

ORDINANCE NO. 20-18

ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 158 ELECTRICAL CODE, OF THE CITY OF NORWALK, IOWA CODE OF ORDINANCES, BY ADOPTING THE 2018 INTERNATIONAL ELECTRIC CODE (NFPA 70)

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Norwalk, Iowa desires to continue to protect life, safety and property through the adoption and enforcement of construction codes, and to establish the minimum standards to safeguard life or limb, health, property, and public welfare by regulating and controlling the design, construction, installation, quality of materials, location, operation and maintenance or use of electrical systems; and

WHEREAS, the Council now deems it appropriate to revise the Code of Ordinances by adopting the National Electric Code;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORWALK, IOWA:

1. That Chapter 158 of the City of Norwalk, Iowa, Code of Ordinances Electrical Regulations be repealed and there be enacted in lieu thereof the following Chapter:

CHAPTER 158 ELECTRICAL CODE

Section Number	Title
158.01	Short Title
158.02	Adoption of Electrical Code
158.03	Title
158.04	Creation of Enforcement Agency
158.05	Permits Required
158.06	Permit Acquisition
158.07	Permit Expiration
158.08	Schedule of Permit Fees
158.09	Fee Refunds
158.10	Stop Work Order

158.01 SHORT TITLE. This Chapter shall be known as the Norwalk Electrical Code, and may be cited as such, and may be referred to herein as this Chapter.

158.02 ADOPTION OF ELECTRICAL CODE. The National Electrical Code, published by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA 70), as currently adopted and amended by the Iowa Electrical Examining Board, Iowa Department of Public Safety, is hereby adopted.

158.03 ADDITION - TITLE. Title, of the NEC is hereby established by adding the following:

Title. These regulations shall be known as the Norwalk Electrical Code hereinafter known as “the Code”.

158.04 - ADDITION - CREATION OF ENFORCEMENT AGENCY. Creation of Enforcement Agency, of the NEC, is hereby established by adding the following:

Creation of Enforcement Agency. The term Code Official is intended to also mean the Chief Building Official and his or her representatives or designees, who are herewith delegated the same powers, authorities, duties and responsibilities as designated for the Code Official.

158.05 - ADDITION - PERMITS REQUIRED. Permits Required, of the NEC is hereby established by adding the following, including exceptions:

Permits Required. Permits shall be required for work contained within the scope of this Code.

Exceptions:

1. Replacement of lighting fixtures, receptacles, switches, overcurrent devices of the same volt and amperage.
2. The repair or replacement of flexible cords of the same volt and amperage.
3. The process of manufacturing, testing, servicing or repairing of electrical equipment or apparatus.
4. No permit or inspections are required for electrical wiring of fifty volts or less.

158.06 - ADDITION - PERMIT ACQUISITION. Permit Acquisition, of the NEC, is hereby established by adding the following article:

Permit Acquisition.

1. Permits are not transferable. Electrical work performed under the provisions of this chapter must be done by a contractor meeting the licensing provisions as set forth by the Iowa Electrical Examining Board in accordance with Iowa Code Chapter 103. A responsible person or an electrician licensed by the State of Iowa Electrical Examining Board as a “Master A or B” may sign and obtain a permit for the contractor for which they are employed only when said responsible person or “Master A or B” has provided proof of employment or written confirmation by said licensed contractor. Any permit required by the provisions of this code may be revoked by the Code Official upon the violation of any provision of this code.
2. A State of Iowa licensed Electrical Contractor or Residential Contractor shall be allowed only to secure permits for himself or herself, or for a single firm or corporation. When a State of Iowa licensed Electrical contractor has secured such a permit, only the employees of such contractor, when meeting the provisions of Iowa Code Chapter 103, shall perform the work for which the permit was obtained.

3. For purposes of this section, an “employee” shall be one employed by the contractor, firm or corporation for a wage or salary. A contractor may be required by the Code Official to show positive evidence and current employment status of workers on the job. Such evidence shall be in the form of payroll and time records, canceled checks, or other such documents.
4. The contractor may also be required to show the agreement or contract pertaining to the work being questioned as evidence that said contractor is, in fact, the actual contractor for such work. Failure or refusal by the contractor to make available such employee or contractual records within 24 hours from demand therefore shall be grounds for immediate revocation of any permit for the work in question.
5. Homeowners (owner/occupants) qualifying for the homestead tax exemption may acquire permits for their principal residence (not an apartment, rental unit, or rental building) and appurtenant accessory structures for electrical work, not to include dwelling service upgrade or replacement, after having passed the Norwalk Electrical Homeowner’s exam.

158.07 ADDITION - PERMIT EXPIRATION. Permit Expiration, of the NEC, is hereby established by adding the following:

Twelve Month Expiration. Every permit issued under the provisions of this Code shall expire twelve months from the date of issue, unless the application is accompanied by a construction schedule, with approval of the Code Official. If the work has not been completed by the expiration date of the permit, no further work shall be done until the permit shall have been renewed by the owner or his/her agent and by payment of the renewal fee as established by the City Council, and provided no changes have been made in plans or location. Upon approval, permits may be extended for no more than two periods not exceeding 180 days each.

158.08 ADDITION - SCHEDULE OF PERMIT FEES. Schedule of Permit Fees, of the NEC, is hereby established by adding the following:

Schedule of Permit Fees. Permits shall not be issued until the fees, as set forth and established in Chapter 177 of this Code of Ordinances, have been paid to the City of Norwalk. An amended permit or a supplemental permit for additional construction shall not be issued until the permit fee(s) for the additional work has been paid.

158.09 - ADDITION - FEE REFUNDS. Fee Refunds, of the NEC, is hereby established by adding the following:

Fee Refunds. In the event a construction project is amended subsequent to the issuance of a permit, which amendment would result in a lower permit fee had the final amended project been originally permitted, the City shall issue a refund of the permit fee pursuant to the following guidelines:

1. The request for refund is made by the holder of the permit in writing to the Code Official within ninety days of the issuance of the permit.
2. No work on the project, for which the permit was issued, has commenced.
3. The refunded amount will not exceed eighty percent of the original cost of the permit.

158.10 - ADDITION - STOP WORK ORDER. Stop Work Order, of the NEC, is hereby established by adding the following:

Stop Work Order

Authority. Whenever the Code Official finds any work regulated by this Code being performed in a manner either contrary to the provisions of the Code or dangerous or unsafe, the Code Official or his/her agents is authorized to issue a stop work order.

Issuance. The stop work order shall be in writing and shall be given to the owner of the property, or to the owner's agent, or the person doing the work. Upon issuance of a stop work order, the cited work shall immediately cease. The stop work order shall state the reason for the order, and the conditions under which the cited work will be permitted to resume. Where an emergency exists, the Code Official shall not be required to give notice prior to stopping the work in question.

Penalty. Any person who shall continue any work on the system after having been served with a stop work order, except such work as that person is directed to perform to remove a violation, or unsafe condition, shall be subject to a Municipal Infraction as prescribed by Chapter 4 of this Code of Ordinances.

2. Repealer. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed.

3. Effective Date. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect upon final passage, approval and publication as required by law.

Passed and approved by the City Council of the City of Norwalk, Iowa on the 21st day of May, 2020.

Tom Phillips, Mayor

Attest:

Lindsey Offenburger, City Clerk

First Reading: May 7, 2020

Second Reading: May 21, 2020

Third Reading: May 21, 2020

Clerk's Certificate

I certify that the foregoing was published as Ordinance No. 20-18 on the 28th day of May, 2020.

City Clerk