive matter or the breeding of flies, rodents, or other vermin on the premises to the menace of the public health or the annoyance of people residing within the vicinity. (1997 Code, § 13-106)

13-107. Burning. It shall be unlawful within the corporate limits for any person, persons, firm or corporation to:

(1) Burn synthetic fabrics, plastics, upholstery materials, or any other material which gives off harmful or noxious fumes.

(2) Burn leaves, clippings, brush or any other material in the ditches and drainage structures serving the public streets and roads. (1997 Code, § 13-107)

13-108. Overgrown and dirty lots. (1) Prohibition. Pursuant to the authority granted to municipalities under Tennessee Code Annotated, § 6-54-113, it shall be unlawful for any owner of record of real property to create, maintain, or permit to be maintained on such property the growth of trees, vines, grass, underbrush and/or the accumulations of debris, trash, litter, or garbage or any combination of the preceding elements so as to endanger the health, safety, or welfare of other citizens or to encourage the infestation of rats and other harmful animals.

(2) Designation of public officer or department. The board of commissioners shall designate an appropriate department or person to enforce the provisions of this section.

(3) Notice to property owner. It shall be the duty of the department or person designated by the board of commissioners to enforce this section to serve notice upon the owner of record in violation of subsection (1) above, a notice in plain language to remedy the condition within ten (10) days (or twenty (20) days if the owner of record is a carrier engaged in the transportation of

property or is a utility transmitting communications, electricity, gas, liquids, steam, sewage, or other materials), excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays. The notice shall be sent by registered or certified United States Mail, addressed to the last known address of the owner of record. The notice shall state that the owner of the property is entitled to a hearing, and shall, at the minimum, contain the following additional information:

(a) A brief statement that the owner is in violation of § 13-108 of the Englewood Municipal Code, which has been enacted under the authority of Tennessee Code Annotated, § 6-54-113, and that the property of such owner may be cleaned up at the expense of the owner and a lien placed against the property to secure the cost of the clean-up;

(b) The person, office, address, and telephone number of the department or person giving the notice;

(c) A cost estimate for remedying the noted condition, which shall be in conformity with the standards of cost in the town; and

(d) A place wherein the notified party may return a copy of the notice, indicating the desire for a hearing.

(4) Clean-up at property owner's expense. If the property owner of record fails or refuses to remedy the condition within ten (10) days after receiving the notice (twenty (20) days if the owner is a carrier engaged in the transportation of property or is a utility transmitting communications, electricity, gas, liquids, steam, sewage, or other materials), the department or person designated by the board of commissioners to enforce the provisions of this section shall immediately cause the condition to be remedied or removed at a cost in conformity with reasonable standards, and the costs thereof shall be assessed against the owner of the property. The town may collect the costs assessed against the owner through an action for debt filed in any court of competent jurisdiction. The town may bring one (1) action for debt against more than one (1) or all of the owners of properties against whom such costs have been assessed, and the fact that multiple owners have been joined in one (1) action shall not be considered by the court as a misjoinder of parties. Upon the filing of the notice with the office of the register of deeds in McMinn County, the costs shall be a lien on the property in favor of the municipality, second only to liens of the state, county, and municipality for taxes, any lien of the municipality for special assessments, and any valid lien, right, or interest in such property duly recorded or duly perfected by filing, prior to the filing of such notice. These costs shall be placed on the tax rolls of the municipality as a lien and shall be added to property tax bills to be collected at the same time and in the same manner as property taxes are collected. If the owner fails to pay the costs, they may be collected at the same time and in the same manner as delinquent property taxes are collected and shall be subject to the same penalty and interest as delinquent property taxes.

(5) Clean-up of owner-occupied property. When the owner of an owner-occupied residential property fails or refuses to remedy the condition

within ten (10) days after receiving the notice, the department or person designated by the board of commissioners to enforce the provisions of this section shall immediately cause the condition to be remedied or removed at a cost in accordance with reasonable standards in the community, with these costs to be assessed against the owner of the property. The provisions of subsection (4) shall apply to the collection of costs against the owner of an owner-occupied residential property except that the municipality must wait until cumulative charges for remediation equal or exceed five hundred dollars (\$500.00) before filing the notice with the register of deeds and the charges becoming a lien on the property. After this threshold has been met and the lien attaches, charges for costs for which the lien attached are collectible as provided in subsection (4) for these charges.

(6) Appeal. The owner of record who is aggrieved by the determination and order of the public officer may appeal the determination and order to the board of commissioners. The appeal shall be filed with the town recorder within ten (10) days following the receipt of the notice issued pursuant to subsection (3) above. The failure to appeal within this time shall, without exception, constitute a waiver of the right to a hearing.

(7) Judicial review. Any person aggrieved by an order or act of the board of commissioners under subsection (4) above may seek judicial review of the order or act. The time period established in subsection (3) above shall be stayed during the pendency of judicial review.

(8) Supplemental nature of this section. The provisions of this section are in addition and supplemental to, and not in substitution for, any other provision in the municipal charter, this municipal code of ordinances or other applicable law which permits the town to proceed against an owner, tenant or occupant of property who has created, maintained, or permitted to be maintained on such property the growth of trees, vines, grass, weeds, underbrush and/or the accumulation of the debris, trash, litter, or garbage or any combination of the preceding elements, under its charter, any other provisions of this municipal code of ordinances or any other applicable law.

CHAPTER 2

ABANDONED MOTOR VEHICLES ON PRIVATE PROPERTY

SECTION

- 13-201. Purpose.
- 13-202. Storage on private property prohibited.
- 13-203. Removal required.
- 13-204. Notice to be given to remove.
- 13-205. Refusal to remove.
- 13-206. Removal by town.
- 13-207. Police right to enter property.

13-201. Purpose. In enacting this chapter, the commission finds and declares that the accumulation and storage of abandoned, wrecked, junked, partially dismantled or inoperative motor vehicles, on private property, which motor vehicles are in the nature of rubbish and unsightly debris, violates in many instances, the zoning regulations of the town and constitutes a nuisance detrimental to the health, safety and welfare of the community in that such conditions tend to interfere with the enjoyment of and reduce the value of private property; invite plundering, create fire hazards and other safety and health hazards to minors as well as adults, interfere with the comfort and well being of the public and create, extend and aggravate urban blight, and that the public health, safety and general welfare require that such conditions be regulated, abated and prohibited. (1997 Code, § 13-201)

13-202. Storage on private property prohibited. It shall be unlawful to park, store or leave, or to permit the parking or storing of any licensed or unlicensed motor vehicle of any kind, for a period in excess of seventy-two (72) hours which is in a rusted, wrecked, junked, partially dismantled, inoperative or abandoned condition, whether attended or not, upon any private property within the town, unless the same is completely enclosed within a building or unless it is in connection with a business enterprise operated in a lawful place and manner and licensed as such, when necessary to the operation of such business enterprise. (1997 Code, § 13-202)

13-203. Removal required. The accumulation and storage of one or more such motor vehicles in violation of the provisions of this chapter shall constitute rubbish and debris, and a nuisance, detrimental to the health, safety and general welfare of the inhabitants of the town, and it shall be the duty of the registered owner of such motor vehicle and it shall also be the duty of the person in charge or control of the private property upon which such motor vehicle is located, whether as owner, tenant, occupant, lessee, or otherwise, to remove the same to a place of lawful storage, or to have the motor vehicle

housed within a building where it will not be visible from the street. (1997 Code, § 13-203)

13-204. Notice to be given to remove. Whenever there is reasonable grounds to believe that a violation of the provisions of this chapter exists, the chief of police shall give, or cause to be given, written notice to the registered owner of any motor vehicle which is in violation of this chapter, or shall give such notice to the owner or person in lawful possession or control of the private property upon which such motor vehicle is located, or shall give such notice to both the registered owner and to the owner or person in lawful possession or control of such private property that said motor vehicle violates the provisions of this chapter, and demanding that said motor vehicle be removed to a place of lawful storage within seventy-two (72) hours, or that within seventy-two (72) hours, the same be housed in a building where it will not be visible from the street. Service of notice shall be by mail duly posted. (1997 Code, § 13-204)

13-205. Refusal to remove. Any person who fails, neglects, or refuses to remove the abandoned, wrecked, junked, partially dismantled, or inoperative motor vehicle or to house the same and abate said nuisance in accordance with the notice as provided herein, shall be in violation of the provisions of this chapter and shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. (1997 Code, § 13-205)

13-206. Removal by town. In addition to and not in lieu of any other procedure prescribed in this chapter or in this code for removal of abandoned motor vehicles from private property, if the registered owner of any motor vehicle which is in violation of this chapter or the owner or person in lawful possession or control of the private property upon which the same is located shall fail, neglect or refuse to remove or house such abandoned, wrecked, junked, partially dismantled or inoperative motor vehicle in accordance with the notice given pursuant to the provisions of this chapter, the chief of police may remove and dispose of such motor vehicle in the manner provided for by Tennessee Code Annotated, title 55, chapter 16, particularly §§ 55-16-104, 55-16-105, and 55-16-106, and he may thereafter maintain an action in the name of the town, in the appropriate court, against any person or persons upon whom notice was served as required by this chapter to recover the costs of removing and disposing of such motor vehicle, in the event the proceeds of any sale thereof shall be insufficient to recover such costs. (1997 Code, § 13-206)

13-207. Police right to enter property. The chief of police, any regularly employed and salaried officer of the police department of the town, contracting agents of the Town of Englewood, and employees of such contracting agents, and authorized officers, employees and agents of the Town of Englewood, and each of them, are hereby expressly authorized to enter upon private property for the purpose of enforcing the provisions of this chapter. It shall be

unlawful for any person to interfere, hinder or refuse to allow them to enter upon private property for such purpose and to remove any motor vehicle in accordance with the provisions of this chapter. Any person to whom notice was given pursuant to this chapter shall have the right to remove or house such motor vehicle in accordance with said notice at his own expense at any time prior to the arrival of the chief of police or his authorized representatives for the purpose of removal. (1997 Code, § 13-207)

CHAPTER 3

SLUM CLEARANCE

SECTION

- 13-301. Findings of the board.
- 13-302. Definitions.
- 13-303. "Public officer" designated; powers.
- 13-304. Initiation of proceedings; hearings.
- 13-305. Orders to owners of unfit structures.
- 13-306. When public officer may repair, etc.
- 13-307. When public officer may remove or demolish.
- 13-308. Lien for expenses; sale of salvaged materials; other powers not limited.
- 13-309. Basis for a finding of unfitness.
- 13-310. Service of complaints or orders.
- 13-311. Enjoining enforcement of orders.
- 13-312. Additional powers of public officer.
- 13-313. Powers conferred are supplemental.
- 13-314. Structures unfit for human habitation deemed unlawful.

13-301. Findings of the board. Pursuant to Tennessee Code Annotated, §§ 13-21-101, et seq., the board of commissioners finds that there exists in the town structures which are unfit for human occupation due to dilapidation, defects increasing the hazards of fire, accident or other calamities, lack of ventilation, light or sanitary facilities, or due to other conditions rendering such dwellings unsafe or unsanitary, or dangerous or detrimental to the health, safety and morals, or otherwise inimical to the welfare of the residents of the town. (Ord. #04-10-06-73, May 2006)

13-302. Definitions. (1) "Dwelling" means any building or structure, or part thereof, used and occupied for human occupation or use or intended to be so used, and includes any outhouses and appurtenances belonging thereto or usually enjoyed therewith.

(2) "Governing body" shall mean the board of commissioners charged with governing the town.

(3) "Municipality" shall mean the Town of Englewood, Tennessee, and the areas encompassed within existing town limits or as hereafter annexed.

(4) "Owner" shall mean the holder of title in fee simple and every mortgagee of record.

(5) "Parties in interest" shall mean all individuals, associations, corporations and others who have interests of record in a dwelling and any who are in possession thereof.

(6) "Place of public accommodation" means any building or structure in which goods are supplied or services performed, or in which the trade of the general public is solicited.

(7) "Public authority" shall mean any housing authority or any officer who is in charge of any department or branch of the government of the town or state relating to health, fire, building regulations, or other activities concerning structures in the town.

(8) "Public officer" means any officer or officers of a municipality or the executive director or other chief executive officer of any commission or authority established by such municipality or jointly with any other municipality who is authorized by this chapter to exercise the power prescribed herein and pursuant to Tennessee Code Annotated, §§ 13-21-101, et seq.

(9) "Structure" means any dwelling or place of public accommodation or vacant building or structure suitable as a dwelling or place of public accommodation. (Ord. #04-10-06-73, May 2006)

13-303. "Public officer" designated; powers. There is hereby designated and appointed a "public officer," to be the town manager of the town, to exercise the powers prescribed by this chapter, which powers shall be supplemental to all others held by the town building inspector. (Ord. #04-10-06-73, May 2006)

13-304. Initiation of proceedings; hearings. Whenever a petition is filed with the public officer by a public authority or by at least five (5) residents of the town charging that any structure is unfit for human occupancy or use, or wherever it appears to the public officer (on his own motion) that any structure is unfit for human occupation or use, the public officer shall, if his preliminary investigation discloses a basis for such charges, issue and cause to be served upon the owner of, and parties in interest of, such structure a complaint stating the charges in that respect and containing a notice that a hearing will be held before the public officer (or his designated agent) at a place therein fixed, not less than ten (10) days nor more than thirty (30) days after the service of the complaint; and the owner and parties in interest shall have the right to file an answer to the complaint and to appear in person, or otherwise, and give testimony at the time and place fixed in the complaint; and the rules of evidence prevailing in courts of law or equity shall not be controlling in hearings before the public officer. (Ord. #04-10-06-73, May 2006)

13-305. Orders to owners of unfit structures. If, after such notice and hearing as provided for in the preceding section, the public officer determines that the structure under consideration is unfit for human occupation or use, he shall state in writing his finding of fact in support of such determination and shall issue and cause to be served upon the owner thereof an order:

(1) If the repair, alteration or improvement of the structure can be made at a reasonable cost in relation to the value of the structure (not exceeding fifty percent (50%) of the reasonable value), requiring the owner, within the time specified in the order, to repair, alter, or improve such structure to render it fit for human occupation or use or to vacate and close the structure for human occupation or use; or

(2) If the repair, alteration or improvement of said structure cannot be made at a reasonable cost in relation to the value of the structure (not to exceed fifty percent (50%) of the value of the premises), requiring the owner within the time specified in the order, to remove or demolish such structure. (Ord. #04-10-06-73, May 2006)

13-306. When public officer may repair, etc. If the owner fails to comply with the order to repair, alter, or improve or to vacate and close the structure as specified in the preceding section hereof, the public officer may cause such structure to be repaired, altered, or improved, or to be vacated and closed; and the public officer may cause to be posted on the main entrance of any dwelling so closed, a placard with the following words: "This building is unfit for human occupation or use. The use or occupation of this building for human occupation or use is prohibited and unlawful." (Ord. #04-10-06-73, May 2006)

13-307. When public officer may remove or demolish. If the owner fails to comply with an order, as specified above, to remove or demolish the structure, the public officer may cause such structure to be removed and demolished. (Ord. #04-10-06-73, May 2006)

13-308. Lien for expenses; sale of salvaged materials; other powers not limited. The amount of the cost of such repairs, alterations or improvements, or vacating and closing, or removal or demolition by the public officer shall be assessed against the owner of the property, and shall upon the filing of the notice with the office of the register of deeds of McMinn County, be a lien on the property in favor of the municipality, second only to liens of the state, county and municipality for taxes, any lien of the municipality for special assessments, and any valid lien, right, or interest in such property duly recorded or duly perfected by filing, prior to the filing of such notice. These costs shall be collected by the municipal tax collector or county trustee at the same time and in the same manner as property taxes are collected. If the owner fails to pay the costs, they may be collected at the same time and in the same manner as delinquent property taxes are collected and shall be subject to the same penalty and interest as delinquent property taxes. In addition, the municipality may collect the costs assessed against the owner through an action for debt filed in any court of competent jurisdiction.

The municipality may bring one (1) action for debt against more than one or all of the owners of properties against whom said costs have been assessed

and the fact that multiple owners have been joined in one (1) action shall not be considered by the court as a misjoinder of parties. If the structure is removed or demolished by the public officer, he shall sell the materials of such structure and shall credit the proceeds of such sale against the cost of the removal or demolition, and any balance remaining shall be deposited in the chancery court of McMinn County by the public officer, shall be secured in such manner as may be directed by such court, and shall be disbursed by such court to the person found to be entitled thereto by final order or decree of such court. Nothing in this section shall be construed to impair or limit in any way the power of the Town of Englewood to define and declare nuisances and to cause their removal or abatement, by summary proceedings or otherwise. (Ord. #04-10-06-73, May 2006)

13-309. Basis for a finding of unfitness. The public officer defined herein shall have the power and may determine that a structure is unfit for human occupation and use if he finds that conditions exist in such structure which are dangerous or injurious to the health, safety or morals of the occupants or users of such structure, the occupants or users of neighboring structures or other residents of the Town of Englewood. Such conditions may include the following (without limiting the generality of the foregoing): defects therein increasing the hazards of fire, accident, or other calamities; lack of adequate ventilation, light, or sanitary facilities; dilapidation; disrepair; structural defects; or uncleanliness. (Ord. #04-10-06-73, May 2006)

13-310. Service of complaints or orders. Complaints or orders issued by the public officer pursuant to this chapter shall be served upon persons, either personally or by registered mail, but if the whereabouts of such persons are unknown and the same cannot be ascertained by the public officer in the exercise of reasonable diligence, and the public officer shall make an affidavit to that effect, then the serving of such complaint or order upon such persons may be made by publishing the same once each week for two (2) consecutive weeks in a newspaper printed and published in the town. In addition, a copy of such complaint or order shall be posted in a conspicuous place on premises affected by the complaint or order. A copy of such complaint or order shall also be filed for record in the Register's Office of McMinn County, Tennessee, and such filing shall have the same force and effect as other lis pendens notices provided by law. (Ord. #04-10-06-73, May 2006)

13-311. Enjoining enforcement of orders. Any person affected by an order issued by the public officer served pursuant to this chapter may file a bill in chancery court for an injunction restraining the public officer from carrying out the provisions of the order, and the court may, upon the filing of such suit, issue a temporary injunction restraining the public officer pending the final disposition of the cause; provided, however, that within sixty (60) days after the

posting and service of the order of the public officer, such person shall file such bill in the court.

The remedy provided herein shall be the exclusive remedy and no person affected by an order of the public officer shall be entitled to recover any damages for action taken pursuant to any order of the public officer, or because of noncompliance by such person with any order of the public officer. (Ord. #04-10-06-73, May 2006)

13-312. Additional powers of public officer. The public officer, in order to carry out and effectuate the purposes and provisions of this chapter, shall have the following powers in addition to those otherwise granted herein:

(1) To investigate conditions of the structures in the town in order to determine which structures therein are unfit for human occupation or use;

(2) To administer oaths, affirmations, examine witnesses and receive evidence;

(3) To enter upon premises for the purpose of making examination, provided that such entry shall be made in such manner as to cause the least possible inconvenience to the persons in possession;

(4) To appoint and fix the duties of such officers, agents and employees as he deems necessary to carry out the purposes of this chapter; and

(5) To delegate any of his functions and powers under this chapter to such officers and agents as he may designate. (Ord. #04-10-06-73, May 2006)

13-313. Powers conferred are supplemental. This chapter shall not be construed to abrogate or impair the powers of the town with regard to the enforcement of the provisions of its charter or any other ordinances or regulations, nor to prevent or punish violations thereof, and the powers conferred by this chapter shall be in addition and supplemental to the powers conferred by the charter and other laws. (Ord. #04-10-06-73, May 2006)

13-314. Structures unfit for human habitation deemed unlawful. It shall be unlawful for any owner of record to create, maintain or permit to be maintained in the town structures which are unfit for human occupation due to dilapidation, defects increasing the hazards of fire, accident or other calamities, lack of ventilation, light or sanitary facilities, or due to other conditions rendering such dwellings unsafe or unsanitary, or dangerous or detrimental to the health, safety and morals, or otherwise inimical to the welfare of the residents of the town.

Violations of this section shall subject the offender to a penalty under the general penalty provision of this code. Each day a violation is allowed to continue shall constitute a separate offense. (Ord. #04-10-06-73, May 2006)