

CHAPTER 10: GENERAL PROVISIONS

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§ 10.01 TITLE OF CODE.

This codification of ordinances by and for the city of Cockrell Hill, Texas shall be designated as the "Code of Cockrell Hill, Texas" and may be so cited.

§ 10.02 INTERPRETATION.

Unless otherwise provided herein, or by law or implication required, the same rules of construction, definition, and application shall govern the interpretation of this code as those governing the interpretation of state law.

§ 10.03 APPLICATION TO FUTURE ORDINANCES.

All provisions of Title I compatible with future legislation shall apply to ordinances hereafter adopted amending or supplementing this code unless otherwise specifically provided.

§ 10.04 CAPTIONS.

Headings and captions used in this code other than the title, chapter and section numbers are employed for reference purposes only and shall not be deemed a part of the text of any section.

§ 10.05 DEFINITIONS.

(A) *General rule.* Words and phrases shall be taken in their plain, or ordinary and usual sense. However, technical words and phrases having a peculiar and appropriate meaning in law shall be understood according to their technical import.

(B) For the purpose of this code, the following definitions shall apply unless the context clearly indicates or requires a different meaning.

CITY, MUNICIPAL CORPORATION or MUNICIPALITY. The City of Cockrell Hill, Texas.

CODE, THIS CODE or THIS CODE OF ORDINANCES. This municipal code as modified by amendment, revision and adoption of new titles, chapters or sections.

COUNCIL. The legislative body of the city.

COUNTY. Dallas County, Texas.

MAY. The act referred to is permissive.

MONTH. A calendar month.

OATH. An affirmation in all cases in which, by law, an affirmation may be substituted for an oath, and in such cases the words ***SWEAR*** and ***SWORN*** shall be equivalent to the words ***AFFIRM*** and ***AFFIRMED***.

OFFICER, OFFICE, EMPLOYEE, COMMISSION or DEPARTMENT. An officer, office, employee, commission or department of this municipality unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

PERSON. Extends to and includes person, persons, firm, corporation, copartnership, trustee, lessee or receiver. Whenever used in any clause prescribing and imposing a penalty, the terms **PERSON** or **WHOEVER** as applied to any unincorporated entity shall mean the partners or members thereof, and as applied to corporations, the officers or agents thereof.

SHALL. The act referred to is mandatory.

SIGNATURE or **SUBSCRIPTION.** Includes a mark when the person cannot write.

STATE. The State of Texas.

SUBCHAPTER. A division of a chapter, designated in this code by a heading in the chapter analysis and a capitalized heading in the body of the chapter, setting apart a group of sections related by the subject matter of the heading. Not all chapters have subchapters.

YEAR. A calendar year, unless otherwise expressed.

§ 10.06 RULES OF INTERPRETATION.

The construction of all ordinances of this municipality shall be by the following rules, unless such construction is plainly repugnant to the intent of the legislative body or of the context of the same ordinance:

(A) **AND** or **OR.** Either conjunction shall include the other as if written “and/or,” if the sense requires it.

(B) *Acts by assistants.* When a statute or ordinance requires an act to be done which, by law, an agent or deputy as well may do as the principal, such requisition shall be satisfied by the performance of such act by an authorized agent or deputy.

(C) *Gender; singular and plural; tenses.* Words denoting the masculine gender shall be deemed to include the feminine and neuter genders; words in the singular shall include the plural, and words in the plural shall include the singular; the use of a verb in the present tense shall include the future, if applicable.

(D) *General term.* A general term following specific enumeration of terms is not to be limited to the class enumerated unless expressly so limited.

§ 10.07 SEVERABILITY.

If any provision of this code as now or later amended or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the invalidity does not affect other provisions that can be given effect without the invalid provision or application.

§ 10.08 REFERENCE TO OTHER SECTIONS.

Whenever in one section reference is made to another section hereof, such reference shall extend and apply to the section referred to as subsequently amended, revised, recodified or renumbered unless the subject matter is changed or materially altered by the amendment or revision.

§ 10.09 REFERENCE TO OFFICES.

Reference to a public office or officer shall be deemed to apply to any office, officer or employee of this municipality exercising the powers, duties or functions contemplated in the provision, irrespective of any transfer of functions or change in the official title of the functionary.

§ 10.10 ERRORS AND OMISSIONS.

If a manifest error is discovered, consisting of the misspelling of any words; the omission of any word or words necessary to express the intention of the provisions affected; the use of a word or words to which no meaning can be attached; or the use of a word or words when another word or words was clearly intended to express such intent, such spelling shall be corrected and such word or words supplied, omitted, or substituted as will conform with the manifest intention, and the provisions shall have the same effect as though the correct words were contained in the text as originally published. No alteration shall be made or permitted if any question exists regarding the nature or extent of such error.

§ 10.11 OFFICIAL TIME.

The official time, as established by applicable state/federal laws, shall be the official time within this municipality for the transaction of all municipal business.

§ 10.12 REASONABLE TIME.

(A) In all cases where an ordinance requires an act to be done in a reasonable time or requires reasonable notice to be given, reasonable time or notice shall be deemed to mean the time which is necessary for a prompt performance of such act or the giving of such notice.

(B) The time within which an act is to be done, as herein provided, shall be computed by excluding the first day and including the last. If the last day be Sunday, it shall be excluded.

§ 10.13 ORDINANCES REPEALED.

This code, from and after its effective date, shall contain all of the provisions of a general nature pertaining to the subjects herein enumerated and embraced. All prior ordinances pertaining to the subjects treated by this code shall be deemed repealed from and after the effective date of this code.

§ 10.14 ORDINANCES UNAFFECTED.

All ordinances of a temporary or special nature and all other ordinances pertaining to subjects not embraced in this code shall remain in full force and effect unless herein repealed expressly or by necessary implication.

§ 10.15 EFFECTIVE DATE OF ORDINANCES.

All ordinances passed by the legislative body requiring publication shall take effect from and after the due publication thereof, unless otherwise expressly provided. Ordinances not requiring publication shall take effect from their passage, unless otherwise expressly provided.

§ 10.16 REPEAL OR MODIFICATION OF ORDINANCE.

(A) Whenever any ordinance or part of an ordinance shall be repealed or modified by a subsequent ordinance, the ordinance or part of an ordinance thus repealed or modified shall continue in force until the due publication of the ordinance repealing or modifying it when publication is required to give effect thereto, unless otherwise expressly provided.

(B) No suit, proceedings, right, fine, forfeiture or penalty instituted, created, given, secured or accrued under any ordinance previous to its repeal shall in anyway be affected, released or discharged, but may be prosecuted, enjoyed and recovered as fully as if the ordinance had continued in force unless it is otherwise expressly provided.

(C) When any ordinance repealing a former ordinance, clause or provision shall be itself repealed, the repeal shall not be construed to revive the former ordinance, clause or provision, unless it is expressly provided.

§ 10.17 ORDINANCES WHICH AMEND OR SUPPLEMENT CODE.*(A) Generally.*

(1) If the legislative body shall desire to amend any existing chapter or section of this code, the chapter or section shall be specifically repealed and a new chapter or section, containing the desired amendment, substituted in its place.

(2) Any ordinance which is proposed to add to the existing code a new chapter or section shall indicate, with reference to the arrangement of this code, the proper number of the chapter or section. In addition to the indication thereof as may appear in the text of the proposed ordinance, a caption or title shall be shown in concise form above the ordinance.

(B) Supplementation of code.

(1) By contract or by city personnel, supplements to this code shall be prepared and printed whenever authorized or directed by the City Council. A supplement to the code shall include all substantive permanent and general parts of ordinances passed by the City Council or adopted by initiative and referendum during the period covered by the supplement and all changes made thereby in the code, and shall also include all amendments to the Charter during the period. The pages of a supplement shall be so numbered that they will fit properly into the code and will, where necessary, replace pages which have become obsolete or partially obsolete, and the new pages shall be so prepared that, when they have been inserted, the code will be current through the date of the adoption of the latest ordinance included in the supplement.

(2) In preparing a supplement to this code, all portions of the code which have been repealed shall be excluded from the code by the omission thereof from reprinted pages.

(3) When preparing a supplement to this code, the codifier (meaning the person, agency or organization authorized to prepare the supplement) may make formal, nonsubstantive changes in ordinances and parts of ordinances included in the supplement, insofar as it is necessary to do so to embody them into a unified code. For example, the codifier may:

(a) Organize the ordinance material into appropriate subdivisions;

(b) Provide appropriate captions, headings and titles for sections and other subdivisions of the code printed in the supplement, and make changes in the captions, headings and titles;

(c) Assign appropriate numbers to sections and other subdivisions to be inserted in the code and, where necessary to accommodate new material, change existing section or other subdivision numbers;

(d) Change the words “this ordinance” or words of the same meaning to “this chapter,” “this subchapter,” “this division” and the like, as the case may be, or to “sections ___ to ___” (inserting section numbers to indicate the sections of the code which embody the substantive sections of the ordinance incorporated into the code); and

(e) Make other nonsubstantive changes necessary to preserve the original meaning of ordinance sections inserted into the code, but in no case shall the codifier make any change in the meaning or effect of ordinance material included in the supplement or already embodied in the code.

§ 10.18 SECTION HISTORIES; STATUTORY REFERENCES.

(A) As histories for the code sections, the specific number and passage date of the original ordinance, and the most recent three amending ordinances, if any, are listed following the text of the code section. Example: (‘97 Code, § 1-2) (Ord. 10, passed 5-13-60; Am. Ord. 15, passed 1-1-70; Am. Ord. 20, passed 1-1-80; Am. Ord. 25, passed 1-1-85)

(B) (1) If a statutory cite is included in the history, this indicates that the text of the section reads substantially the same as the statute. Example: (Tex. Loc. Gov’t Code, § 54.001) (‘97 Code, § 1-2) (Ord. 10, passed 1-17-80; Am. Ord. 20, passed 1-1-85).

(2) If a statutory cite is set forth as a “statutory reference” following the text of the section, this indicates that the reader should refer to that statute for further information.

Example:

§ 31.10 ORDINANCE VIOLATIONS.

This city has the authority to impose penalties for ordinance violations.
(‘69 Code, § 1-5) (Ord. 10, passed 1-1-80)

Statutory reference:

General municipality penalty, see Tex. Loc. Gov’t Code, § 54.001

§ 10.99 GENERAL PENALTY.

(A) Whenever in this code or in any ordinance of the city an act is prohibited or is made or declared to be unlawful or an offense or a misdemeanor, or whenever in such code or ordinance the doing of any act is required or the failure to do any act is declared to be unlawful, and no specific penalty is provided therefor, the violation of any such provision of this code or any such ordinance shall be punished by:

(1) A fine not to exceed \$2,000 in all cases arising under municipal ordinances that govern fire safety, zoning and public health and sanitation other than vegetation and litter violations;

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(2) A fine not to exceed \$2,000, if a motor vehicle is used in illegal dumping or an offense under the law or city ordinance violated by the illegal dumping;

(3) A fine not to exceed \$500 in all other cases, provided, however, that no penalty shall be greater or less than the penalty provided for the same or a similar offense under the laws of the state.

(B) Each day any violation of this code or of any ordinance shall continue shall constitute a separate offense. In the event that any such violation is designated as a nuisance under the provisions of this code, such nuisance may be summarily abated by the City Administrator or the Chief of Police or their assigns.

Statutory reference:

Municipal penalties, see Tex. Loc. Gov't Code, § 54.001