

ORDINANCE NO. 1804

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain sections 14-2, 14-3, 14-4, 14-5, 14-6, 14-7, 14-8, 14-13, 14-14, 14-15; to amend and reordain the first paragraph of section 14-12; to amend section 14-12 by adding thereto a new subsection numbered (2a); to amend section 14-12 by amending and reordaining existing subsection (2a) and (5); to amend section 14-12 by adding thereto new subsections entitled (3a), (3b), (3c), (3d), (3e), and (6); all of the above of Article I, Chapter 14 of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1963, as amended; which Chapter 14 relates to FIRE PREVENTION; which Article I relates to IN GENERAL; which section 14-2 relates to FIRE PREVENTION CODE, RECOMMENDED BY AMERICAN INSURANCE ASSOCIATION - ADOPTED; which section 14-3, relates to SAME - OFFICIAL COPY; which section 14-4 relates to SAME - COPIES FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION; which section 14-5 relates to SAME - DELETIONS, MODIFICATIONS, AMENDMENTS - OFFICIAL COPY; which section 14-6 relates to SAME - SAME - COPIES FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION; which section 14-7 relates to DEFINITIONS; which section 14-8 relates to ESTABLISHMENT AND DUTIES OF BUREAU OF FIRE PREVENTION; which section 14-12 relates to CHANGES IN THE FIRE PREVENTION CODE; which first paragraph thereof relates to DELETIONS, MODIFICATIONS AND AMENDMENTS; which new subsection (2a) relates to PERMIT REQUIRED TO USE FIRE HYDRANTS; which amended and reordained subsection (2a) now (2b)) relates to STAIRWAY DOORS TO BE LEFT CLOSED; which amended and reordained subsection (5) relates to HIGHLY INFLAMMABLE ARTICLES PROHIBITED; which new subsection 3(a) relates to AUTOMATIC SPRINKLER SYSTEM; which new subsection (3b) relates to STAND PIPES, REQUIRED HOSE AND APPLIANCES; which new subsection (3c) relates to RESTRICTED LOCATIONS; which new subsection (3d) relates to LOCATION OF PLANTS; which new subsection (3e) relates to LOCATION OF CONTAINERS; and which new subsection (6) relates to BLOCKED OPENINGS TO BE MARKED.

THE CITY COUNCIL OF ALEXANDRIA HEREBY ORDAINS:

Section 1. That Section 14-2, Article I, Chapter 14 of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1963, as amended, be and the same hereby is amended and reordained to read as follows:

Sec. 14-2. Fire Prevention Code, recommended by American Insurance Association - Adopted.

That certain code known as the Fire Prevention Code, recommended by the American Insurance Association, being particularly the 1970 edition thereof, and the whole thereof save and except such portions as are hereinafter deleted, modified or amended by section 14-12, be and the same hereby is adopted and incorporated herein as fully as if set out at length herein.

Section 2. That Section 14-3, Article I, Chapter 14 of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1963, as amended, be and the same hereby is amended and reordained to read as follows:

Sec. 14-3. Same--Official copy.

One copy of said Fire Prevention Code, to be known as the official copy, shall be manually signed on its cover by the mayor, the Fire Chief and the Fire Marshal and shall be filed and kept at all times in the office of the Fire Marshal at 900 Second Street, Alexandria, Virginia.

Section 3. That Section 14-4, Article I, Chapter 14 of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1963, as amended, be and the same hereby is amended and reordained to read as follows:

Sec. 14-4. Same--copies for public inspection.

At least five (5) copies of said Fire Prevention Code shall be placed in the office of the Fire Marshal at 900 Second Street, Alexandria, Virginia, where they may be viewed, examined and obtained between the hours of 9:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M. Monday through Friday inclusive of each week, except for holidays.

Section 4. That Section 14-5, Article I, Chapter 14 of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1963, as amended, be and the same hereby is amended and reordained to read as follows:

Sec. 14-5. Same--Deletions, modifications, amendments--Official copy.

One copy of each ordinance adopting deletions, modifications or amendments to said Fire Prevention Code, to be known as the official copy, shall be manually signed on its first page by the mayor, the Fire Chief and the Fire Marshal and filed and kept at all times in the office of the Fire Marshal at 900 Second Street, Alexandria, Virginia.

Section 5. That Section 14-6, Article I, Chapter 14 of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1963, as amended, be and the same hereby is amended and reordained to read as follows:

Sec. 14-6. Same--Same--Copies for public inspection.

At least five (5) copies of each ordinance adopting deletions, modifications and amendments to said Fire Prevention Code shall be placed in the office of the Fire Marshal at 900 Second Street, Alexandria, Virginia, where they may be viewed, examined and obtained between the hours of 9:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M. Monday through Friday inclusive of each week, except for holidays.

Section 6. That Section 14-7, Article I, Chapter 14 of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1963, as amended, be and the same hereby is amended and reordained to read as follows:

Sec. 14-7. Definitions.

Chief of the Bureau of Fire Prevention. Whenever the words "the chief of the bureau of fire prevention" are used in the Fire Prevention Code they shall be held to mean the Fire Marshal.

Chief of the Fire Department. Whenever the words "the chief of the fire department" are used in the Fire Prevention Code they shall be held to mean the Fire Chief of the City of Alexandria, Virginia.

Corporation counsel. Whenever the term "corporation counsel" is used in the Fire Prevention Code, it shall be held to mean the city attorney of the City of Alexandria, Virginia.

Inspector shall mean any duly authorized representative of the Fire Chief or Fire Marshal of the City of Alexandria, Virginia.

Fire Chief shall mean the Fire Chief of the City of Alexandria, Virginia.

Fire Marshal shall mean the Fire Marshal of the City of Alexandria, Virginia.

Municipality. Whenever the word "municipality" is used in the Fire Prevention Code, it shall be held to mean the City of Alexandria, Virginia.

Section 7. That Section 14-8, Article I, Chapter 14 of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1963, as amended, be and the same hereby is amended and reordained to read as follows:

Section 14-8. Establishment and duties of bureau of fire prevention.

(1) The Fire Prevention Code shall, except where otherwise indicated, be enforced by the bureau of fire prevention under the fire department of the City of Alexandria which bureau is hereby established and which shall be operated by the Fire Marshal under the supervision of the Fire Chief.

(2) The Fire Marshal shall be appointed and removed by the city manager as provided by law.

(3) The Fire Chief may detail such members of the fire department as inspectors as shall from time to time be necessary. The Fire Chief shall recommend to the city council the employment of technical inspectors, who, when such authorization is made, shall be selected through an examination to determine their fitness for the position. The examination shall be open to members and nonmembers of the fire department, and appointments made after examination shall be for an indefinite term with removal only for cause.

(4) The Fire Marshal shall, whenever requested by the city manager, make a report to the city manager through the Fire Chief of proceedings under this code and the activities of the bureau of fire prevention. The Fire Marshal, shall, through the Fire Chief, at any time recommend amendments to this code, which in the judgment of the Fire Marshal are desirable.

Section 8. That the first paragraph of Section 14-12, Article I, Chapter 14 of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1963, as amended, be and the same hereby is amended and reordained to read as follows:

Sec. 14-12. Changes in the Fire Prevention Code.

That the code known as the Fire Prevention Code, 1970 edition, recommended by the American Insurance Association, which is adopted and incorporated herein by section 14-2 of article I, chapter 14 of the City Code, be and the same hereby is deleted, modified and amended in the following respects:

Section 9. That Section 14-12, Article I, Chapter 14 of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1963, as amended, be and the same hereby is amended by adding thereto a new subsection numbered (2a) to read as follows:

(2a) Article I is amended by adding thereto a new section numbered 1.14 to read:

Section 1.14. Permit required to use fire hydrants.

It shall be unlawful for any person to use any city fire hydrant within the City of Alexandria without first having paid the city a fee of \$15.00 and obtained a permit from the Alexandria Fire Department. A separate permit shall be required for each hydrant used and each time a hydrant is used. Application for such permits may be made at the Fire Department on forms provided for such purpose. Any such permit shall be subject to conditions and specifications imposed by the Fire Chief for the purpose of protecting equipment and preventing water leakage. No permit shall be issued unless approval to use water shall first have been obtained from the Alexandria Water Company in each instance.

A permit holder shall be liable to the city for the costs of labor and material for any repair or replacement needed after hydrant use. Any such permit must be in the possession of the actual user of a hydrant at the time of use. The provisions of section 1.14 shall not apply to personnel of fire departments, public works departments or a water company.

Section 10. That subsection (2a), Section 14-12, Article I, Chapter 14 of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1963, as amended, be and the same hereby is amended and reordained to read as follows:

(2b) Section 11.4 is amended to read:

Section 11.4. Stairway doors to be left closed.

It shall be unlawful to block open, other than by approved fusible link or smoke activated devices, any stairway enclosure door which leads to or from a floor of the building and which by law is required to be self closing.

Section 11. That Section 14-12, Article 1, Chapter 14 of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1963, as amended, be and the same hereby is amended by adding thereto a new subsection numbered (3a) to read as follows:

(3a) Section 14.4 entitled Automatic Sprinkler Systems is deleted.

Section 12. That Section 14-12, Article I, Chapter 14 of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1963, as amended, be and the same hereby is amended by adding thereto a new subsection numbered (3b) to read as follows:

(3b) Section 14.5 entitled Standpipes is amended to read:

Section 14.5. Standpipes, Required Hose and Appliances.

All buildings equipped with standpipes shall provide and maintain a fire emergency hose kit located inside the building within 50 feet of the main entrance so as to be immediately accessible to the municipal fire department, or other qualified persons, for emergency use. The fire emergency hose kit shall contain two 100 foot sections of 1-1/2 inch single-jacket fire hose with couplings, a variable pattern constant flow fog nozzle and shut off valve, 2 spanner wrenches, a 2-1/2 inch to 1-1/2 inch reducer, a 2-1/2 inch standpipe gate valve operating handle, a 1-1/2 inch standpipe gate valve operating handle, and a wooden container. All hose and appliances shall comply with the standards of the fire department.

Section 13. That Section 14-12, Article I, Chapter 14 of the Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1963, as amended, be and the same hereby is amended by adding thereto a new subsection numbered (3c) to read as follows:

(3c) That subsection a. of section 16.22 is amended to read:

a. Restricted locations. The storage of Class I liquids in above-ground tanks outside of buildings is prohibited within the City of Alexandria, Virginia, except for I-1 industrial and I-2 industrial zones and then only with the issuance of a special use permit as specified in sections 42-68 to 42-71 of the City Code.

Section 14. That Section 14-12, Article I, Chapter 14 of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1963, as amended, be and the same hereby is amended by adding thereto a new subsection numbered (3d) to read as follows:

(3d) That section 16.61 entitled Location of Plants is amended to read:

Section 16.61. Location of Plants.

No new bulk plants shall be constructed within the City of Alexandria, Virginia, except for I-1 industrial and I-2 industrial zones and then only with the issuance of a special use permit as specified in sections 42-68 to 42-71 of the City Code.

Section 15. That Section 14-12, Article I, Chapter 14 of the Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1963 as amended, be and the same hereby is amended by adding thereto a new subsection numbered (3e) to read as follows:

(3e) That subsection a. of section 21.6 is amended to read:

a. Within the City of Alexandria, Virginia, the aggregate capacity of any one installation shall not exceed 2,000 gallons water capacity; except that in particular installations this capacity limit may be altered at the discretion of the Fire Chief after consideration of special features such as topographical conditions, nature of occupancy and proximity to buildings, capacity of proposed tanks, degree of private fire protection to be provided and facilities of the Fire Department.

Section 16. That subsection (5), Section 14-12, Article I, Chapter 14 of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, be and the same hereby is amended and reordained to read:

(5) Article 28 is amended by adding thereto a new section numbered 28.16 to read:

Section 28.16. Highly flammable articles prohibited.

No person shall manufacture, transport, store, sell, use or give away any article or item made of highly flammable fiber or material except as otherwise provided for in this chapter or by law. For the purpose of this section any article or item shall be deemed highly flammable which when placed in a horizontal position and subjected to a standard butane flame from a micro burner has a flame spread exceeding 6 inches in 7 seconds.

Section 17. That Section 14-12, Article I, Chapter 14 of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1963, as amended, be and the same hereby is amended by adding thereto a new subsection (6) to read as follows:

(6) Article 28 is amended by adding thereto a new section numbered 28.18 to read:

Section 28.17. Blocked openings to be marked.

Any door, window or outside opening closed to normal or forcible ingress of the Fire Department, by being blocked by storage or secured, shall be plainly marked with the word "BLOCKED" in red letters at least six (6) inches in height on a white background; such warning sign to be so placed as to be easily discernible from outside in the building. This section shall not apply to any building which is used exclusively for residential purposes.

Section 18. That Section 14-13, Article I, Chapter 14 of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1963, as amended, be and the same hereby is amended and reordained to read as follows:

Sec. 14-13. Modifications.

The Fire Chief shall have power to modify any of the provisions of the Fire Prevention Code upon application in writing by the owner or lessee, or his duly authorized agent, when there are practical difficulties in the way of carrying out the strict letter of the code, provided that the spirit of the code shall be observed, public safety secured, and substantial justice done. The particulars of such modification when granted or allowed and the decision of the Fire Chief thereon shall be entered upon the records of the department and a signed copy shall be furnished the applicant.

Section 19. That Section 14-14, Article I, Chapter 14 of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1963, as amended, be and the same hereby is amended and reordained to read as follows:

Sec. 14-14. Appeals.

Whenever the Fire Marshal shall disapprove an application or refuse to grant a permit applied for, or when it is claimed that the provisions of the code do not apply or that the true intent and meaning of the code have been misconstrued or wrongly interpreted, the applicant may appeal from the decision of the Fire Marshal to the city council, provided such applicant shall, within thirty (30) days from the date of the decision appealed, file in the office of the city clerk a signed, written notice of appeal setting forth a brief statement of the reasons therefor. In the event such an appeal is filed, the city council shall schedule at least one public hearing on the matter. The city council may affirm, reverse or modify the decision of the Fire Marshal.

Section 20. That Section 14-15, Article I, Chapter 14 of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1963, as amended, be and the same hereby is amended and reordained to read as follows:

Sec. 14-15. New materials, processes or occupancies which may require permits.

The city manager, the Fire Chief or his representative and the Fire Marshal shall act as a committee to determine and specify, after giving affected persons an opportunity to be heard, any new materials, processes or occupancies, which shall require permits, in addition to those now enumerated in said code. The Fire Marshal shall post such list in a conspicuous place in his office, and distribute copies thereof to interested persons.

Section 21. That this ordinance shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation published in the city not later than five days following its introduction together with a notice containing the time and place for a public hearing. The Clerk of the Council shall note the date of introduction and first reading, the date of publication, the date of the public hearing, and the date of the second reading and final passage in the minutes of the meeting. This ordinance shall become effective the date of its final passage.

CHARLES E. BEATLEY, JR.  
MAYOR

FINAL PASSAGE: September 12, 1972