

CHAPTER 11 ELECTRICITY

Art. I. In General, §§ 11-1 -- 11-25

ARTICLE I. In General

Sec. 11-1. Adoption of Code.

There is hereby adopted the electric code known as the National Electrical Code, 2005 Edition, adopted by the National Fire Protection Association, save and except such portions as are not applicable to existing conditions in the City of Searcy as set out in the 1999 Searcy Electrical Code and are in conflict with this chapter. Three (3) copies of said Codes are filed in the office of the City Clerk-Treasurer and are hereby made a part of this chapter as fully as if set forth herein. Said Code shall be controlling and have force and effect in the construction, alteration, maintenance or removal of all electric wiring and apparatus within the corporate limits of the City of Searcy. *(Ord. No. 342, § 1, 8-21-52; Ord. No. 523, § 1, 2-13-70; Ord. No. 549, § 1, 6-9-72; Ord. No. 90-17, 9-11-90; Ord. No. 96-16, § 18, 6-10-96; Ord. No. 98-35, §1, 11-10-98; Ord. No. 2001-26, §1, 11-13-2001; Ord. No. 2005-21, § 1, 6-14-2005)*

Sec. 11-2. Application of Code.

This chapter shall apply to all houses, garages, house trailers, buildings and other structures within the corporate limits of the City of Searcy, whether said structures be mobile or immobile, temporary or permanent.

The connection or disconnection of any structure with a water, sewer, gas, or electric line within the City, or owned or operated by said City, shall conform to the requirements of this chapter. *(Ord. No. 434, § 1, 2-7-61)*

Sec. 11-3. Electrical Inspector; Qualifications.

There is hereby created the office of Electrical Inspector who shall be appointed by the Mayor, subject to approval of the City Council. Said Electrical Inspector shall have had at least three (3) years of practical experience as an electrician and shall be of good moral character. He shall be versed in approved methods of electrical construction for safety of life and property and shall be fully acquainted with the Code hereby adopted. He shall receive such compensation as the Council may hereafter provide. *(Ord. No. 342, § 2, 8-21-52)*

Sec. 11-4. General Duties of Electrical Inspector.

The Electrical Inspector shall have the duty and is hereby authorized, empowered and directed to regulate and determine the placing of electric lights, heat or power in the City and to cause all such wires, appliances or apparatus to be placed, constructed and guarded as not to cause

fires or accidents endangering lives or property and to be constructed as to keep to a minimum the loss or waste of electric current. It shall be the duty of the Electrical Inspector to enforce all provisions of this chapter and he is hereby granted the authority to enter all buildings in the City in the performance of his duties between the hours of eight o'clock a.m. and five o'clock p.m. daily, except that in emergency and within the limits of reason, the Electrical Inspector may enter buildings for such purposes at other than the designated hours.

It shall be the duty of the Electrical Inspector to inspect and/or test all electrical work and equipment or apparatus for compliance with the Code whenever electric wiring, appliances or apparatus shall be defective or hazardous through improper manufacture of improper or insufficient insulation or for any other reason, he shall at once cause the removal of such defect or defects, at the expense of the owners of such wiring, appliance or apparatus. *(Ord. No. 342, § 3, 8-21-52)*

Sec. 11-5. Electrical Permits Required.

No installation, alteration or removal shall be made in/or of the wiring of any building or structure for light, heat or power or to increase the load of energy carried by such wires or equipment, nor shall any building or structure be wired for electric lights, appliances, motors, apparatus, or heating devices nor alterations made thereto without a written permit therefor being first obtained from the Electrical Inspector by the person having direct charge of such installation, alteration or removal. *(Ord. No. 342, § 4, 8-21-52)*

Sec. 11-6. Inspections; Fees.

Upon the completion of the wiring, installation or alteration of any building or structure for light, heat, power, appliance, or apparatus, it shall be the duty of the person having direct charge of such to notify the Electrical Inspector, who shall as early as possible, inspect such wiring, installation, appliance and apparatus, and if installed, altered and constructed in compliance with the permit and in accordance with the requirements of this chapter, he shall execute a certificate of satisfactory inspection, which shall contain the date of such inspection and the result of his examination, but no such certificate shall be issued unless such electric wiring, motors, heating devices, appliances, and apparatus be in strict accord with the rules and requirements and the spirit of this chapter, nor shall current be turned on such installation, equipment, appliance, motor, heating device, and apparatus until said certificate be issued. The amount of fee or charge to be made for such inspections and certificate to be fixed and determined by the City Council. *(Ord. No. 342, § 5, 8-21-52)*

Sec. 11-7. Compliance with Code.

All electrical construction, all materials, appliances, motors, heating devices, and apparatus used in connection with electrical work and the operation of all electrical apparatus within the City of Searcy shall conform to the rules and requirements of the National Electrical Code current when work is performed or equipment and apparatus installed, however, the necessity, good service and

said results often require larger sized of wire, more branch circuits, and better types of equipment than the minimum which is specified in the National Electrical Code.

The Electrical Inspector supervising the enforcement of this Code will have the responsibility and authority for making interpretations of the rules, for deciding upon the approval of equipment, materials, construction and for granting the special permission contemplated in a number of the rules and the Electrical Inspector, where necessary, shall follow the Code procedure for securing official interpretations of the Code. (*Ord. No. 342, § 6, 8-21-52*)

Sec. 11-8. License Required.

No person, firm or corporation shall engage in business as, or perform any repair, installation or other work as an Electrician or Electrical Contractor unless such person, firm or corporation shall be licensed in accordance with the provisions of this Section.

- a. **Individuals and Proprietors.** Any person or sole proprietor of any business or firm engaged as an Electrician or Electrical Contractor shall be, or shall have as a full time employee, a Master Electrician holding a valid license issued by the Board of Electrical Examiners of the State of Arkansas.
- b. **Corporations and Partnerships.** Any corporation or partnership engaged as an Electrical Contractor or Electrician shall have in its employ on a full time basis a Master Electrician holding a valid license issued by the Board of Electrical Examiners of the State of Arkansas.
- c. **Employees.** Any person, firm, corporation or partnership may employ such personnel as it shall deem necessary or appropriate to perform electrical installation, repairs or maintenance as hereinabove described, provided that all such personnel performing any work as an Electrician are licensed as a Journey man, Master, Or Industrial Maintenance Electrician by the Board of Electrical Examiners of the State of Arkansas.

For purposes of this Chapter unless the context otherwise requires:

- a. “Electrician” or “Electrical Contractor” means any person, firm or corporation, or employee thereof, engaged in the business of installing, repairing or contracting to install or repair electrical wires, wiring, or other conductors used for the transmission of electrical power or electricity, or any other electrical apparatus or system utilized for electrical light, power, or signaling purposes.
- b. “Master Electrician” shall have that meaning as prescribed in Arkansas Code Annotated §17-25-101(2), as may hereafter be amended from time to time.

- c. “Journeyman Electrician” shall have that meaning as prescribed in Arkansas Code Annotated §17-25-101(3), as may hereafter be amended from time to time.
- d. “Industrial Maintenance Electrician” shall have that meaning as prescribed in Arkansas Code Annotated §17-25-101(4), as may hereafter be amended from time to time.
- e. “Occupation License” shall mean and refer to an Occupation License issued by the City of Searcy under the authority of Ordinance No. 518 of the City of Searcy, as amended.
- f. “Electrical Inspector” shall mean and refer to the Electrical Inspector for the City of Searcy appointed by the Mayor from time to time. *(Ord. No. 342, § 8, 8-21-52; Ord. No. 91-24, § 1,2, 12-5-91)*

Sec. 11-9. Proof of Licensee.

All persons, firms or corporations performing or desiring to perform work as an Electrician or Electrical Contractor within the limits of the City of Searcy shall attach a copy of a valid license as described in Section 11-8, issued to such person, or a person in the employ of such firm or corporation, coincident with such person, firm or corporation’s application for an Occupation License to conduct business in the City of Searcy. In addition, the Electrical Inspector may require any such person, firm or corporation to submit a copy of such license coincident with an application for an Electrical Inspection to be conducted by the said Electrical Inspector. *(Ord. No. 342, § 9, 8-21-52; Ord. No. 91-24, § 3, 12-5-91)*

Sec. 11-10. Failure to Correct Defects in Work or Meet Required Standards.

Any person who shall fail to correct any defect or defects in his or her work or to meet the required standards after having been given notice of the unfit condition by the Electrical Inspector, within a reasonable time, shall be refused any other permit until such defect or defects have been corrected and shall be subjected to revocation of license for continual defective work or either upon conviction for violation of the provisions of this chapter. *(Ord. No. 342, § 10, 8-21-52)*

Sec. 11-11. Cut Off of Electricity.

Upon failure to comply with this chapter, the Electrical Inspector shall have authority, after due notice, to cause the electric current to be cut off in the locality concerned. *(Ord. No. 342, § 11, 8-21-52)*

Sec. 11-12. Work Done by Owner.

Nothing in this Chapter shall be deemed to prohibit the owner of any single family dwelling from performing work as an Electrician upon such person's dwelling provided that such person occupies the said dwelling as his principal residence, and provided that all such work is performed in accordance with the standards imposed with respect to such work by such Electrical Codes as shall be in force at such time. *(Ord. No. 342, § 13, 8-21-52; Ord. No. 91-24, § 6, 12-5-91)*

Sec. 11-13. Electrical Interference Prohibited.

It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, co-partnership, association or corporation knowingly or wantonly to operate or cause to be operated, any machine, device, apparatus or instrument of any kind whatsoever within the corporate limits of the City of Searcy between the hours of six o'clock a.m. and twelve o'clock midnight, the operation of which shall cause reasonably preventable electrical interference with radio or television reception, within municipal limits; provided, however, that x-ray pictures, examination, or treatments may be made at any time if the machines or apparatus used therefor are properly equipped to avoid all unnecessary or reasonably preventable interference with radio or television reception and are not negligently operated. *(Code 1938, § 183)*

Sec. 11-14. Interstate Transmission.

This chapter shall not be held or construed to embrace or cover the regulation of any transmitting broadcasting or receiving instrument, apparatus, or device used or useful in interstate commerce or the operation of which instrument, apparatus, or device is licensed or authorized by or under the provisions of any act of the Congress of the United States. *(Code 1938, § 184)*

Sec. 11-15. Penalty for Violations.

Any person, firm or corporation performing work as an Electrician or Electrical Contractor (as defined in § 11-8) within the limits of the City of Searcy contrary to the terms and conditions hereof shall be guilty of an unclassified misdemeanor, and upon conviction, shall be fined in an amount not exceeding \$1,000.00. Each occasion upon which any such person, firm or corporation shall perform work in contravention herewith shall constitute a separate offense punishable as set forth herein. In addition to, and not by way of substitution for, the above-described penalties, the Electrical Inspector may refuse to issue a permit to, conduct inspections for, or authorize connection of electrical voltage with respect to any work performed by, any person, firm or corporation performing any work within the limits of the City of Searcy in contravention hereof. *(Ord. No. 342, § 12, 8-21-52; Ord. No. 91-24, § 4, 12-5-91)*

Sec. 11-16. Searcy Electrical Code Adopted.

The Searcy Electrical Code, be and it is hereby adopted, by this reference and incorporated herein as though fully set out herein, and shall hereafter govern all electrical work performed within the corporate limits of the City of Searcy, Arkansas. The City Clerk is directed to maintain on file three copies of the said Searcy Electrical Code available for public inspection, copying or review.
(Ord. No. 91-23, §§ 1 & 2, 12-5-91)

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