

## Chapter 5

### BUILDING, CONSTRUCTION AND RELATED ACTIVITIES\*

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\***Cross references**--Floodplain regulations, Ch. 8; historic preservation, Ch. 9; public safety, Ch. 12; subdivisions, Ch. 17; trees and landscaping, Ch. 20; zoning, Ch. 22.

**State law references**--Governing body may enact standards to determine safety of buildings, Ga. Const., art. 1, sec. 4, par. 1; authority of city or county to provide codes, including building, housing, plumbing, and electrical codes, Ga. Const., art. 9, sec. 2, par. 3(12); providing of fire escapes by building owners, O.C.G.A. § 8-2-50; The Uniform Standards Code for Manufactured Homes Act, O.C.G.A. § 8-2-130 et seq.; The Uniform Act for the Application of Building and Fire Related Codes to Existing Buildings, O.C.G.A. § 8-2-200 et seq.; access to and use of public facilities by physically handicapped persons, O.C.G.A. § 30-3-1 et seq.; authority for municipalities to repair, close or demolish unfit buildings or structures, O.C.G.A. § 41-2-7.

#### Section 5-215A ARTICLE IX. PLUMBING CODE

#### Section 5-215D DIVISION 1. GENERALLY

#### Section 5-216 Adopted.

There is hereby adopted by the City of Thomasville for the purpose of establishing rules and regulations for the construction, alteration, removal, location and maintenance of all plumbing, sewerage and storm drain systems, including permits and penalties, that certain plumbing code known as the International Plumbing Code, as adopted by the State of Georgia with Georgia State Amendments, and such code is hereby adopted and incorporated as fully as if set out at length in this article, controlling in the construction, alteration, removal, location and maintenance of all plumbing, sewerage and storm drain systems within the corporate limits of the City. One (1) copy is filed in the office of the building inspection department, and is available for review by the general public upon request.

(Code 1958, § 7-62; Ord. of 3-23-92, § IX(a); Ord. of 10-23-95, § VI; Ord. 1-30-02; Ord of 7-23-08)

Section 5-217 Amendments, modifications and deletions.

The 1991 Standard Plumbing Code adopted in section 5-216 is amended as follows:

- (1) Wherever the term "Plumbing Official" is used in the code, it shall be held to mean the chief building official of the city.
- (2) Wherever the term "Plumbing Department" is used in the code, it shall be held to mean the building department of the city.

(Code 1958, § 7-63; Ord. of 3-23-92, § IX(b))

Section 5-218 5-218--5-235. Reserved.

Section 5-235D DIVISION 2. REGULATION OF INSTALLATIONS

Section 5-236 Definitions.

The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this division, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

*Journeyman plumber* means any person other than a master plumber who has practical knowledge of the installation of plumbing and who installs plumbing under the direction of a master plumber.

*Master plumber* means any individual engaging in the business of plumbing under express or implied contract or who bids for, offers to perform, purports to have the capacity to perform, or does perform plumbing contracting services under express or implied contract.

**Cross reference--**Definitions and rules of construction generally, § 1-2.

Section 5-237 Regulations adopted; compliance required.

All plumbing work and plumbing done in the city shall be under the rules and regulations passed by the city council, and the following rules and regulations are hereby adopted for the construction, maintenance and repair of plumbing work and plumbing in the city and the practice of the trade of plumbing work and plumbing in the city.

Section 5-238 Chief building official to direct work; appeals.

All plumbing work and plumbing done in the city shall be done under the direction of the chief building official. Anywhere in this article where the term "inspector" or "plumbing inspector" is used, it shall be understood to mean the chief building official, or someone by him

Section 5-239 Homeowner may plumb own residence; permit required.

Nothing in this code shall prevent a homeowner from installing or maintaining plumbing within his own residential property boundaries, providing such plumbing work is done by himself and is used exclusively by him or his family. Such privilege does not convey the right to violate any of the provisions of this code, nor is it to be construed as exempting any such property owner from obtaining a permit and paying the required fees therefor.

Section 5-240 Examination, license required.

(a) Every person desiring to engage in the business of plumbing installation, construction and repair in the city shall, before doing so, obtain an occupational license.

(b) Every person shall before obtaining an occupational license present to the chief building official a copy of his current plumbing contractor's license as required by the Georgia Construction Industry Licensing Board Act. Except for an occupational license, the city shall not require any additional licensing as provided by O.C.G.A. § 43-14-16(e).

Section 5-241 Supervision of a helper or journeyman plumber.

Any person working as a helper or journeyman plumber shall work only under the direct supervision of a master plumber who shall be on the same premises with such helper or journeyman plumber.

Section 5-242 Expiration of license; prerequisite to obtaining license.

All occupational licenses shall expire on and shall be null and void after the first day of January of each year. No plumbing work or plumbing shall be done by any master plumber who has no such license, as provided in this division, in full force and effect at the time a permit for plumbing work or plumbing shall be applied for.

Section 5-243 Plumbers' violations; show cause hearing; suspension; appeal.

(a) Any master plumber, who shall have been licensed as such under the provisions of this division, who violates any of the provisions of this article, or who certifies under oath to the plumbing inspector he has supervised the installation, construction or repair of any plumbing work, when in fact he has not, shall be cited by the plumbing inspector to appear before the city council to show cause why his certificate as a master plumber should not be suspended, as provided for under O.C.G.A. § 43-14-12 of the Georgia Construction Industry Licensing Board Act. After such citation has been personally served upon the master plumber he shall have the right to appear before the city council and offer such evidence in his behalf as he deems necessary.

(b) At the same time the plumbing inspector shall offer evidence showing the violations as charged. After hearing the evidence, the city council shall then, by a majority vote, find him guilty or not guilty as the evidence warrants. If found guilty, the city council may suspend or refuse to restore a license as provided under O.C.G.A. § 43-14-12 of the Georgia Construction Industry Licensing Board Act. If found not guilty, the charge shall be dropped. If the person so cited to appear shall fail to appear at the time and place specified in the citation, his license shall be automatically suspended by the city council. When a license has been suspended as provided in this section, the licensee thereunder shall not be allowed to act as a master plumber in the city until he has appealed his suspension to the state construction industry licensing board and the board has re-instated his license.

(Code 1958, § 7-65)

Section 5-244 Permits.

(a) *Persons qualified.* Permits to do plumbing work or plumbing will be issued only to a master plumber with a current Georgia license or a homeowner as provided in section 5-239 of this division.

(b) *Required signature.* The inspector shall sign all applications for plumbing work and plumbing before a permit shall be issued.

(c) *Application procedure.* Application blanks for plumbing work and plumbing, installing or connecting or constructing such plumbing work and plumbing shall be furnished by the city. Application for such permit, describing the work to be done, shall be made in writing to the plumbing inspector by the plumbing contractor installing the work. The application shall be accompanied by such specifications and schedules to determine whether the installation as described will be in conformity with the requirements of this article and when deemed necessary by the inspector shall be accompanied by drawings. If it be found that the installation as described will conform with all legal requirements, and if the applicant has complied with the provisions of this article, a permit for such installation shall be issued. No deviation may be made from the installation described in the permit without the approval of the plumbing inspector.

#### Section 5-245 Permit fees.

Plumbing Permit fees are on file at the city clerk's office and the administrative offices of the building inspection department.

(Ord. of 3-23-92, § X(a); Ord. of 1-27-94; Ord. of 12-28-94, § VI; Ord. of 12-23-96(2), § V; Ord. of 01-30-02)

(2002-5-245, Amended, 01/30/2002)

#### Section 5-246 Private sewage disposal.

Henceforth all septic tanks installed in the City of Thomasville shall meet the requirements of the Georgia Department of Public Health's Rules and Regulations for Individual Sewage Systems, Chapter 290-5-26. The percolation test prescribed and required in the above rules and regulations must be made prior to construction by the Thomas County health department and written certification of percolation furnished to the City of Thomasville.

(Ord. of 3-23-92, § X(b))

#### Section 5-247 5-247--5-260. Reserved.