

Chapter 91

HEALTH AND SANITATION

[HISTORY: Adopted by the Town Council of the Town of Grottoes 2-3-1970 as Title 14 of the 1970 Ordinances of the Town of Grottoes. Amendments noted where applicable.]

GENERAL REFERENCES

Nuisances — See Ch. 117.

§ 91-1. Health officer.

- A. The Council may appoint a Town Health Officer who shall hold office for a two-year period beginning on the first day of October of each even-numbered year or until his successor is elected and qualified. The Health Officer shall be a licensed physician in good standing. His compensation shall be set by the Council. [Amended 7-8-1996]
- B. It shall be the general duty of the Health Officer to keep himself, the Public Health Committee and the Council informed and advised as to the general health and sanitation conditions prevailing within the Town and outside the Town insofar as it may affect the health of the citizens. The Public Health Committee, through its duly delegated authorities, shall see that all state laws and ordinances of the Town in general, the general object of which are to safeguard public health against injurious effects arising from impurities, contamination, unsanitary or other objectionable conditions affecting the food or water supply of the Town, are strictly enforced.

§ 91-2. New privies and sanitary closets prohibited.

After the effective date of this chapter, no new privies or sanitary closets shall be constructed for use within the Town of Grottoes in connection with any permanent residence or building within the Town.

§ 91-3. Sanitation required.

- A. No house or other building shall be used for human habitation in the Town, nor occupied or rented or leased for occupancy, unless and until said house or building shall be properly connected with a septic tank or be provided with a sanitary closet or privy. Type or types of privies may be determined by the Health Committee of the Council and must meet specifications outlined by the State Board of Health. The Public Health Committee and any other duly designated Health Officer may inspect privies, sanitary closets and septic tanks at any time.
- B. It shall be unlawful to maintain or to rent or lease any recreation or construction camp or camping place for tourists or to use any building or tent for protracted meetings until such camps or buildings are supplied with sanitary closets.

§ 91-4. Maintenance of privies and portable toilets.

- A. All privies shall be kept in a clean and sanitary condition, and all containers or privy pails shall be emptied as often as necessary. In no event shall privy pails be allowed to overflow. All privies, open vaults, sink and cesspools located within the Town shall be cleaned out, disinfected and filled whenever the Health Officer shall require it.
- B. Each privy in the Town shall be well-roofed and so constructed as to prevent access by fowls, animals and flies to the excrement and shall be provided with proper receptacles meeting the state requirement for excrement and so constructed that it shall be sufficiently strong and watertight and adequately furnished with handles.

§ 91-5. Dry closets.

- A. All dry closets that open for the escape of filth on any street or public alley of the Town or into the channel of any creek or drain, and all dry closets that stand within 30 feet of the margin of any street or within 10 feet of any alley, channel, creek or drain having their opening for the escape of filth toward such alley, channel, creek or drain and all dry closets abutting upon a street or public alley in which there is located or which is within 300 feet of a sewer, except where sewer connection is not practical, are hereby declared to be nuisances.
- B. Every dry closet within the Town shall be kept in repair by the owner of the premises on which it is located in accordance with the state law. The owner as well as the occupant of every premises on a dry closet is situate shall have the duty to keep the same clean and in a sanitary condition. Any property owner or tenant violating any provision of this section shall be fined as provided in § 91-9 for each day that he or she shall fail to repair or keep such dry closet in a clean and sanitary condition after notice by any Town officer to do so.¹ [Amended 7-8-1996]

§ 91-6. Nuisances.

Any substance, thing or matter which, in the opinion of the Health Officer, is or may become injurious to health shall be deemed a nuisance. The health officer may require the person causing such nuisance, or the owner or occupant of the premises where the same is, to correct the situation immediately.

§ 91-7. Stagnant water. [Amended 7-8-1996]

If an accumulation of stagnant water or a marshy place exists upon any premises in the Town, the owner thereof shall drain such stagnant water or fill such marshy place within 30 days after notice from the Health Officer to do so. If the situation is such that it is impractical to fill or drain the stagnant water or marshy place, it shall be treated as the Health Officer may direct.

§ 91-8. Drains to be kept clean.

¹. Editor's Note: Original Article III, Regulation of Milk, which immediately followed this subsection, was deleted 7-8-1996.

If upon the ground in the Town there exists a drain or running water, the owner thereof or of abutting property shall keep the same clean and free of and unobstructed by filth, garbage, vegetation or other nuisance.

§ 91-9. Violations and penalties. [Added 7-8-1996]

Any person who violates the provisions of this chapter shall, upon conviction, be guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor, with penalties as provided in § 1-7, General penalty, of Chapter 1, General Provisions.

§ 91-10. Condemnation. [Added 7-12-1999]

- A. The owners of property shall, at such time or times as the Town Council may prescribe, remove, repair or secure any building, wall or any other structure which might endanger the public health or safety of the Town of Grottoes.
- B. The Town, through its own agents or employees, may remove, repair or secure any building, wall or any other structure which might endanger the public health or safety of other residents of the Town of Grottoes wherein the owner of such property, after reasonable notice and a reasonable time to do so, has failed to remove, repair or secure said building, wall or other structure. In the interim period, the structure will be classified as condemned and all occupants must vacate the structure until repairs are made and inspected by a representative of the Town of Grottoes.
- C. In the event that the Town, through its own agents or employees, removes, repairs or secures any building, wall or any other structure after complying with the notice provisions of this section, the cost or expenses thereof shall be chargeable to and paid by the owners of such property and may be collected by the Town as taxes and levies are collected.
- D. Every charge authorized by this section with which the owner of any such property shall have been assessed and which remains unpaid shall constitute a lien against such property ranking on a parity with liens for unpaid local taxes and enforced in the same manner as provided in Articles 3 and 4 of Chapter 39 of Title 58.1 of the Code of Virginia.