

## CHAPTER 31: DEPARTMENTS, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

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***POLICE DEPARTMENT***

**§ 31.01 POLICE DEPARTMENT CONTINUED.**

(A) If the city has a Police Department at the time this code is adopted, then the Department of the city is hereby continued. If the city does not have a Police Department at the time of the adoption of this code, then at any time after the code is adopted, the City Council may by resolution create a Police Department, which shall be organized and administered as provided for by this code. The City Council may at any time determine by resolution to discontinue the existence of a Police Department and provide for the enforcement of state laws and city ordinances by other means. The head of the Police Department shall be known as the Chief of Police and the number of additional members of the Police Department, together with their ranks and titles, shall be determined by the City Council by resolution. The compensation to be paid to members of the Police Department shall be fixed by the City Council. Members of the Police Department shall be appointed by the City Council.

(B) All police officers shall meet the minimum standards for licensing as a peace officer as established by the Minnesota Peace Officers Standards and Training Board and have a current and valid peace officer license at the time of appointment. All police officers shall retain this license during their employment as a police officer with the city and will be subject to discharge if the license is suspended, revoked or becomes invalid for any reason. In addition, all police officers must have a valid Minnesota vehicle operator's license and must be insurable as a vehicle driver by the city's automobile insurance carrier.

**§ 31.02 CHIEF OF POLICE.**

The Chief of Police shall have supervision and control of the Police Department and its members. The Chief of Police shall be responsible for the proper training and discipline of the members of the Police Department. The Chief of Police shall be responsible for the keeping of adequate records and shall report to the City Council on the needs of the Police department and its work. Every member of the Police department is subordinate to the Chief of Police and shall obey the instructions of the Chief of Police and any superior officer. The City Council may designate one of the police officers as Acting Chief, who shall have all the powers and duties of the Chief of Police during the absence or disability of the Chief of Police.

**§ 31.03 DUTIES OF POLICE.**

Members of the Police Department are authorized to enforce the laws applicable to the city, bring violators before the court, and make complaints for offenses coming to their knowledge. Members of the Police Department are authorized to serve processes on behalf of the city and shall serve those notices as may be required by the City Council or other authority. When the city is not a party to the proceedings involved in the process or notice, the officer shall collect the same fees as provided by law. All fees shall be paid into the city treasury.

**§ 31.04 UNIFORM AND BADGE.**

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Each member of the Police Department shall, while on duty, wear a suitable badge and uniform furnished by the city, except that the Chief of Police may authorize the performance of specific duties while not in uniform. When a member terminates membership in the Police Department, the member shall immediately deliver to the city the badge, uniform and all other property of the city.

### **§ 31.05 RESERVE OFFICERS.**

(A) The Chief of Police may appoint, for a specified time, as many reserve officers as may be necessary. Reserve officers shall be subordinate to the Chief of Police. Under the provisions of M.S. § 626.84, Subd. 1(e), as it may be amended from time to time, a **RESERVE OFFICER** is an individual whose services are utilized by a law enforcement agency to provide supplementary assistance at special events, traffic or crowd control, and administrative or clerical assistance. A reserve officer's duties shall not include enforcement of the general criminal laws of the state, and the reserve officer does not have full powers of arrest or authorization to carry a firearm on duty.

(B) The Chief of Police, or City Council if there is no Police Chief, may appoint, for a specified time, as many parking enforcement officers pursuant to M.S. § 168B.035 Subd. 2, as it may be amended from time to time, as may be necessary. The parking enforcement officers shall be subordinate to the Chief of Police, if there is one, or the City Clerk. A **PARKING ENFORCEMENT OFFICER** is an individual whose services are utilized by a law enforcement agency to provide parking enforcement and administrative or clerical assistance. A parking enforcement officer's duties shall not include enforcement of the general criminal laws of the state, and the parking enforcement officer does not have full powers of arrest or authorization to carry a firearm on duty.

## ***VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT***

### **§ 31.20 VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT CONTINUED; APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS.**

(A) If, at the time of the adoption of this code, the city has a Volunteer Fire Department, there is continued in this city a Volunteer Fire Department. If the city, at the time of the adoption of this code, does not have a Volunteer Fire Department, the City Council may by resolution create a Volunteer Fire Department subject to the provisions of this code. All Volunteer Fire Departments are established under the authority of state law, M.S. § 412.221, Subd. 17, as it may be amended from time to time.

(B) All officers of the Volunteer Fire Department shall be appointed by the City Council. These officers may be removed by the City Council for cause and after a public hearing. If one of the officers duly appointed shall resign his or her office, be removed from office by the City Council, or is deceased during his or her term of office, the successor shall be duly appointed by the City Council as soon as is practical and no later than two weeks from the time the position becomes open. The officer so appointed is so appointed for any period of the unexpired term of the vacated office.

(C) Firefighters and probationary firefighters shall be appointed by the City Council upon recommendation by the Chief of the Volunteer Fire Department. The process of recruitment, selection, appointment and termination of firefighters and probationary firefighters shall, as required by state law, follow all of the provisions of the Veteran's Preference Act, M.S. §§ 43A.11 and 197.46, as they may be amended from time to time, and, as required by state law, there shall be no discrimination on the basis of age, race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, sexual orientation or disability (except based on a bona fide occupational qualification) as provided by the Minnesota Human Rights Act, M.S. Ch. 363A, as it may be amended from time to time. Firefighters shall continue as members of the Volunteer Fire Department during good behavior until retirement, but may be removed by the City Council for cause after a public hearing.

(D) As required by state law, M.S. § 412.241, as it may be amended from time to time, the City Council shall have full authority over the financial affairs of the Volunteer Fire Department, and shall provide for the collection of all revenues and other assets, the auditing and settlement of accounts, and the safekeeping and disbursement of public money. This division does not apply to the funds of any Fire Relief Association.

#### **§ 31.21 DUTIES OF CHIEF.**

The Chief shall have control of all firefighting apparatus and shall be responsible for its care and condition. The Chief shall make a report semi-annually to the City Council at its meeting in March and in September as to the condition of the equipment and needs of the Volunteer Fire Department. The Chief may submit additional reports and recommendations at any meeting of the City Council, and he or she shall report each suspension by him or her of a member of the Volunteer Fire Department at the first meeting of the City Council following the suspension. The Chief shall be responsible for the proper training and discipline of the members of the Volunteer Fire Department, and may suspend any member for refusal or neglect to obey orders pending final action by the City Council on his or her discharge or retention.

#### **§ 31.22 [RESERVED]**

#### **§ 31.23 RECORDS.**

The Chief shall keep in convenient form a record of all fires. The record shall include the time of the alarm, location of fire, cause of fire, if known, type of building, name of owner or tenant, purpose for which occupied, value of building and contents, members of the Volunteer Fire Department responding to the alarm and other information as he or she may deem advisable or as may be required from time to time by the City Council or state law or regulation.

#### **§ 31.24 PRACTICE DRILLS.**

It shall be the duty of the Chief, when the weather permits, to hold practice drills for the Volunteer Fire Department and to give the firefighters instruction in approved methods of firefighting and fire prevention.

**§ 31.25 ASSISTANT CHIEF.**

In the absence or disability of the Chief of the Volunteer Fire Department, the Assistant Chief shall perform all functions and exercise all of the authority of the Chief.

**§ 31.26 FIREFIGHTERS.**

Firefighters shall not be less than 18 years of age and able bodied. They shall become members of the Volunteer Fire Department only after a 12-month probationary period. The City Council may require that each candidate, before he or she may become a probationary firefighter, must possess certain minimum height, weight, education, mental and physical health requirements, and any other qualifications which may be specified by the City Council.

**§ 31.27 [RESERVED]**

**§ 31.28 COMPENSATION.**

The members and officers of the Volunteer Fire Department shall receive compensation as provided by the City Council.

**§ 31.29 INTERFERENCE WITH VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT.**

It shall be unlawful for any person to give or make, or cause to be given or made, an alarm of fire without probable cause, or to neglect or refuse to obey any reasonable order of the Chief or other firefighter at a fire, or to interfere with the Volunteer Fire Department in the discharge of its duties.

Penalty, see § 10.99

**§ 31.30 POLICIES AND PROCEDURES.**

The Volunteer Fire Department may adopt policies and procedures for the operation of the department, which shall be effective upon approval by the City Council. Any provision of these policies and procedures, which may be called a Constitution and Bylaws, which is inconsistent with state and federal law, including the Veterans Preference Act, Minnesota Human Rights Act, and state laws requiring the City Council to control Fire Department Finances, shall be unenforceable and void.

***PLANNING COMMISSION***

**§ 31.45 ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION.**

If, at the time this code is adopted, the city has a Planning Commission, the Planning Commission for the city is hereby continued. If the city did not have a Planning Commission at

the time of the adoption of this code, the City Council may at any time determine to establish a Planning Commission by appointing members to the Planning Commission as provided in § 31.46 of this code. To the extent that any provisions of §§ 31.45 to 31.48 of this code are inconsistent with any provisions of Titles XV or XVII, the provisions of those titles shall prevail. The Planning Commission shall be the city planning agency authorized by M.S. § 462.354(1), as it may be amended from time to time.

**§ 31.46 COMPOSITION.**

(A) The Planning Commission shall consist of seven members from the resident population of the city to be appointed by the City Council. The appointees shall be appointed to serve staggered terms of three years, except as noted below, commencing on the first day of January in the year of appointment. Upon expiration of a term, the appointee shall continue until reappointed or a successor is appointed. Absences from any three meetings in a year, unless excused in advance by the Chair, constitutes a vacancy. In the event of any vacancy, the City Council, shall appoint a person to complete the unexpired term.

(B) One member may be a Council Member or the City Clerk, to be appointed by the City Council. This member shall serve for a one-year term, to expire on December 31 of each year.

(C) Other persons may serve in an ex officio capacity as the City Council may, in its discretion, deem appropriate.

(D) Each of the five regular Planning Commission members shall have equal voting privileges. Any member may be removed for cause by majority vote of the City Council upon written charge and after a public hearing.

**§ 31.47 ORGANIZATION, MEETINGS, MINUTES AND EXPENDITURES.**

(A) At the first regular meeting in January, the Planning Commission shall elect a Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson and a Secretary from among its appointed members, each for a term of one year. The Planning Commission may create and fill other offices as it may determine is necessary.

(B) The Planning Commission shall hold at least one meeting each month at the time and place as they may fix by resolution. Special meetings may be called at any time by the Chairperson, or in the case of the Chairperson's absence, by the Vice-Chairperson.

(C) Written minutes of meetings shall be kept and filed with the City Clerk prior to the next regularly scheduled City Council meeting, but shall be subject to the approval at the next Planning Commission meeting.

(D) No expenditures by the Planning Commission shall be made unless and until authorized for the purpose by the City Council.

**§ 31.48 POWERS AND DUTIES; COMPREHENSIVE PLAN.**

## Minnesota Basic Code of Ordinances - Administration

(A) *Generally.* The Planning Commission shall have the powers and duties given to city planning agencies generally by law, including the authority to conduct public hearings as directed by the City Council or city policy. The Planning Commission shall also exercise the duties conferred upon it by this code. It shall be the purpose of the Planning Commission to prepare and adopt a comprehensive plan for the physical development of the city, including proposed public buildings, street arrangements and improvements, efficient design of major thoroughfares for moving of traffic, parking facilities, public utilities services, parks and playgrounds, a general land use plan and other matters relating to the physical development of the city. This plan may be prepared in sections, each of which shall relate to a comprehensive plan program. After the City Council has adopted the comprehensive plan, the Planning Commission shall periodically, but at least every five years, review the comprehensive plan and any ordinances or programs implementing the plan.

(B) *Means of executing plan.* Upon the adoption of a comprehensive plan or any section thereof, it shall be the concern of the Planning Commission to recommend to the City Council reasonable and practical means for putting into effect the plan or section thereof in order that it will serve as a pattern and guide for the orderly physical development of the city and as a basis for judging the timely disbursements of funds to implement the objective. Means of effectuating the plan shall, among other things, consist of a zoning ordinance, subdivision regulations, capital improvement programming and technical review, and recommendations of matters referred to the Planning Commission by the City Council.

(C) *Zoning ordinance.* Pursuant to M.S. § 462.357, Subd. 4, as it may be amended from time to time, the Planning Commission shall review all proposed amendments to the zoning ordinance, conduct public hearings as directed by the City Council or city policy, and make recommendations to the City Council concerning zoning ordinance amendments and their relation to the city comprehensive plan and other land use controls. The Planning Commission shall report recommendations to the City Council for action.

(D) *Conditional permits.* The Planning Commission may make recommendations on all requests for a conditional use permit under the terms of the zoning ordinance and may conduct public hearings as directed by the City Council or city policy. The Planning Commission shall report its recommendations to the City Council for action.

(E) *Interim Use Permits.* The Planning Commission may make recommendations on all requests for an interim use permit under the terms of the zoning ordinance and conduct public hearings as directed by the City Council or city policy. The Planning Commission shall report its recommendations to the City Council for action.

(F) *Subdivision regulations.* The Planning Commission may make recommendations in relation to the subdividing of land as prescribed by the ordinance and may conduct public hearings as directed by the City Council or city policy. The Planning Commission shall report its recommendations to the City Council for action.

(G) *Variances.* All applications for variances may be referred to the Planning Commission which may conduct public hearings as directed by the City Council or city policy, and forwarded with or without recommendations directly to the City Council, which shall have the powers of a Board of Appeals and Adjustments as provided for in M.S. § 462.357, Subd. 6, as it may be amended from time to time for its decision.

(H) *Official Map.* Pursuant to M.S. § 462.359 subd. 2, as it may be amended from time to

## **Minnesota Basic Code of Ordinances - Administration**

time, after adoption of a major thoroughfare plan and community facilities plan (which may be contained in the city comprehensive plan or adopted separately), the Planning Commission, for the purpose of carrying out the policies of the major thoroughfare plan and community facilities plan, may prepare and recommend to the governing body a proposed official map covering the entire municipality or any portion thereof. The official map or maps shall be prepared in sufficient detail to permit establishment of the future acquisition lines on the ground. In unplatted areas, a minimum of a centerline survey shall have been made prior to the preparation of the final draft of the official map. The accuracy of the future acquisition lines shown on the official map shall be attested to by a licensed surveyor.

(I) *Appeals to denials of zoning, land use or building permits based on the official map.* All appeals to denials of zoning, land use or building permits based on the official map may be referred to the Planning Commission, and forwarded with or without recommendations directly to the City Council. The City Council shall have the powers of a Board of Appeals and Adjustments as provided for in M.S. 462.359, Subd. 4, as it may be amended from time to time for its decision.

(J) *Purchase and sale of real property.* Pursuant to M.S. § 462.356, Subd. 2, as it may be amended from time to time, after adoption of a comprehensive plan, if any, the Planning Commission shall review all proposed acquisitions or disposals of publicly owned interests in real property within the city by the municipality, or any special district or any agency thereof, or any other political subdivision having jurisdiction within the municipality, and make findings as to the compliance of the proposed acquisition or disposal of real property with the comprehensive municipal plan. The City Council may by resolution adopted by two-thirds vote dispense with the requirements of this section when in its judgement it finds that the proposed acquisition or disposal of real property has no relationship to the comprehensive municipal plan.

(K) *Capital improvements.* Pursuant to M.S. § 462.356, Subd. 2, as it may be amended from time to time, after adoption of a comprehensive plan, if any, the Planning Commission shall review all proposed capital improvements within the city by the municipality, or any special district or any agency thereof, or any other political subdivision having jurisdiction within the municipality, and make findings, as to the compliance of the proposed capital improvement with the comprehensive municipal plan. The City Council may by resolution adopted by two-thirds vote dispense with the requirements of this section when in its judgment it finds that the proposed acquisition or disposal of real property has no relationship to the comprehensive municipal plan.

(L) *Comprehensive Plan amendments.* Pursuant to M.S. § 462.355, Subds. 2 and 3, as it may be amended from time to time, after adoption of a comprehensive plan, if any, the Planning Commission shall review all proposed amendments to the comprehensive plan, hold at least one public hearing, and make recommendations to the City Council on comprehensive plan amendments and their relation to the city comprehensive plan and other land use controls. The Planning Commission shall report its recommendations to the City Council for action.

### ***ADVISORY PARK AND RECREATION BOARD***

#### **§ 31.50 ADVISORY PARK AND RECREATION BOARD.**

(A) If the city has an Advisory Park and Recreation or similar Board at the time this code is adopted, that Board is hereby continued. If the city had no Board but wishes to create one, it may do so by resolution, and the provisions of this code will apply.



## **Minnesota Basic Code of Ordinances - Administration**

(B) The Board shall consist of five members from the resident population of the city to be appointed by the Mayor with the approval of the City Council. The appointees shall be appointed to serve staggered terms of three years, except as noted below, commencing on the first day of January in the year of appointment. Upon expiration of a term, the appointee shall continue until reappointed or a successor is appointed. Absences from any three meetings in a year, unless excused in advance by the Chair, constitutes a vacancy. In the event of any vacancy, the Mayor, with the approval of the City Council, shall appoint a person to complete the unexpired term.

(C) (1) At the first regular meeting in January, the Board shall elect a Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson and a Secretary from among its appointed members, each for a term of one year. The Board may create and fill other offices as it may determine.

(2) The Board shall hold at least one meeting each month at the time and place as they may fix by resolution. Special meetings may be called at any time by the Chairperson, or in the case of the Chairperson's absence, by the Vice-Chairperson.

(3) Written minutes of meetings shall be kept and filed with the City Clerk prior to the next regularly scheduled City Council meeting, but shall be subject to the approval at the next Board meeting.

(4) No expenditures by the Board shall be made unless and until authorized for the purpose by the City Council.

(D) The Board will consult with the City Council and the Planning Commission and shall be advisory to the City Council in matters relating to park lands, park facilities, park and recreation programs and finances. The Board may meet with various groups on matters relating to park and recreation activities.