

ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE DOUGLAS COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION CODE

WHEREAS, from time to time it becomes necessary to update the Douglas County Code of Ordinances to adequately protect the public health and safety;

WHEREAS, the Douglas County Fire Chief has recommended the following amendment to the Fire Protection Code of Douglas County as necessary for the safety of the public; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners believes that Chapter 10 of the Douglas County Code of Ordinances should be amended.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED that Chapter 10 of the Douglas County Code of Ordinances relating to fire protection is deleted and in lieu thereof inserted the following:

“Sec. 10-1. Fire department-Created; duties

There is hereby created the county fire department shall employ personnel and maintain equipment at county expense, for the suppression of fires, for fire prevention through inspection and public education, for emergency medical service and for investigation of fire causes.

Sec. 10-2. Same-Fire chief; inspectors; employees

(a) *Fire chief.* There is hereby created the office of fire chief, who shall be appointed by the board of commissioners for an indefinite period until such officer is removed or until such officer’s successor is appointed. Except as otherwise specially otherwise required by law, the fire chief shall be in charge of the fire department and shall be responsible for the operation of that department. The chief shall administer the enforcement of this chapter.

(b) *Employees.* The fire chief shall employ such employees as are required for the operation of the fire department. The procedure for the hiring and employment of such personnel shall be that set forth in Article II of Chapter 13 of this code.

(c) *Inspectors.* The chief of the fire department may designate employees of the fire department as inspectors who shall check for violations of this chapter and any other county code requirements dealing with fire and life safety.

(d) *Investigators.* The chief of the fire department may designate employees of the fire department as Investigators who shall be responsible for fire cause and determination.

Sec. 10-3. Same-Calls for service outside of the county.

In addition to its duties hereinabove noted, the fire department will provide a “first alarm” response to any property located adjacent to and outside of the county when requested by the property owner, provided the following conditions are met:

- (1) The majority for the land owned by the property owner requesting the response is located in this county.

(2) In advance of any emergency the board of commissioners in the adjacent county has agreed that the fire department may provide this service to its citizens.

(3) In advance of any emergency the property owner has requested in writing that the fire department provide this service to such owner.

Sec. 10-4. Same-Authority to cut electric wires.

While engaged in the suppression of a fire in order to protect human life, the chief of the fire department or the chief's designated agent is authorized to terminate any electrical service considered necessary for reasons of safety, without expense to the county.

Sec. 10-5. Standard Fire Safety Rules and Regulations.

~~There is hereby adopted the Georgia State Minimum Standard Fire Prevention Code, latest edition, as adopted by the State of Georgia. The Standard Fire Prevention Code is published by Southern Standard Building Code Congress International, Inc., 900 Montclair Road, Birmingham, Alabama 35212-1206, and each of said codes are adopted and incorporated and fully as if set out at length herein, with the omission of all appendices. At least one (1) copy of the fire prevention code is on file in the office of the building official. (Ord. of 9-17-91)~~

The State Minimum Fire Safety Standards Chapter 120-3-3, as adopted in the rules and regulations promulgated by the Georgia Safety Fire Commissioner pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 25-2-1 et seq. and O.C.G.A 8-2-200 § et seq., as said rules and regulations now exist, and as they shall be lawfully amended from time to time, are hereby adopted by Douglas County. Future amendments to and changes in said standards as reflected in future amendments to or changes in said rules and regulations are hereby adopted and shall become effective in Douglas County upon promulgation without the necessity of further action on the part of Douglas County.

Secs. 10-6 Automatic sprinkler systems

(a) Buildings of any type construction or occupancy greater than five thousand (5,000) square feet shall be protected throughout by an approved supervised automatic sprinkler system installed in accordance with the current State of Georgia adopted edition with amendments for NFPA 13 as modified, Standards for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems. A sprinkler control valve and water flow device shall be provided for each floor. This is not to restrict the Fire Chief or his designee, from requiring the installation of a water-based fire protection system and/or smoke detection system if, in the opinion of the Fire Chief or his designee, and for the public interest, the health and welfare of the firefighters, and the protection of human life, such a system would serve to benefit all parties that may be affected by the type of construction, hazard of content, limited access to the structure, and for other purposes.

(b) Buildings of two or more stories in height shall be protected throughout by an approved supervised automatic sprinkler system as specified in subsection (a)

above. These types of facilities and structures shall include commercial, multifamily dwellings, motels, hotels, and townhouses.

(c) All hotels, motels, dormitories, apartments, lodgings, townhouses, rooming houses, daycare facilities with more than six (6) clients as defined by NFPA 101, Life Safety Code, and all residential board and care facilities shall be protected by an approved supervised automatic sprinkler system installed in accordance with the current State of Georgia adopted edition with amendments for NFPA 13 or 13R as modified, Standards for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems in Residential Occupancies up to and including three stories in height. Based on the type of construction and the tenant's ability to evacuate, the Fire Chief or his designee shall reserve the right to designate which system is best suited in each situation. Residential sprinklers shall be provided within dwelling units, apartments, and guest rooms.

(d) Existing buildings, when required to have automatic sprinkler protection by subsections (a), (b), and (c) above, shall be retrofitted for automatic sprinklers as required by the Fire Chief or his designee in accordance with NFPA 13 or 13R, when the cost of renovation exceeds 50 percent of the latest tax approved assessed value of the building. These buildings shall be required to upgrade in the renovation to meet all current codes, standards, and ordinances as applicable to required fire protection and life safety systems. The owner is responsible for having the system inspected and tested in accordance with the current State of Georgia adopted edition with amendments for NFPA 25 as modified, Standard for the Inspection, Testing, and Maintenance of Water Based Fire Protection Systems.

(e) Where required, post indicator valves (PIV) and fire department connections (FDC) shall be located at or near the main entry to the site but no closer than one and one-half times the height of the building or as approved by the Fire Chief or his designee. Appropriate signage shall be provided to designate FDC connections.

(f) All water-based fire protection systems shall be provided with electronically supervised monitoring and shall be installed in accordance with the current State of Georgia adopted Edition with amendments for NFPA 72 as modified, National Fire Alarm Code.

Sec. 10-6.1. Residential sprinkler systems

Automatic fire sprinkler systems shall be installed in all newly constructed multifamily dwellings and duplex dwellings in accordance with the current State of Georgia adopted edition with amendments for NFPA 13 or 13R as modified, Standards for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems in Residential Occupancies up to and including three stories in height, regardless of the type of construction or square feet. In addition, automatic fire sprinkler systems shall be installed in all new single-family, regardless of the type of construction, whenever side yard setbacks are less than 10 linear feet; said systems shall be installed in accordance with the current State of Georgia adopted Edition with amendments for NFPA 13D as modified, Standards for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems in One- and Two-Family Dwellings and Manufactured Homes. "New," for the purpose of this section, shall include any addition to existing buildings, whether vertical or horizontal, or any existing building or structure which shall be deemed to be new in the event

such building or structure is subject to substantial renovation or a fire or other hazard of serious consequence. For the purpose of this section, the term "substantial renovation" shall mean any construction project involving exits or internal-external features of such building or structure costing more than or equal to 50 percent of the building's or structure's gross assessed value according to county tax records at the time of such renovation, repair, remodeling, or replacement thereof.

Sec. 10-7. Automatic sprinkler systems not to be disabled

No person shall shut off or disable any automatic fire sprinkler system, and no owner, occupant, or resident of any building shall disarm such system. Provided, however, a sprinkler system may be shut off in order to perform maintenance work on the system during the time that qualified maintenance personnel are on the premises performing necessary maintenance work. Such maintenance work shall be conducted after notice to and approval of the Fire Chief or his designee and E-911.

A fire watch may be required during the time the water-based fire protection system is removed from service as outlined above. If required by the Fire Chief or his designee, the fire watch shall remain in place until such time as the system(s) are returned to their full capacity.

Sec. 10-8 Penalties.

- (a) Violation of this chapter shall be punished as for a misdemeanor.
- (b) In addition to or in lieu of any other penalties, the county may bring an action to enjoin any violations of the provisions of this chapter.
- (c) A person who shall violate a provision of this chapter or fail to comply therewith or with any of the requirements thereof, upon conviction thereof by a court of competent jurisdiction, shall be punished as provided in section 1-8. Where any offense continues from day to day, each day's continuance thereof shall be deemed a separate offense. Any party designated by the fire chief is authorized to issue citations and summons for violations and to serve same upon the proper persons.

Sec. 10-9 Burning of certain materials prohibited.

No material or substance which emits noxious or poisonous gases such as nitrogen dioxide, hydrogen cyanide or chlorine or other poisonous gases that will not readily dissipated in the atmosphere may be burned within the county.

Sec. 10-10. Open Burning

~~(a) *In general.* Except as hereinafter provided in subsection (b) no person shall kindle an open fire in any public or private place outside any building, unless the person has obtained a permit from the fire department in advance. Fires started in violation of this section shall be promptly extinguished by the persons responsible for same upon notice by the fire chief or the chief's duly designated agent. During the existence of windy or dry weather conditions, all exceptions are void and no open fires shall be permitted.~~

(b) Exceptions

~~(1) Open burning of leaves on the premises on which they fall by the person in control of the premises shall not require a burning permit by the fire department if the premises consist of one (1) acre of land or less.~~

~~(2) Open burning of premises heretofore described shall require a person in charge of such open burning to be physically present, with an effective means of controlling the fire immediately available and a fire shall be started or allowed to burn nearer than thirty (30) feet from a property line or any structure. that all such burning will be in conformity with state air quality control rules and regulations.~~

~~(4) Any burning on private or public property other than leaves shall require a permit from the fire department.~~

(a) In general. Except as hereinafter provided in subsection (b) no person shall kindle an open fire in any public or private place outside any building. Fires started in violation of this section shall be promptly extinguished by the persons responsible for same upon notice by the fire chief or the chief's duly designated agent.

(b) Exceptions.

(1) Between October 1st and April 30th open burning of leaves on the premises on which they fall by the person in control of the premises shall require a burning permit issued by the fire department.

(2) Carrying out recognized agricultural procedures necessary for production or harvesting of crops shall require a burning permit issued by the fire department.

(3) Between October 1st and April 30th the "prescribed burning" of any land by the owners or the owner's designee shall require a burning permit issued by the fire department. Prescribed burning of land is subject to authorization by the Georgia Forestry Commission.

(4) For recreation purposes or cooking food for immediate human consumption. Recreational burning shall not exceed an area of 3 feet in diameter without the prior approval of the fire department. Recreational burning approved by the fire department in excess of 3 feet in diameter shall require a burning permit issued by the fire department.

(5) Fires set for purposes of training fire-fighting personnel when authorized by the fire chief or the chief's duly designated agent.

(6) Operation of devices using open flames such as tar kettles, blow torches, welding torches, portable heaters and other flame-making equipment.

(7) Disposal of all packing materials previously containing explosives, in accordance with U.S. Department of Labor Safety Regulations, shall require a burning permit issued by the fire department.

(8) Between October 1st and April 30th open burning of vegetative material for the purpose of land clearing using an air curtain destructor provided the following conditions are met:

(A) Authorization for such open burning is approved by and a burning permit has been issued by the fire department.

(B) The location of the air curtain destructor is at least 300 feet from any occupied structure or public road. Air curtain destructors used solely for utility line clearing or road clearing may be located at a lesser distance upon approval of the fire department.

(C) No more than one air curtain destructor is operated within a ten (10) acre area at one time or there must be at least 1000 feet between any two air curtain destructors.

(D) Only wood waste consisting of trees, logs, large brush and stumps which are relatively free of soil are burned in the air curtain destructor.

(E) Tires or other rubber products, plastics, heavy oils or asphaltic based or impregnated materials are not used to start or maintain the operation of the air curtain destructor.

(F) The air curtain destructor is constructed, installed and operated in a manner consistent with good air pollution control practice for minimizing emissions of fly ash and smoke.

(G) The cleaning out of the air curtain destructor pit is performed in a manner to prevent fugitive dust: and

(H) The air curtain destructor cannot be fired before 10:00 a.m. and the fire must be completely extinguished, using water or by covering with dirt, at least one hour before sunset.

(c) Open burning on premises heretofore described shall require a person in charge of such open burning to be physically present, with an effective means of controlling the fire immediately available. No fire shall be started or allowed to burn nearer than thirty (30) feet from a property line or any structure. All such open burning shall be attended until the last embers of the fire have been extinguished; provided further that all such burning will be in conformity with state air quality control rules and regulations chapter 391-3-1.

(d) Open burning, whenever feasible, shall be conducted between 10:00 a.m. and one hour before sunset.

(e) Burning permits shall not be issued when the winds are greater than 10 miles per hour or during dry weather conditions. At such times all exceptions are void and no open fires shall be permitted.

(f) Burning permits may be cancelled at any time without advance notice due to changes in wind speed and weather conditions.

(g) Definitions.

(1) "Prescribed burning" means the controlled application of fire to existing vegetative fuels under specified environmental conditions and following appropriate precautionary measures, which causes the fire to be confined to a predetermined area and accomplishes one or more planned land management objectives as specified in paragraphs 12-6-146(3), (4), and (7) of the Georgia Prescribed Burning Act or to mitigate catastrophic wildfires. Burning to facilitate land use changes (such as a change from forest land to residential,

commercial, or industrial development or a different agricultural use) is not considered prescribed burning, and should therefore be considered a land clearing operation subject to the provisions of subparagraph 391-3-1-.02(5)(a)11. (Note: This definition includes what was previously defined as prescribed burning and as slash burning.)

(2) “Recreational burning” means the burning of materials other than rubbish where fuel being burned is not contained in an incinerator, outdoor fireplace, barbecue grill or barbecue pit and with a total fuel area of 3 feet or less in diameter and 2 feet (610 mm) or less in height for pleasure, religious, ceremonial, cooking or similar purposes.

Sec. 10-11. Obstructing fire hydrants or fire lanes.

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person to obstruct with building materials to in any other manner whatsoever within fifteen (15) feet of any cistern or fire hydrant which would obstruct approaches to the same by any member of the fire department. No person shall put any post or installation of any nature whatsoever within eighteen (18) inches of any fire hydrant without first obtaining written permission from the governing body.

(b) It shall be unlawful for any person to obstruct with any vehicle or other object any designated fire lane.

Sec. 10-12. Persons allowed in vicinity of fire.

No person except firefighters, members of the governing body of the county or representatives of any law enforcement agencies shall be allowed within the immediate vicinity of any fire actively under suppression without being ordered there by the fire chief or the officer in charge at the time. Any person refusing to obey the orders and directions of the fire chief or other person in the fire department in charge of a fire shall be guilty of violating this Code.

Sec. 10-13. Following fire apparatus.

The driver of any vehicle other than one on official business shall not follow any fire apparatus or other emergency vehicle traveling in response to an alarm closer than five hundred (500) feet or park such vehicle within four hundred (400) feet of any parked emergency vehicle at the scene of an alarm.

Sec. 1-14. Crossing fire hose.

No vehicle shall be driven over any unprotected hose of the fire department when laid on any street, roadway or private driveway, to be used at any fire or alarm of fire, without the consent of the fire department official in command.

Sec. 10-15 . Obstructing fire house exit way.

It shall be unlawful for any person willfully or knowingly to park any vehicle or place any obstruction of any nature whatsoever in front of any place where fire department equipment is located.

Sec. 10-16. Authorized emergency vehicles.

(a) The driver of any authorized emergency call or when in the pursuit of an actual or suspected violation of the law or when responding to, but not upon returning from a fire alarm, may exercise the privileges as set forth in this section, but subject to the conditions herein stated.

(b) The driver of an authorized emergency vehicle may:

- (1) Park or stand irrespective of the provisions of this section;
- (2) Proceed past a traffic light or stop sign, but only after slowing down as may be necessary for safe operation;
- (3) Exceed the speed limits specified as long as such driver does not endanger life or property;
- (4) Disregard regulations governing direction of movement or turning in specified directions so long as such driver does not endanger life or property.

(c) The exemptions herein granted to an authorized emergency vehicle shall apply only when a driver of, and said vehicle while in motion, sounds audible signal by bell, siren or exhaust whistle as may be reasonably necessary and when the vehicle is equipped with at least one (1) lighted lamp displaying a red light visible under normal atmospheric conditions from a distance of five hundred (500) feet to the front of such vehicle.

(d) The foregoing provisions shall not relieve the driver of any authorized emergency vehicle from the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons nor shall such provisions protect the driver from the consequences of such driver's reckless disregard for the safety of others.

Sec. 10-17. Accessibility of buildings for firefighting equipment.

~~(a) Reasonable accessibility shall be provided to and around all buildings for firefighting equipment, including ladder trucks on multiple-story projects.~~

~~(b) Accessibility for firefighters' equipment shall be maintained throughout all staged of construction.~~

~~(c) Minimum widths of access driveways, excluding parking, shall be twenty (20) feet. Minimum turning radius shall be thirty two (32) feet.~~

(a) Reasonable accessibility shall be provided to and around all buildings for firefighting equipment, including ladder trucks on multiple-story projects. Accessibility shall be approved by the Fire Chief or his designee.

(b) Accessibility for firefighter's equipment shall be maintained throughout all stages of construction.

(c) Minimum widths of access roads, excluding parking, shall be twenty (20) feet. Minimum turning radius shall be thirty-two (32) feet. All access roads and fire lanes shall be capable of supporting the loads of fire apparatus and shall have a minimum of thirteen (13) feet, six (6) inches of vertical clearance.

(d) All access roads in excess of one hundred fifty (150) feet in length shall be provided with an approved area for turning around fire apparatus.

(e) Gates securing fire apparatus access shall be provided with an automatic gate-opening device if the gates are controlled by electronic means. An approved siren operated sensor shall activate the gate-opening device.

(f) Gates securing fire apparatus access shall be a minimum fourteen (14) feet in clear width for divided lanes and twenty (20) feet for a single lane. Gate shall be swing or sliding type. Fire access lanes shall be straight and have no turns for fifty (50) feet on both sides of security gate.

(g) Additional fire apparatus access may be required based on the Fire Chief or his designee's opinion.

Sec. 10-17.1. Aerial Fire Apparatus Access Road

(a) Buildings or portions of buildings or facilities exceeding thirty (30) feet in height above the lowest level of fire department vehicle access shall be provided with approved fire apparatus roads capable of accommodating fire department aerial apparatus. Overhead utility and power lines shall not be located within the aerial fire apparatus access roadway.

(b) Fire apparatus access roads shall have a minimum unobstructed width of twenty six (26) feet in the immediate vicinity of any building or portion of building more than thirty (30) feet in height.

(c) At least one of the required access roads meeting this condition shall be located within a minimum of fifteen (15) feet and a maximum of thirty (30) feet from the building, and shall be positioned parallel to one entire side of the building.

(d) Commercial and industrial buildings exceeding thirty (30) feet or three stories in height shall have at least three means of fire apparatus access for each structure.

Sec. 10-18. Fire hydrant installation-Prior to construction.

~~(a) Water mains and fire hydrants, when required by the county, shall be installed, or shall be under water pressure and ready for firefighting before any sheeting may be installed on walls and roofs of buildings other than fire resistant construction.~~

~~(b) All fire hydrants, fittings, valves and fire department connections shall be approved by the Douglasville-Douglas County Water and Sewer Authority and the fire department. Fire department connections shall not be less than eighteen (18) inches to more than thirty six (36) inches above the level of the adjoining ground or paving. The thread of such connections shall be uniform with that used by the fire department.~~

~~(c) Fire hydrants shall meet the requirements of NFPA Standard 24, fire hydrants for outside protection, and shall have not less than six-inch connections with the mains. The number, size and arrangement of the outlets, the size of the main valve opening and the size of the barrel shall be suitable for protection to be provided and shall be approved by the Douglasville-Douglas County Water and Sewer Authority and the fire department. Fire hydrants shall be placed no closer than fifty (50) feet from the nearest building to be protected. Where it is impossible to place them at this distance, they may be put closer to the building provided they are set in locations where the chance of injury by falling walls is minimal and where firefighters are not likely to be driven by smoke or heat.~~

~~(d) The size and shape of the operation nut, as well as the direction the hydrant stem operates, shall be uniform with hydrants in the county water distribution system's specifications.~~

(a) Water mains and fire hydrants, when required by the county, shall be installed, or shall be under water pressure and ready for firefighting before any sheeting may be installed on walls and roofs of buildings other than fire-resistant construction.

(b) All fire hydrants, fittings, valves and fire department connections shall be approved by the Douglasville-Douglas County Water and Sewer Authority and the Fire Chief or his designee. Fire department connections shall not be less than eighteen (18) inches or more than forty-eight (48) inches above the level of the adjoining ground or paving. The thread of such connections shall be uniform with that used by the fire department. The fire department connection shall be two and one-half (2 ½") inches in diameter and one four and one-half (4 ½") diameter. Fire hydrants shall be painted silver in color.

(c) Fire hydrants shall be installed in accordance with the current State of Georgia adopted edition with amendments for NFPA 24 as modified, Standard for the Installation of Private Fire Service Mains and Their Appurtenances, and shall have not less than six-inch connections with the mains. The number, size and arrangement of the outlets, the size of the main valve opening and the size of the barrel shall be suitable for protection to be provided and shall be approved by the Douglasville-Douglas County Water and Sewer Authority and the Fire Chief or his designee. Fire hydrants shall be placed no closer than fifty (50) feet from the nearest building to be protected. Where it is impossible to place them at this distance, they may be put closer to the building provided they are set in locations where the chance of injury by falling walls is minimal and where firefighters are not likely to be driven by smoke or heat and must be approved by the Fire Chief or his designee.

(d) The size and shape of the operation nut, as well as the direction the hydrant stem operates, shall be uniform with hydrants in the county water distribution system's specifications.

(e) A three (3) way fire hydrant shall be located within fifty (50) feet of a fire department connection or standpipe connection. Fire hydrant shall be on the same side of the street as the fire department connection or standpipe connection.

Sec. 10-19. Same Standard for minimum size water mains and spacing of fire hydrants for all new construction.

~~(a) In single family residential subdivisions at least eight inch pipe shall be installed. Fire hydrants shall be spaced not to exceed five hundred (500) feet. Three-way fire hydrants shall be used.~~

~~(b) In multifamily residential subdivisions or apartment complexes, industrial or commercial areas, to include motels, hotels, nursing homes, hospitals, education buildings, all office buildings and churches, at least eight inch water mains shall be installed to provide a minimum water flow of one thousand (1,000) gallons per minute. Larger mains and flows may be required by the fire chief. Fire hydrants shall be three-way hydrants and shall be spaced not to exceed four hundred (400) feet with additional hydrants located as necessary to permit all portions of buildings and combustible storage to be reached by hose lays of not more than four hundred (400) feet with additional hydrants located as necessary to permit all portions of buildings and combustible storage to be reached by hose lays of not more than four hundred (400) feet. Fire hydrants locations shall be approved by the fire chief or the chief's designee to allow firefighting equipment to be placed within fifteen (15) feet of said hydrants.~~

~~(c) In mobile home parks, fire hydrants shall be spaced not to exceed five hundred (500) feet with a minimum of eight inch waterline which shall be installed to provide a water flow of at least seven hundred (700) gallons per minute.~~

~~(d) Prior to any preliminary subdivision plat being submitted to the planning commission, the chief of the fire department or the chief's designee shall review and approve the spacing of the fire hydrants, main size and water flows.~~

Sec . 10-19. Standard for minimum size water mains and spacing of fire hydrants for all new construction

(a) In single-family residential subdivisions if an adequate water supply is within one thousand feet (1000) of the subdivision, the subdivder shall install or have installed a system of water mains and connections to each lot, which shall be in accordance with the adopted standards of the Water and Sewer Authority. Said water mains shall be at least eight-inch ductile iron pipe and be installed to provide a minimum water flow of seven hundred fifty (750) gallons per minute. Fire hydrants shall be located every five hundred (500) feet and/or at every intersection, whichever is closer. Three-way fire hydrants shall be used.

(b) In multifamily residential subdivisions or multifamily apartment complexes, industrial or commercial areas, to include motels, hotels, nursing homes, hospitals, education buildings, all office buildings and churches, at least eight-inch ductile iron pipe water mains shall be installed to provide a minimum water flow of one thousand (1,000) gallons per minute. Larger mains and flows may be required by the Fire Chief or his designee. Fire hydrants shall be three-way hydrants and shall be spaced not to exceed four hundred (400) feet with additional hydrants located as necessary to permit all portions of buildings and combustible storage to be reached by hose lays of not more than four hundred (400) feet. Fire hydrant locations shall be approved by the Fire Chief or his designee to allow firefighting equipment to be placed within fifteen (15) feet of said hydrants.

(c) In mobile home parks, fire hydrants shall be spaced not to exceed four hundred (400) feet with a minimum of an eight-inch ductile iron water main, which shall be

installed to provide a water flow of at least seven hundred fifty (750) gallons per minute.

(d) Prior to any preliminary subdivision plat being submitted to the planning commission, the Chief of the Fire Department or his designee shall review and approve the spacing of the fire hydrants, main size and water flows.

Sec. 10-20. Private fire mains and hydrants.

~~(a) Water mains on private property for fire protection purposes shall be designed and installed in accordance with local regulations that apply to public mains. Hydrants shall meet local governing specifications and be located as required by the fire chief or the chief's designee.~~

~~(b) Prior to installation, two (2) sets of hydraulically engineered detailed plans, bearing a Georgia registered engineers seal or Georgia licensed sprinkler contractor's seal, shall be submitted to the fire department for approval. Before covering any installation, the fire chief or the chief's designee will perform an inspection to assure compliance with local governing authority requirements.~~

(a) Water mains on private property for fire protection purposes shall be designed and installed in accordance with local regulations that apply to public mains. Size of mains and water flows shall be adequate for the protection of the property served by said mains. No water pipe smaller than a standard eight (8) inch in diameter shall be used to supply more than one hydrant or one hydrant on dead-end mains over five hundred (500) feet. Hydrants shall meet local governing specifications and be located as required by the Fire Chief or his designee.

(b) Prior to installation, two (2) sets of hydraulically engineered detailed plans, bearing a Georgia registered engineers seal or Georgia licensed sprinkler contractor's seal, shall be submitted to the fire department for approval. Before covering any installation, the Fire Chief or his designee will perform an inspection to assure compliance with local governing authority requirements.

(c) Hydrants shall be tested annually to ensure proper functioning. These tests shall include the actual measurement of static and residual pressures, and flow from hydrants.

Sec. 10-21. Malfunctioning fire alarms, fee therefore.

(a) Recognizing that there are excessive costs incurred when the fire department responds to a false alarm and recognizing further that numerous false alarms are initiated by malfunctioning alarm systems, the fire department is authorized to assess a fee for false alarms, which result in unnecessary responses by fire equipment as follows:

(1) The third false alarm in any calendar month and subsequent false alarms occurring on the same day as the third false alarm- \$50.00 each such false alarm.

(2) Subsequent false alarms up to and including five (5) in the calendar month- \$75.00 each such false alarm.

(3) Each subsequent alarm in excess of five (5) in the calendar month-
\$100.00.

(b) No fee shall be assessed for false alarms caused by storms, power losses, or malfunctioning of telephone lines provided that the occupant/owner shall act responsibly and promptly to correct the malfunction or shall notify the fire department of the false nature of the alarm in time to prevent the equipment from responding. The burden of establishing the fact of such malfunctioning or Act of God rests upon the occupant/owner of the subject property.

(c) The fees set forth herein shall be assessed against the occupant of the facility from which the false alarm originates. The penalty for failure to remit the fine imposed by the fire department within thirty (30) days of its imposition shall be as set forth in section 1-8 of these ordinances.

Sec. 10-22. Fire alarm systems

(a) Fire alarm systems installed in commercial buildings shall be supervised at all times. Fire alarm systems shall be installed in accordance with the current State of Georgia adopted edition with amendments for NFPA 72 as modified, National Fire Alarm Code.

(b) No person shall shut off or disable any fire alarm system, and no owner, occupant, or resident of any building shall disarm such system. Provided, however, an alarm system may be shut off in order to perform maintenance work on the system during the time that qualified maintenance personnel are on the premises performing necessary maintenance work. Such maintenance work shall be conducted after notice to and approval by the Fire Chief or his designee and E-911.

(c) A fire watch may be required during the time the fire alarm system is removed from service as outlined above. If required by the fire officials, the fire watch shall remain in place until such time as the system(s) are returned to their full capacity.

Sec. 10-23. Stop work orders

Upon written notice from the Fire Chief or his designee, work on any project that is being performed contrary to the provisions of this article and the codes adopted therein, being done in a dangerous or unsafe manner, or without obtaining a building permit that has been approved by the Fire Chief or his designee and issued by the Chief Building Official or his designee shall cease immediately. Such notice shall be given to the owner of the property, his agent, or the person doing the work and shall state the conditions under which the work may be resumed.

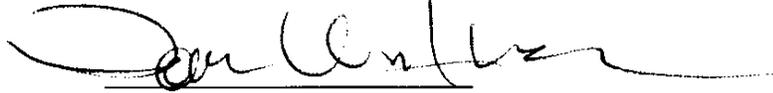
Sec. 10-24. Certificate of Occupancy

No building shall be occupied and no change of occupancy of a building or portions of a building shall be occupied unless a certificate of occupancy or temporary certificate of occupancy has been approved by the Fire Chief or his designee and issued by the Chief Building Official or his designee.”

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that this Ordinance shall become effective on the 23⁰ day of 2009.

SO ORDAINED this 18th day of August, 2009.

THE DOUGLAS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



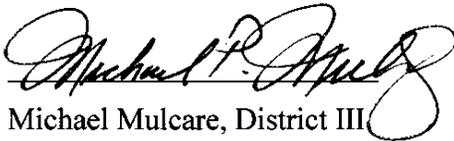
Tom Worthan, Chairman



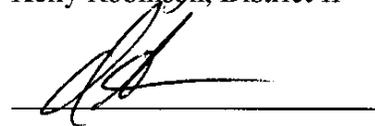
Freddie Ashmon, Jr., District I



Kelly Robinson, District II

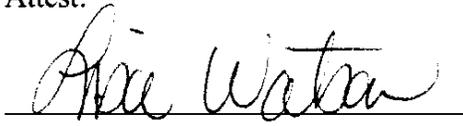


Michael Mulcare, District III



David Latham, District IV

Attest:



Lisa Watson, County Clerk