

ORDINANCE NO. **BG2024 - 20**

ORDINANCE AMENDING CODE OF ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 10
(ELECTRICITY) OF THE CITY OF BOWLING
GREEN CODE OF ORDINANCES

WHEREAS, the City of Bowling Green regularly reviews the Code of Ordinances to determine if changes need to be made; and,

WHEREAS, the Neighborhood and Community Services Department recommends amendments be made to the Chapter to make administrative revisions and updates to the fees; and,

WHEREAS, the proposed amendments as recommended by City staff are in the best interest of the City.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City of Bowling Green, Kentucky as follows:

1. Chapter 10 (Electricity) is hereby amended as follows:

10-1 GENERAL PROVISIONS.

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10-1.05 Minimum Requirements; Jurisdiction.

The provisions adopted by this Chapter shall be the minimum requirements for all electrical wiring in buildings within the territorial limits of the City, whether served by the lines of [~~an R.E.A. corporation~~] Warren Rural Electric Cooperative Corporation (WRECC) or by Bowling Green Municipal Utilities (BGMU)[~~and shall comply with all regulations of the Planning Commission~~].

10-1.06 Definitions.

As used in this Chapter:

“COMMERCIAL BUILDING” shall mean all buildings other than dwelling occupancies. Commercial buildings shall be wired [~~EMT, MC, NM or Rigid conduit and wired~~] in accordance with National Electrical Code. In addition, all commercial buildings shall include appropriate separation in

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compliance with fire codes.

“ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT” shall mean conductors and equipment, installed for the utilization of electricity supplied for light, heat or power, but does not include radio apparatus or equipment for wireless reception of sounds and signals and does not include apparatus, conductors and other equipment installed for or by [~~the Bowling Green Municipal Utilities~~] BGMU or WRECC.

“GARAGE” shall mean garages used in connection with dwelling occupancies.

“PLACES OF PUBLIC GATHERING” shall mean churches, schools, auditoriums, nursing homes and buildings of similar occupancy, hotels, motels, hospitals, [~~ete.~~] or other buildings that are open and accessible to the public.

10-1.07 Enumeration of Supplemental Regulations.

a. Rough-in and final inspection shall be required on all electrical work that may be concealed by concrete or other building finish.

b. All buildings or parts of buildings other than dwelling occupancies shall be considered commercial buildings and wired in accordance with the latest edition of the National Electrical Code. The minimum size service for commercial buildings shall be one hundred (100) amperes [~~six (6) branch circuits, three (3) wire service~~]. The connected load is to determine the size of service installation above the minimum.

c. Single family dwellings entrance services shall be sized according to load and circuit capacity. The minimum service size shall be one hundred (100) amperes [~~main, range and six (6) branch circuit panel~~]. On new service installations and change-outs in a single family residence, the service capacity shall be installed to provide eighty (80%) percent initial load and circuit capacity plus ten (10%) percent for future spare capacity.

d. All entrance wiring to buildings served by [~~Bowling Green Municipal Utilities~~] BGMU or WRECC shall be in conduit continuous to service equipment. The service main panel board or load

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center shall be no more than six (6) feet from the outside of the building. Wiring shall be run according to the National Electrical Code [in PVC, IMC or Rigid conduit].

e. All entrances shall be three (3) or four (4) wire. No two (2) wire entrances will be permitted except a two (2) wire entrance on a separate meter used for sign lighting alone will be accepted when approved by the Engineering Department of BGMU or WRECC. Special permission must be obtained from the meter supervisor of BGMU or WRECC prior to the breaking of any seal of any metering equipment or for the disconnecting of any conductor on the line side of the metering equipment.

~~[f. Three (3) phase and single phase motors shall have current limited protective units installed on all single and three (3) phase motors in accordance with all local utilities.]~~

~~[g. No temporary outdoor sign shall be used or maintained for more than ninety (90) days without a renewal inspection being made by the Electrical Inspector. No temporary outdoor sign shall be installed or energized in any spot other than its original fixed spot without application for a new permit and original inspection. Each of these signs shall use an approved three-wire supply receptacle of fifteen (15) or twenty (20) amp grounding, and shall have a GFI breaker or GFI receptacle. Where such a receptacle is not available, one shall be installed. The supply cord shall be type S, So, St and Sto (or equivalent) hard service cord suitable for damp location with three (3) conductors size #12 A.W.G. or #10 A.W.G. sufficient for length and load to be serviced. Flexible cords shall only be used in continuous length without splice and tap. All supply cords shall originate, extend and terminate wholly on private property. Wherever a supply cord may be subject to mechanical damage or is extended over any area where motor vehicles may pass, it shall be securely and adequately protected by rigid metal conduit. In no event shall a supply cord extend across or on any traffic lane within any public or private parking lot or area. All metal conducting surface of the sign shall be bonded securely to the equipment grounding conductor in the supply cord.]~~

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10-1.08 Minimum Requirements for Fire Alarm Systems.

The minimum requirements for fire alarm systems for nursing homes, schools, retirement centers and buildings of similar occupancy shall not be less than that required by the Commonwealth of Kentucky [~~in its Standards of Safety, Section 807, adopted by the City~~] Building Code.

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10-2.03 Additional Duties.

The Electrical Inspector shall be charged with the duty of enforcing the current National Electrical Code, City ordinances and all laws pertaining to the installation of electrical equipment, and for the protection of lives, property and fire prevention. The Electrical Inspector shall, upon a rough-in inspection, check for proper wiring methods, wire size, box fill, conduit sizing, grounding and conformity with the current National Electrical Code. A rough-in sticker shall be placed in the electrical panel to confirm that the installation has passed. The Electrical Inspector shall, upon final inspection, check conformity with the current National Electrical Code and all other requirements. If a rough-in inspection is not performed, the Electrical Inspector shall check for proper wiring methods and conformity with all other requirements. Upon final inspection, a "Final Inspection Sticker" shall be placed in the electrical panel to confirm that the installation has passed. A ["C"] (Certificate of Compliance Form) shall be provided to the local utility [~~master electrician~~] upon final approval and to the Master Electrician upon request.

10-2.04 [~~Authority to Interpret Regulations; Unauthorized to Act as Consultant, Perform Certain Work~~] Role of the Electrical Inspector.

The role of the Electrical Inspector is to [~~shall~~] answer any relevant questions concerning, or give any desired information in respect to, the meaning of, intent or application of the regulations and rules of this article. The Electrical Inspector in his official capacity is not, however, empowered to and cannot lay out work or act in the capacity of a consulting engineer for inexperienced contractors,

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mechanics or owners, nor shall the Electrical Inspector do any electrical work that requires inspection.

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10-3 INSPECTIONS GENERALLY.

10-3.01 Fee Schedule.

The following fee schedule for electrical inspection service is hereby adopted and it shall be the joint obligation of both the owner of the property involved and the person who applies for the electrical permit to pay the fees when billed by the City.

a. Residential:

New Service	\$ 100 200.00
Change of service	35 75.00
Service only	35 75.00
Temporary service	25 75.00
Additional wiring.....	50 100.00
Mobile home service.....	35 75.00
Re-inspection fee for all of above (each trip)	15 35.00

b. Apartments:

New Service/Rewire	
100 amp	\$ 50 100.00 per unit
200 amp	65 120.00 per unit
Change of service	35 75.00 per unit
Service only	10 20.00 per unit with minimum of \$ 35 80.00
Additional wiring	50 100.00 per unit
Temporary service	25 50.00
Re-inspection fee for above	15 50.00

c. Commercial:

The electrical permit fee for commercial and industrial buildings for both new construction and additional wiring shall be \$~~75~~150.00 for projects in which the electrical contract has a value of \$~~15~~30,000.00 or less. The fees for buildings in which the electrical contract has a value over \$~~15~~30,000.00 shall be \$~~75~~150.00 plus one (1%) percent of the contract value above \$~~15~~30,000.00. Fees for service only electrical inspection service in multiple unit commercial

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structures shall be \$~~[10]~~20.00 per unit with a \$~~[35]~~70.00 minimum fee.

d. Waiver of Fees:

The Department of Neighborhood and Community Services is authorized to waive the above fees for any charitable nonprofit corporation or other charitable nonprofit entity that has obtained a 501(c)(3) or equivalent designation from the Internal Revenue Service for projects involving ~~[single-family]~~ residential construction, the installation of tents and the installation of signs. Fees shall also be waived for any project sponsored by the City of Bowling Green. The waiver of fees does not abrogate any requirements that the nonprofit entity obtain any required permits or any requirements to comply with the remaining provisions of this Chapter.

10-3.02 Disposition of Inspection Fees.

All inspection fees shall be paid to the City of Bowling Green ~~[collected by the City Treasurer]~~.

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10-3.04 Required; Procedure; Condemnation of Work; Equipment.

a. All electrical work and installation of any electrical apparatus, material or device whatsoever, for use in connection with electricity for light, heat or power shall be inspected by the Electrical Inspector.

b. When such installation, repair or alteration of electrical wiring or equipment has been completed, the Electrical Inspector shall be notified thereof, and such inspection as herein provided shall be ~~[immediately]~~ made. ~~[At the time of such notification, the person making such installation, repair or alteration of electric wiring or equipment shall attach thereto a notice in substantially the following form: "Warning This work has not been inspected and approved by the Electrical Inspector, and it shall not be covered or concealed until so inspected and approved." No person other than the Electrical Inspector shall thereafter remove such notice, nor shall the Inspector remove the~~

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~~same until he has attached to the work a notice stating that same has been inspected and approved.]~~

c. Should the Electrical Inspector [~~condemn~~] not approve any of the work or equipment as not being in accordance with the provisions of this Section or the National Electrical Code, notice in ~~in~~ writing] shall be given by [~~him~~] the Electrical Inspector to the person engaged in the work within two (2) business [~~ten (10)~~] days after notification thereof or within further reasonable time as may, upon request, be prescribed. Any unapproved [~~Such condemned~~] work or equipment shall be altered or removed as the case may require, and the necessary changes shall be made so that all such work or equipment shall fully comply with the provisions of this Chapter and the National Electrical Code. In default thereof, such person shall be liable for the penalties as provided in this Chapter, and every owner, contractor or other person engaged in the construction of the building structure or otherwise covering or allowing to be covered such portion of the work or equipment, or removing any notice not to cover same placed thereon by the Electrical Inspector, shall likewise be liable for the penalties as provided in this Chapter.

10-3.05 Certificate of Approval; Emergency Connections Authorized.

a. The Electrical Inspector shall, upon request, issue a certificate of approval when the electrical installation is completed and found to comply with the provisions of this Section and the National Electrical Code. No certificate shall be issued on any incomplete work.

b. In cases of emergency, hardships or in the absence of the Electrical Inspector, Bowling Green Municipal Utilities or Warren Rural Electric may make a temporary connection for services as required, pending a final inspection; provided the owner of the property and the electrician doing the work shall sign a release eliminating the City, Bowling Green Municipal Utilities and/or Warren Rural Electric from any damages that might result therefrom. Bowling Green Municipal Utilities or Warren Rural Electric shall notify the City Electrical Inspector on the next working day in order that an inspection may be made.

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10-3.06 General Authority to Disconnect Service; Unlawful to Interfere.

The Electrical Inspector is hereby empowered to disconnect or order the discontinuance of electrical service to such conductors or apparatus found to be in a dangerous or unsafe condition, or to have been installed without a permit, or not in accordance with the provisions of this Chapter or the National Electrical Code. He shall thereupon attach a notice stating that such conductors or apparatus have been disconnected because of their having been found unsafe to life or property, and it shall be unlawful for any person to remove such notice of disconnection or to reconnect such defective conductors or apparatus until the same have been placed in a safe and secure condition and have been approved for use by the Electrical Inspector.

10-4 PERMITS.

10-4.01 Written Permit Required; Exception; Applications; Proof of Compliance with Applicable Licensing Requirements.

a. No person shall commence any construction or installation of any electrical wiring equipment, apparatus or fixtures in or about any house or building without first obtaining a written permit to do same from the Department of Neighborhood and Community Services, Building and Inspection Division. ~~[Simple extensions of existing services,]~~ ~~[r]~~ Repairs or replacement of ~~[wire]~~ conductors or devices without adding additional load such as replacement of ~~[lampholders]~~ fixtures, receptacles, switches, or other existing equipment [ete.], shall not require a permit.

b. Every person making application for any permit to do electrical work under the provision of this Section may be required by the Electrical Inspector to file a set of plans and specifications in sufficient detail to enable such Inspector to determine if the work will be in compliance with the rules, regulations and provisions of this Subchapter. A key to the symbols used shall accompany all plans. If mains, feeders, branches and distributing panels are shown on the plans, it is desirable that they be designated by letters or numbers.

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c. No permit shall be issued unless the applicant submits proof through an affidavit or other means deemed sufficient to the Building and Inspection Division[,] and ~~[that the applicant has]~~ complied with all applicable licensing requirements. The provisions of this Section do not apply to a homeowner or farmer who does construction, alteration or repairs of any electrical wiring on their own premises, with the approval of the Electrical Inspector.

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2. The provisions of this Ordinance are hereby declared to be severable, and if any section, phrase or provision shall for any reason be declared invalid, such declaration of invalidity shall not affect the validity of the remainder of this Ordinance.

3. All prior Municipal Orders or Ordinances or parts of any Municipal Order or Ordinance in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

4. This Ordinance is adopted pursuant to KRS 83A.060 in that it was introduced on October 1, 2024, and given final reading on October 15, 2024, and said Ordinance shall be in full force and effect upon signature, recordation and publication in summary pursuant to KRS Chapter 424.

ADOPTED: October 15, 2024

APPROVED: 
Mayor, Chairman of Board of Commissioners

ATTEST: 
City Clerk

SPONSORED BY: Jeffery B. Meisel, City Manager