

TITLE VI

Chapter 27

PLUMBING

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27.01 PLUMBING CODE

The Wisconsin Administrative Code as it relates to municipal plumbing is hereby incorporated by reference.

27.02 PERMITS

- (1) Any person intending to make connection to the city water system, including its sewage facility shall make application on permit forms furnished by the clerk. Such application must be filed with the clerk and approved before work can commence.
- (2) The application form shall provide sufficient information to allow the Building Inspector to make a determination on whether or not the connection should be made.
- (3) A permit fee will be calculated by the Building Inspector.
- (4) No connection to the City water system will be authorized unless such work is to be performed by a licensed plumber. City employees and independent contractors working under the direction of the city shall be exempt from this provision.

27.025 PRIVATE WELL ABANDONMENT

- (1) Public Policy. Sound public policy requires that private wells be properly utilized and maintained. The purpose of this code section is to prevent unused and / or improperly constructed wells from serving as a passage for contaminated surface or near surface waters or other materials to reach useable ground water.
- (2) Permits.
 - (A) All private wells located on any premises, which is served by the Blair Municipal Water Utility, may only be maintained and operated if a permit has been granted by the city clerk. All other wells must be considered a non-conforming use under Chapter 46 and shall be properly filled and sealed.
 - (B) A permit may be granted to a well owner to operate the well for a period of time not to exceed five (5) years if:
 - 1.) The application is appropriately submitted in the form provided and a fee as established by the council, tendered with the application.

- 2.) No physical connection shall exist between the piping of the Blair Municipal Water Utility and the private well.
 - 3.) There is satisfactory evidence that the well is being properly maintained and operated.
- (C) Chapter 59, entitled Administrative Procedures, shall apply to this chapter of the Code.
- (3) Methods. Wells which are abandoned or are to be abandoned shall be filled according to the procedures outlined in NR 812, Wisconsin Administrative Code. The pump and piping must be removed and the well checked for obstructions prior to plugging. Any obstruction or liner must be removed.
 - (4) Reports and Inspection. A well abandonment report must be submitted by the well owner to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources on forms provided by the City Clerk. The report shall be submitted within a reasonable time upon completion of the filling of the well. The procedures used in filling the well are subject to inspection by the City Clerk or his / her designate.
 - (5) Existing Wells. Wells, which are in existence and are being properly maintained and operated, shall be exempt from this ordinance until June 1, 1987. Thereafter, owners of such existing wells shall comply with the terms of this ordinance.
 - (6) Renewal of Permit. Permits issued under the terms of this ordinance shall be automatically renewed at the end of the five (5) year period, provided that the well or wells in question are being properly maintained and operated. The council may provide for a nominal renewal fee.
 - (7) Penalties. Section 27.05 of this chapter shall apply to any person who violates this chapter. Subject, however, to the provisions that each twenty-four (24) hour period during which a violation exists shall be deemed to constitute a separate offense.

27.026

WELL ABANDONMENT and WELL OPERATION PERMIT

- (1) Purpose. To protect public health, safety and welfare and to prevent contamination of groundwater by assuring that unused, unsafe or non-complying wells, or wells which may act as conduits for contamination of groundwater, or wells which may be illegally cross-connected to the municipal water system, are properly maintained or abandoned.
- (2) Applicability. This Ordinance applies to all wells located on premises served by the City of Blair municipal water system. Utility customers outside the jurisdiction of the municipal system may be required under contract agreement or utility rule to adopt and enforce equivalent ordinances within their jurisdictions for purpose stated in Section 1 above.
- (3) Definitions “Municipal water system” means a community water system owned by a city, village, county, town, town sanitary district, utility district, public inland lake and rehabilitation district, municipal water district or a federal, state, county, or municipally owned institution or congregate care or correction facility, or a privately owned water utility serving the foregoing.

- (A) “Non-complying” means a well or pump installation which does not comply with s. NR 812.42, Wisconsin Administrative Code, Standards for Existing Installations, and which has not been granted a variance pursuant to s. NR 812.43, Wisconsin Administrative Code.
 - (B) “Pump installation” means the pump and related equipment used for withdrawing water from a well, including the discharge piping, the underground connections, pitless adapters, pressure tanks, pits, sampling faucets and well seals or caps.
 - (C) “Unsafe” well or pump installation means one which produces water that is contaminated with bacteria or with substances, which exceed the drinking water standards of NR 809, Wisconsin Administrative Code, or for which a Health Advisory has been issued by the Department of Natural Resources.
 - (D) “Unused” well or pump installation means one which is not used or does not have a functional pumping system.
 - (E) “Well Abandonment” means the proper filling and sealing of a well according to the provisions of NR 812.26, Wisconsin Administrative Code.
- (4) Abandonment Required. All wells on premises served by the municipal water system shall be properly abandoned in accordance with Section 6 of this Ordinance by June 30, 2005 or not later than one hundred twenty (120) days from the date of connection to the municipal water system, unless a valid well operation permit has been issued to the well owner by the City of Blair under terms of Section 5 of this Ordinance.
- (5) Well Operation Permit. Owners, who wish to retain their wells for any use on premises served by the municipal water system, shall make application for a well operation permit for each well no later than one hundred twenty (120) days after connection to the municipal water system. The City of Blair shall grant a permit to a well owner to operate a well for a period not to exceed five (5) years, providing all conditions of this Section are met. A well operation permit may be renewed by submitting an application verifying that the conditions of this Section are met. The City of Blair or its agent may conduct inspections and water quality tests or require inspections and water quality tests to be conducted at the applicant’s expense to obtain or verify information necessary for consideration of a permit application or renewal. Permit applications and renewals shall be made on forms provided by the clerk. A fee of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) must accompany all initial and renewal applications.
- (A) The well and pump installation shall meet the Standards for Existing Installations described in NR 812.42, Wisconsin Administrative Code.
 - (B) The well and pump shall have a history of producing safe water evidenced by at least one (1) E.coli form bacteria sample. In areas where the Department of Natural Resources has determined that groundwater aquifers are contaminated with substances other than bacteria, additional chemical tests may be required to document the safety of the water.
 - (C) There shall be no cross-connections between the well’s pump installation or distribution piping and the municipal water system.

- (D) The water from the private well shall not discharge into a drain leading directly to a public sewer utility unless properly metered and authorized by the sewer utility.
 - (E) The private well shall have a functional pumping system.
 - (F) The proposed use of the private well shall be justified as reasonable in addition to water provided by the municipal water system.
- (6) Abandonment Procedures:
- (A) All wells abandoned under the jurisdiction of this Ordinance shall be done according to the procedures and methods of s. NR 812.26, Wisconsin Administrative Code. All debris, pumps, piping, unsealed liners and any other obstructions, which may interfere with sealing operations, shall be removed prior to abandonment.
 - (B) The owner of the well, or the owner's agent, may be required to obtain a well abandonment permit prior to any well abandonment and shall notify the clerk at least forty-eight (48) hours in advance of any well abandonment activities. The abandonment of the well may be observed or verified by personnel of the municipal system.
 - (C) An abandonment report form, supplied by the Department of Natural Resources, shall be submitted by the well owner to the clerk and the Department of Natural Resources within thirty (30) days of the completion of the well abandonment.

27.03 STREET OPENINGS

Street openings are governed by Chapters 22, 23 and 24 of these Ordinances.

27.04 COMPLIANCE WITH CITY ZONING AND MAPPING

- (1) In order to ensure the orderly growth and expansion of the city, compliance with city zoning and mapping is required. To this end, the city requires persons to make proper and complete applications for water hook ups, building permits and the like. Failure to use a licensed plumber or otherwise comply with these requirements will constitute grounds for denial of the application.
- (2) In a similar manner, if a plumber fails to submit any required report, the application may be denied.

27.05 VIOLATIONS

Any party violating any provision of this Chapter shall, upon conviction, be punished by forfeiture of not less than one hundred dollars (\$100.00) nor more than five hundred dollars (\$500.00) and the cost of prosecution. Each day of violation is a separate offense. If any party fails to comply with this Chapter for more than thirty (30) days after receiving written notice of the violation, the City may impose a penalty and act to remedy the matter and the expense incurred shall be assessed as a special tax against the property.

April 3, 2017 – amend Section 27.025 subsection of (2)(b) by deleting (2) and substituting (5)
April 3, 2017 – amend Section 27.025 subsection (6) by deleting (2) and substituting (5)
August 7, 2023 – deleted Section 27.026(7)
August 7, 2023 – amended Section 27.05
November 6, 2023 – amended Section 27.02(2) and (3)