

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HAMBURG, IOWA: AN
ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF HAMBURG,
IOWA, BY ADDING A NEW CHAPTER MUNICIPAL INFRACTIONS, AMENDING
NUISANCE ABATEMENT PROCEDURE AND DANGEROUS BUILDINGS**

SECTION 1. NEW SECTION. The Code of Ordinances of the City of Hamburg, Iowa, is amended by adding a new Chapter 4, which is hereby adopted to read as follows:

CHAPTER 4
MUNICIPAL INFRACTIONS

4.01 Municipal Infraction
4.02 Environmental Violation
4.03 Penalties

4.04 Civil Citations
4.05 Alternative Relief
4.06 Alternative Penalties

ADOPTED

3-10-25

4.01 MUNICIPAL INFRACTION. A violation of this Code of Ordinances or any ordinance or code herein adopted by reference or the omission or failure to perform any act or duty required by the same, with the exception of those provisions specifically provided under State law as a felony, an aggravated misdemeanor, or a serious misdemeanor, or a simple misdemeanor under Chapters 687 through 747 of the *Code of Iowa*, is a municipal infraction punishable by civil penalty as provided herein.[†]

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 364.22[3])

4.02 ENVIRONMENTAL VIOLATION. A municipal infraction that is a violation of Chapter 455B of the *Code of Iowa* or of a standard established by the City in consultation with the Department of Natural Resources, or both, may be classified as an environmental violation. However, the provisions of this section shall not be applicable until the City has offered to participate in informal negotiations regarding the violation or to the following specific violations:

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 364.22[1])

1. A violation arising from noncompliance with a pretreatment standard or requirement referred to in 40 C.F.R. §403.8.
2. The discharge of airborne residue from grain, created by the handling, drying, or storing of grain, by a person not engaged in the industrial production or manufacturing of grain products.
3. The discharge of airborne residue from grain, created by the handling, drying, or storing of grain, by a person engaged in such industrial production or manufacturing if such discharge occurs from September 15 to January 15.

4.03 PENALTIES. A municipal infraction is punishable by the following civil penalties:

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 364.22[1])

1. Standard Civil Penalties.
 - A. First offense – not to exceed \$750.00.
 - B. Each repeat offense – not to exceed \$1,000.00.

Each day that a violation occurs or is permitted to exist constitutes a repeat offense.

2. Special Civil Penalties.

A. A municipal infraction arising from noncompliance with a pretreatment standard or requirement, referred to in 40 C.F.R. §403.8, by an industrial user is punishable by a penalty of not more than \$1,000.00 for each day a violation exists or continues.

B. A municipal infraction classified as an environmental violation is punishable by a penalty of not more than \$1,000.00 for each occurrence. However, an environmental violation is not subject to such penalty if all of the following conditions are satisfied:

- (1) The violation results solely from conducting an initial startup, cleaning, repairing, performing scheduled maintenance, testing, or conducting a shutdown of either equipment causing the violation or the equipment designed to reduce or eliminate the violation.
- (2) The City is notified of the violation within 24 hours from the time that the violation begins.
- (3) The violation does not continue in existence for more than eight hours.

4.04 CIVIL CITATIONS. Any officer authorized by the City to enforce this Code of Ordinances may issue a civil citation to a person who commits a municipal infraction. A copy of the citation may be served by personal service as provided in Rule of Civil Procedure 1.305, by certified mail addressed to the defendant at defendant's last known mailing address, return receipt requested, or by publication in the manner as provided in Rule of Civil Procedure 1.310 and subject to the conditions of Rule of Civil Procedure 1.311. A copy of the citation shall be retained by the issuing officer, and the original citation shall be sent to the Clerk of the District Court. The citation shall serve as notification that a civil offense has been committed and shall contain the following information:

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 364.22[4])

1. The name and address of the defendant.
2. The name or description of the infraction attested to by the officer issuing the citation.
3. The location and time of the infraction.
4. The amount of civil penalty to be assessed or the alternative relief sought, or both.
5. The manner, location, and time in which the penalty may be paid.
6. The time and place of court appearance.
7. The penalty for failure to appear in court.
8. The legal description of the affected real property, if applicable.

If the citation affects real property and charges a violation relating to the condition of the property, including a building code violation, a local housing regulation violation, a housing code violation, or a public health or safety violation, after filing the citation with the Clerk of the District Court, the City shall also file the citation in the office of the County Treasurer.

4.05 ALTERNATIVE RELIEF. Seeking a civil penalty as authorized in this chapter does not preclude the City from seeking alternative relief from the court in the same action. Such alternative relief may include, but is not limited to, an order for abatement or injunctive relief.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 364.22[9])

4.06 ALTERNATIVE PENALTIES. This chapter does not preclude a peace officer from issuing a criminal citation for a violation of this Code of Ordinances or regulation if criminal penalties are also provided for the violation. Nor does it preclude or limit the authority of the City to enforce the provisions of this Code of Ordinances by criminal sanctions or other lawful means.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 364.22[12])

SECTION 2. CHAPTER REPEALED. Chapter 50 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Hamburg, Iowa, is hereby repealed and the following adopted in lieu thereof Chapter 50,

CHAPTER 50

NUISANCE ABATEMENT PROCEDURE

50.01 Definition of Nuisance
50.02 Nuisances Enumerated
50.03 Other Conditions
50.04 Nuisances Prohibited

50.05 Nuisance Abatement
50.06 Abatement of Nuisance by Written Notice
50.07 Municipal Infraction Abatement Procedure

50.01 DEFINITION OF NUISANCE. Whatever is injurious to health, indecent, or unreasonably offensive to the senses, or an obstruction to the free use of property so as essentially to interfere unreasonably with the comfortable enjoyment of life or property is a nuisance.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 657.1)

50.02 NUISANCES ENUMERATED. The following subsections include, but do not limit, the conditions that are deemed to be nuisances in the City:

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 657.2)

1. **Offensive Smells.** Erecting, continuing, or using any building or other place for the exercise of any trade, employment, or manufacture that, by occasioning noxious exhalations, unreasonably offensive smells, or other annoyances, becomes injurious and dangerous to the health, comfort, or property of individuals or the public.
2. **Filth or Noisome Substance.** Causing or suffering any offal, filth, or noisome substance to be collected or to remain in any place to the prejudice of others.
3. **Impeding Passage of Navigable River.** Obstructing or impeding without legal authority the passage of any navigable river, harbor, or collection of water.
4. **Water Pollution.** Corrupting or rendering unwholesome or impure the water of any river, stream, or pond, or unlawfully diverting the same from its natural course or state, to the injury or prejudice of others.
5. **Blocking Public and Private Ways.** Obstructing or encumbering, by fences, buildings or otherwise, the public roads, private ways, streets, alleys, commons, landing places, or burying grounds.
6. **Billboards.** Billboards, signboards, and advertising signs, whether erected and constructed on public or private property, that so obstruct and impair the view of any portion or part of a public street, avenue, highway, boulevard, or alley or of a railroad or street railway track as to render dangerous the use thereof. **(See also Section 62.06)**
7. **Storing of Flammable Junk.** Depositing or storing of flammable junk, such as old rags, rope, cordage, rubber, bones and paper, by dealers in such articles within the fire limits of the City, unless in a building of fireproof construction. **(See also Chapter 51)**
8. **Air Pollution.** Emission of dense smoke, noxious fumes, or fly ash.
9. **Weeds, Brush.** Dense growth of all weeds, vines, brush, or other vegetation in the City so as to constitute a health, safety, or fire hazard.

10. Dutch Elm Disease. Trees infected with Dutch elm disease. (See also Chapter 151)
11. Airport Air Space. Any object or structure hereafter erected within 1,000 feet of the limits of any municipal or regularly established airport or landing place, which may endanger or obstruct aerial navigation including take-off and landing, unless such object or structure constitutes a proper use or enjoyment of the land on which the same is located.
12. Houses of Ill Fame. Houses of ill fame, kept for the purpose of prostitution and lewdness; gambling houses; places resorted to by persons participating in criminal gang activity prohibited by Chapter 723A of the *Code of Iowa* or places resorted to by persons using controlled substances, as defined in Section 124.101 of the *Code of Iowa*, in violation of law, or houses where drunkenness, quarreling, fighting, or breaches of the peace are carried on or permitted to the disturbance of others.

50.03 OTHER CONDITIONS. The following chapters of this Code of Ordinances contain regulations prohibiting or restricting other conditions that are deemed to be nuisances:

1. Junk and Junk Vehicles (See Chapter 51)
2. Storage and Disposal of Solid Waste (See Chapter 105)
3. Dangerous Buildings (See Chapter 145)
4. Trees (See Chapter 151)
5. Construction and Repair of Buildings (See Chapter 155, if applicable)

50.04 NUISANCES PROHIBITED. The creation or maintenance of a nuisance is prohibited, and a nuisance, public or private, may be abated in the manner provided for in this chapter or State law.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 657.3)

50.05 NUISANCE ABATEMENT. Whenever any authorized municipal officer finds that a nuisance exists, such officer has the authority to determine on a case-by-case basis whether to utilize the nuisance abatement procedure described in Section 50.06 of this chapter or the municipal infraction procedure referred to in Section 50.07.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 364.12[3h])

50.06 ABATEMENT OF NUISANCE BY WRITTEN NOTICE. Any nuisance, public or private, may be abated in the manner provided for in this section:

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 364.12[3h])

1. Contents of Notice to Property Owner. The notice to abate shall contain: †
 - A. Description of Nuisance. A description of what constitutes the nuisance.
 - B. Location of Nuisance. The location of the nuisance.
 - C. Acts Necessary to Abate. A statement of the act or acts necessary to abate the nuisance.
 - D. Reasonable Time. A reasonable time within which to complete the abatement.
 - E. Assessment of City Costs. A statement that if the nuisance or condition is not abated as directed and no request for hearing is made within the time prescribed, the City will abate it and assess the costs against the property owner.
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2. Method of Service. The notice may be in the form of an ordinance or sent by certified mail to the property owner.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 364.12[3h])

3. Request for Hearing. Any person ordered to abate a nuisance may have a hearing with the Council as to whether a nuisance exists. A request for a hearing must be made in writing and delivered to the Clerk within the time stated in the notice, or it will be conclusively presumed that a nuisance exists and it must be abated as ordered. The hearing will be before the Council at a time and place fixed by the Council. The findings of the Council shall be conclusive and, if a nuisance is found to exist, it shall be ordered abated within a reasonable time under the circumstances.

4. Abatement in Emergency. If it is determined that an emergency exists by reason of the continuing maintenance of the nuisance or condition, the City may perform any action that may be required under this chapter without prior notice. The City shall assess the costs as provided in Subsection 6 of this section after notice to the property owner under the applicable provisions of Subsections 1 and 2, and the hearing as provided in Subsection 3.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 364.12[3h])

5. Abatement by City. If the person notified to abate a nuisance or condition neglects or fails to abate as directed, the City may perform the required action to abate, keeping an accurate account of the expense incurred. The itemized expense account shall be filed with the Clerk, who shall pay such expenses on behalf of the City.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 364.12[3h])

6. Collection of Costs. The Clerk shall send a statement of the total expense incurred by certified mail to the property owner who has failed to abide by the notice to abate, and if the amount shown by the statement has not been paid within one month, the Clerk shall certify the costs to the County Treasurer and such costs shall then be collected with, and in the same manner as, general property taxes.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 364.12[3h])

7. Installment Payment of Cost of Abatement. If the amount expended to abate the nuisance or condition exceeds \$500.00, the City may permit the assessment to be paid in up to 10 annual installments, to be paid in the same manner and with the same interest rates provided for assessments against benefited property under State law.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 364.13)

8. Failure to Abate. Any person causing or maintaining a nuisance who shall fail or refuse to abate or remove the same within the reasonable time required and specified in the notice to abate is in violation of this Code of Ordinances.

50.07 MUNICIPAL INFRACTION ABATEMENT PROCEDURE. In lieu of the abatement procedures set forth in Section 50.06, the requirements of this chapter may be enforced under the procedures applicable to municipal infractions as set forth in Chapter 4 of this Code of Ordinances.

SECTION 3. SECTION MODIFIED. Chapter 145 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Hamburg, Iowa, is repealed and the following adopted in lieu thereof:

CHAPTER 145

DANGEROUS BUILDINGS

145.01 Enforcement Officer
145.02 General Definition of Unsafe
145.03 Unsafe Building
145.04 Notice to Owner

145.05 Conduct of Hearing
145.06 Posting of Signs
145.07 Right to Demolish; Municipal Infraction
145.08 Costs

145.01 ENFORCEMENT OFFICER. The Mayor is responsible for the enforcement of this chapter.

145.02 GENERAL DEFINITION OF UNSAFE. All buildings or structures that are structurally unsafe or not provided with adequate egress, or that constitute a fire hazard, or are otherwise dangerous to human life, or that in relation to existing use constitute a hazard to safety or health, or public welfare, by reason of inadequate maintenance, dilapidation, obsolescence, or abandonment, are, for the purpose of this chapter, unsafe buildings. All such unsafe buildings are hereby declared to be public nuisances and shall be abated by repair, rehabilitation, demolition, or removal in accordance with the procedure specified in this chapter.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 657A.1 and 364.12[3a])

145.03 UNSAFE BUILDING. "Unsafe building" means any structure or mobile home meeting any or all of the following criteria:

1. Various Inadequacies. Whenever the building or structure, or any portion thereof, because of:
 - A. Dilapidation, deterioration, or decay;
 - B. Faulty construction;
 - C. The removal, movement, or instability of any portion of the ground necessary for the purpose of supporting such building;
 - D. The deterioration, decay, or inadequacy of its foundation; or
 - E. Any other cause, is likely to partially or completely collapse.
2. Manifestly Unsafe. Whenever, for any reason, the building or structure, or any portion thereof, is manifestly unsafe for the purpose for which it is being used.
3. Inadequate Maintenance. Whenever a building or structure, used or intended to be used for dwelling purposes, because of dilapidation, decay, damage, faulty construction, or otherwise, is determined by any health officer to be unsanitary, unfit for human habitation or in such condition that it is likely to cause sickness or disease.
4. Fire Hazard. Whenever any building or structure, because of dilapidated condition, deterioration, damage, or other cause, is determined by the Fire Marshal or Fire Chief to be a fire hazard.
5. Abandoned. Whenever any portion of a building or structure remains on a site after the demolition or destruction of the building or structure or whenever any building or structure is

abandoned for a period in excess of six months so as to constitute such building or portion thereof an attractive nuisance or hazard to the public.

145.04 NOTICE TO OWNER. The enforcement officer shall examine or cause to be examined every building or structure or portion thereof reported as dangerous or damaged and, if such is found to be an unsafe building as defined in this chapter, the enforcement officer shall give to the owner of such building or structure written notice stating the defects thereof. This notice may require the owner or person in charge of the building or premises, within 48 hours or such reasonable time as the circumstances require, to commence either the required repairs or improvements or demolition and removal of the building or structure or portions thereof, and all such work shall be completed within 90 days from date of notice, unless otherwise stipulated by the enforcement officer. If necessary, such notice shall also require the building, structure, or portion thereof to be vacated forthwith and not reoccupied until the required repairs and improvements are completed, inspected, and approved by the enforcement officer.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 364.12[3h])

1. Notice Served. Such notice shall be served by sending by certified mail to the owner of record, according to Section 364.12[3h] of the *Code of Iowa*, if the owner is found within the City limits. If the owner is not found within the City limits, such service may be made upon the owner by registered mail or certified mail. The designated period within which said owner or person in charge is required to comply with the order of the enforcement officer shall begin as of the date the owner receives such notice.
2. Hearing. Such notice shall also advise the owner that they may request a hearing before the Council on the notice by filing a written request for hearing within the time provided in the notice.

145.05 CONDUCT OF HEARING. If requested, the Council shall conduct a hearing in accordance with the following:

1. Notice. The owner shall be served with written notice specifying the date, time, and place of hearing.
2. Owner's Rights. At the hearing, the owner may appear and show cause why the alleged nuisance shall not be abated.
3. Determination. The Council shall make and record findings of fact and may issue such order as it deems appropriate.[†]

145.06 POSTING OF SIGNS. The enforcement officer shall cause to be posted at each entrance to such building a notice to read: "DO NOT ENTER. UNSAFE TO OCCUPY. CITY OF HAMBURG, IOWA." Such notice shall remain posted until the required demolition, removal or repairs are completed. Such notice shall not be removed without written permission of the enforcement officer and no person shall enter the building except for the purpose of making the required repairs or of demolishing the building.

145.07 RIGHT TO DEMOLISH; MUNICIPAL INFRACTION. In case the owner fails, neglects, or refuses to comply with the notice to repair, rehabilitate, or to demolish and remove the building or structure or portion thereof, the Council may order the owner of the building prosecuted as a violator of the provisions of this chapter and may order the enforcement officer to proceed with the work specified in such notice. A statement of the cost of such work shall be transmitted to the Council. As an alternative to this action, the City may utilize the municipal infraction process to abate the nuisance.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 364.12[3h])

145.08 COSTS. Costs incurred under Section 145.07 shall be paid out of the City treasury. Such costs shall be charged to the owner of the premises involved and levied as a special assessment against the land on which the building or structure is located, and shall be certified to the County Treasurer for collection in the manner provided for other taxes. In addition, the City may take any other action deemed appropriate to recover costs incurred.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 364.12[3h])

SECTION 4. SEVERABILITY CLAUSE. If any section, provision, or part of this ordinance shall be adjudged invalid or unconstitutional, such adjudication shall not affect the validity of the ordinance as a whole or any section, provision, or part thereof not adjudged invalid or unconstitutional.

SECTION 5. WHEN EFFECTIVE. This ordinance shall be in effect from and after its final passage, approval, and publication as provided by law.

Adopted by the Council the 10th day of March 2025, and approved this 10th day of March 2025.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk

First Reading: February 27, 2025

Second Reading: March 10, 2025

Third Reading: Suspended by 4/5th vote on March 10, 2025

Motion to suspend by M. Stenzel, seconded by E. Hendrickson.

Ayes: Hendrickson, Smith, Stenzel, Wilson Nays: Zero

I certify that the foregoing was published as Ordinance Chapter 4 **Municipal Infractions**, Ordinance Chapter 50 **Nuisance Abatement Procedure**, and Ordinance Chapter 145 **Dangerous Buildings** on the 10th day of March 2025.

City Clerk