

ORDINANCE NO. 9981

An ordinance to amend Chapter 15 of the Grand Island City code; to amend Sections 15-2, 15-3, 15-4, 15-6, 15-8, 15-14, 15-18, 15-22, 15-25, 15-30, 15-36, 15-41, 15-46, and 15-49; to clarify and/or make general corrections to various code sections, to repeal any ordinance or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith; and to provide for publication and effective date of this ordinance.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA:

SECTION 1. Sections 15-2, 15-3, 15-4, 15-6, 15-8, 15-14, 15-18, 15-22, 15-25, 15-30, 15-36, 15-41, 15-46, and 15-49 of the Grand Island City Code Chapter 15 are amended to read as follows:

§15-2. National Electrical Code Adopted

A. There is hereby adopted by the City of Grand Island for the purpose of safeguarding persons and buildings from hazards arising from the use of electricity for light, heat, power, radio, signaling, and other purposes, that certain code known as the National Electrical Code, 2023 Edition, recommended by the National Fire Protection Association, except as modified by this section.

B. The National Electrical Code is amended by §15-3 of the Grand Island City Code.

C. One copy of the National Electrical Code, 2023 Edition, shall be on file in the City Clerk's office for public use and inspection as provided by law.

§15-3. Amendments to National Electrical Code, 2023 Edition

The following sections are adopted as amendments to the same numbered sections of the National Electrical Code 2023 Edition:

- A. Delete Article 210.8(F) Exception No.2.
- B. Amend Article 210.11(C)(3) - Shall be limited to two bathrooms.
- C. Amend Article 320 - Armored cable (type AC) Anti-short bushings shall be used.
- D. Amend Article 330 - Metal-Clad Cable (Type MC) Anti-short bushings shall be used.

§15-4. Electrical Plans

Wherever the Building Code of the City requires that plans be filed with the Building

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Services Division for the construction and alteration of dwellings and all other buildings and structures in the City, there shall also be filed a detailed plan of the electrical work to be done on such structures which plan shall show the outlets, connections, and all fixtures and appliances to be installed. If deviations are made from an approved set of plans, then the changes shall be submitted for approval. When the electrical work to be done is for additional wiring only, the Electrical Inspector may approve the same without plans therefor.

§15-6. Service Entrances

Each service entrance with 2,000 amperes capacity or less shall be provided with a readily accessible main disconnecting device with appropriate overcurrent protection; provided, each service entrance larger than 2,000 amperes capacity shall comply with the provisions of the National Electric Code. The device shall disconnect all ungrounded conductors from the source of supply in one motion or operation of the hand. For overhead services, said overcurrent protection shall be installed within twenty-five (25) feet from the weatherhead, and within ten (10) feet from where the conductors enter the building. For underground services, said overcurrent protection shall be installed within ten (10) feet from where the conductors enter the building, and within 25' of where the conduit emerges from grade.

- A. Provisions for Metering. Meter sockets shall be mounted on the outside of a principal building. With prior approval given by the Utilities Department and Building Services Division, meter sockets may be located on UL listed pedestals, accessory buildings greater than 625 square feet constructed on perimeter foundations extended below frost depth, or alternate locations approved by the Departments. Additional provisions for metering can be found in the standards and specifications set out by the Grand Island Utilities Department.
- B. Single family switches shall be grouped to disconnect them with one motion of the hand.
- C. Multiple Family Units. New multiple family units constructed in compliance with Chapter 8 of the Grand Island Code may be allowed up to 6 switches, one switch per unit. All switches shall be grouped together in one listed and approved assembly.
- D. Number of Services. One electrical service shall be provided for each tract or parcel of land, except upon written request and approval by the Utilities Director and Chief Building Official, and/or their respective designee, and in conformance with this Code.
- E. Electric Meter Location. The electric meter shall be located on the property that it is supplying power to, unless prior approval by the Utilities Department and Building Services Division.
- F. Meter Tampering. Pursuant to Nebraska Revised Statute 25-21,275, tampering or bypassing a meter is strictly prohibited and will result in immediate disconnection.

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- G. Grade Changes. The property owner shall be responsible for any repairs or modifications to City owned equipment damaged or deemed unsafe due to grade changes, settlement or erosion.

§15-8. Wiring In Single and Multiple-Family Units

- A. Multiple family units may have branch circuits in individual units wired with nonmetallic sheathed cable if construction complies with Chapter 8 of the Grand Island City Code.
- B. Existing residential buildings containing more than six family units not having a two-hour fire wall rating separation as provided in Chapter 8 of the Grand Island City Code shall not be wired with nonmetallic cable.
- C. No wiring in basements below the floor joist on exterior walls shall be wired with unprotected nonmetallic cable.
- D. Smoke alarms shall be installed to comply with Section R314 of the 2021 International Residential Code.
- E. Carbon monoxide alarms shall be installed to comply with Section R315 of the 2021 International Residential Code.

§15-14. Permit for Work; Required

No electrical wiring work, unless excepted in this section, shall be undertaken prior to the issuance of a permit therefor by the Building Services Division. Such permit shall be issued only to a registered contracting electrician.

No permit shall be required for minor repair work such as replacing a switch.

§15-18. Investigation Fees; Work Without a Permit

- A. Whenever any work for which a permit is required by this Code has been commenced without first obtaining said permit, a special investigation shall be made before a permit may be issued for such work.
- B. An investigation fee, in addition to the permit fee, shall be collected whether or not a permit is then or subsequently issued. The investigation fee shall be in accordance with the City of Grand Island Fee Schedule. The payment of such investigation fee shall not exempt any person from compliance with all other provisions of this Code, nor from penalty prescribed by law.
- C. This provision shall not apply to emergency work when it shall be proven to the satisfaction of the Chief Building Official that such work was urgently necessary and that it was not practical to obtain a permit before the commencement of the work. In such cases, a permit must be obtained as soon as it is practical to do so.

§15-49 Interconnection Devices

Any Distributed Energy Resource (DER) device generating or storing electricity to be used for domestic purposes that is interconnected with the electrical supply of the household, business, or industry shall be finished by the Grand Island Utilities Department in accordance with plans, specifications, rules and regulations approved by the Utilities Director or his designated representative and subject to the inspection of the Grand Island Utilities Department prior to the connected device being energized and put into operation. The standards for connecting any DER to any property that will be also connected to Grand Island Electric Utility shall be found in the Grand Island Utilities Department Metering and Interconnection standards online.


A customer that has a generation facility (or facilities) interconnected behind their service meter with an aggregate nameplate of 25 kW or less may be considered as a Qualified Facility (QF) and eligible for participation in a net metering program. Examples of this include Solar, Diesel Generator, Battery Bank, Wind Turbine, etc.. or any device that may produce electricity. The program will be available for QF customers until the aggregate nameplate capacity of the participating QF customers meets one percent (1%) of the peak annual demand of the Utilities Department. The installation of equipment by the QF customer must meet all applicable safety, interconnection, and reliability standards established by the National Electrical Code filed with the Secretary of State and adopted by the State Electrical Board under subdivision (5) of section 81-2104, the National Electrical safety Code, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, and the Underwriters Laboratories; and must be equipped to automatically isolate the QF from the electrical system in the event of an electrical power outage or other conditions where the line is de-energized. An outside-mounted visible device shall be installed on the customer's side of the point of delivery/receipt that must be capable of preventing energizing the Utilities Department's service line and provide for a means for the Department to operate and lock in place. The Utilities Department will provide a bi-directional meter for measurement of the flow of electricity in both directions. A separate meter socket shall be provided and installed by the customer between the QF and the point of interconnection with the customer's electrical panel. The utilities department will provide a private use meter that will be used for measuring gross generation of the QF. Net excess energy produced by the QF during the billing period will be applied as a credit to the customer's account at the current month cost of energy per kilowatt-hour as defined in Division 6. At the end of the calendar year, or within sixty days after the customer terminates retail service, any excess credits will be paid to the customer.

SECTION 2. Any ordinance or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith be, and hereby are, repealed.

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SECTION 3. This ordinance shall be in force and take effect from and after its passage and publication pursuant to law beginning August 1, 2024.

Enacted: July 9, 2023.



Roger G. Steele, Mayor

Attest:



Jill Granere, City Clerk

