

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE RAPID CITY GAS CODE
BY AMENDING CERTAIN PROVISIONS IN CHAPTER 15.20
OF THE RAPID CITY MUNICIPAL CODE**

WHEREAS, the City of Rapid City has adopted the Rapid City Gas Code in Chapter 15.20 of the Rapid City Municipal Code; and

WHEREAS, the City wishes to amend R.C.M.C. Chapter 15.20 to update certain provisions that are unnecessary or outdated; and

WHEREAS, the provisions in Chapter 15.20 impose requirements upon gas contractors who are licensed by the City; and

WHEREAS, the provisions in R.C.M.C. 15.20.110 and 15.20.180 concern procedures which are not completed by gas contractors but instead are performed by the gas companies; and

WHEREAS, the City wishes to delete R.C.M.C. 15.20.110 and 15.20.180 because they concern activities performed by the gas companies, which are not regulated by the Rapid City Gas Code; and

WHEREAS, some provisions in the Rapid City Gas Code concern provisions which are also found in the International Mechanical Code as adopted in R.C.M.C. Chapter 15.26; and

WHEREAS, the City wishes to delete from the Rapid City Gas Code those provisions which are duplicative of provisions in the International Mechanical Code as adopted in R.C.M.C. Chapter 15.26; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council believes it to be in the best interests of the City and its residents to amend certain provisions found in the Rapid City Gas Code in R.C.M.C. Chapter 15.20.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City of Rapid City that Section 15.20.050 of the Rapid City Municipal Code be and is hereby amended to read in its entirety as follows:

15.20.050 Inspection and testing of new installations.

A. Before any part of an installation authorized by a permit issued under Chapter 15.04 is covered from sight, a notification shall be given to the Gas Inspector who shall, within 48 hours, inspect the installation and give his or her written approval. Before an installation is put into service, all parts of the piping installation, equipment and appliances must be examined by the Gas Inspector and his or her written approval obtained. The inspection shall insure full compliance with this chapter in regard to pipe size, material, appliances, manner of installation and all other points which can be determined by examination.

B. The test for tightness shall be made by the plumber or gas fitter ~~in the presence of the Gas Inspector~~ with an air pump and mercury column gauge, or high grade test gauge having 1/4-pound graduations, furnished by the plumber or gas fitter. ~~The pump and gauge shall be so attached to the piping that the gauge can be watched during the rise of pressure.~~ All line cocks and valves in the system tested shall be open so that the pressure will be applied during the test to all outlets. All stop cocks or valves on the outlets or end of any system to be tested shall be removed and the pipe capped during the test. The cocks and valves shall be replaced after the pressure test and soap tested after gas is turned into the system. The test of the system shall be made at a pressure of at least 10 pounds per square inch and, to prove the system satisfactory, must be continued for a period of 15 minutes without showing a decrease in pressure. The Inspector may waive the requirement for the inspection of the air test. In the case of minor alterations to the piping system, not exceeding 10 feet in length, with a total of not more than 10 fittings added, soap testing will be allowed. The liability of the tests shall be the responsibility of the licensed gas or plumbing contractor performing the work. ~~The gas supplier shall be notified of any such work in progress.~~

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City of Rapid City that Section 15.20.110 of the Rapid City Municipal Code be and is hereby deleted in its entirety:

~~15.20.110 Service lines.~~

- ~~—A. Service lines to carry unmetered gas shall be installed only by the gas company.~~
- ~~—B. The service line entrance to buildings without basements or with uncemented partial basements shall be made in an approved manner by bringing the line up outside the building and entering through the building wall above ground level.~~
- ~~—C. Service line entrances through masonry basement walls shall be sealed on both sides to make them water and gas tight. Whenever possible, service lines shall be brought above ground outside the building and the entrance made through the building wall above ground level.~~
- ~~—D. Service lines shall not be run under buildings or porches and garages or additions to buildings and may not be placed on top of existing service lines.~~
- ~~—E. Gas service lines shall not be laid in the same trench with water lines, sewer lines or underground electric or telephone lines. In all cases, a minimum horizontal separation of 15 inches of earth shall be maintained.~~
- ~~—F. Service lines for gas equipment of high demand shall be taken only from mains of adequate capacity and pressure approved by the gas company.~~

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City of Rapid City that Section 15.20.140 of the Rapid City Municipal Code be and is hereby amended to read in its entirety as follows:

15.20.140 Prohibited locations for heaters and furnaces.

A. Gas water heaters, radiant heaters and furnaces shall not be installed in any room used or designed to be used for sleeping purposes, in any bathroom or clothes closet, ~~under any stairway or landing~~, or in any confined space which might create a hazard; ~~provided, however, the heater or furnace may be installed under a stairway or landing if the stairway or landing is not part of the sole exit from any portion of the building.~~ Gas heaters, water heaters, furnaces and wall furnaces shall be installed only in areas where a supply of uninterrupted combustion air is provided, and in all instances shall be connected to an effective approved flue.

B. Gas water heaters or space heaters with sealed combustion chambers ~~or Lunstrum vents~~ that take all combustion air from outside and discharge the products of combustion to the outside may be installed in small confined inhabited rooms; provided that, adequate clearance is maintained from combustible material.

~~C. No warm air gas furnace shall be located in or service any surgical operating room or other hazardous location.~~

DC. Notwithstanding subsection A of this section, gas water heaters, space heaters or furnaces with sealed combustion chambers may be installed in sleeping rooms, closets or under any stairway or landing.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City of Rapid City that Section 15.20.180 of the Rapid City Municipal Code be and is hereby deleted in its entirety:

~~15.20.180 Appliance pilots.~~

~~A. The following provisions shall apply to gas appliances with less than 400,000 BTU per hour input:~~

~~— 1. The gas supply line to the pilot or pilots shall be connected to vertical line or to the side or top of horizontal lines. Pilot lines shall be noncorrosive metals, approved for this purpose, the connection shall be made ahead of the main burner shutoff, and a separate gas stop provided. When the unit is provided with complete safety shutoff or complete manifold combination control, the pilot line shall be connected to the control in the position indicated by the manufacturer's instruction.~~

~~— 2. The main burner shall light from the flame that heats the safety actuating mechanism when such flame is turned down to where it will just actuate the safety pilot operating mechanism.~~

~~— 3. Construction of all safety pilots shall be such that, in the event of breakage or burning out of the thermal element, they shall fail in the safe position.~~

~~—4. All thermostatically controlled appliances shall contain at least 1 safety pilot, failure of which shuts off the main burner gas supply. These provisions shall not prohibit the use of complete safety shut-off devices.~~

~~—5. Pilot burners shall be rigidly supported so that their position relative to the main burner shall be fixed and so placed that they can be safely lighted and readily removed and replaced for servicing.~~

~~—B. The following provisions apply to gas appliances with over 400,000 BTU per hour input:~~

~~—1. Burners in this category shall be equipped with electronic flame safeguards responding within 4 seconds in the event of flame failure. Each burner shall be equipped with a pilot adequate to assure safe and reliable lighting of the burner under all conditions of operation. A sufficient number of pilots shall be installed to assure the proper ignition. On installations of over 400,000 BTU on which constant burning pilots are used, at least 1 pilot shall be electronic.~~

~~—2. Under normal drafts, when the main burner or burners are turned on or off (manually or automatically) or during any pulsation of the main burner or burners, the pilot flames shall be stable.~~

~~—3. In automatic ignition systems, electric ignition shall ignite only a pilot supervised by a flame safeguard. It shall not require more than 15 seconds to establish a pilot flame, and interrupted or expanding pilots shall not take longer than 15 seconds to extinguish.~~

~~—4. A pilot turndown test shall be performed on all gas fired burners and boilers of over 400,000 BTU per hour input. When optical detectors are used, the test shall be run following the hot refractory hold-in test while the combustion chamber is still hot. The pilot turndown test shall be run by the installer in the presence of the Gas Inspector or gas company representative.~~

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City of Rapid City that Section 15.20.190 of the Rapid City Municipal Code be and is hereby deleted in its entirety:

~~15.20.190 Garage installations.~~

~~—Central heating furnaces and boilers or other gas burning appliances shall not be installed in residential garages, or similar areas of confinement, when flammable liquids or materials may be stored which could be exposed to the atmosphere, except under the following conditions:~~

~~—A. The installation shall comply if the gas unit is enclosed with fire resistant construction of masonry or cement plaster and completely sealed away from the garage or similar space. Access to the enclosure shall not be from the garage or similar space, but shall be only from the home or from outdoors. Clearances, air requirements and all other standard installation rules shall apply. No air or other openings into the garage or similar area shall be permitted.~~

~~—B. Such installation shall comply if the sealed combustion zone or Lunstrum vent type with the lighting part of the heater is sealed away.~~

~~—C. The installation shall comply if the unit is a suspended unit heater with minimum clearance of 6 feet from floor to bottom of unit.~~

~~—D. The installation shall comply, if a space heater, water heater or other appliance, furnace or boiler in a garage is placed on a combustible pedestal or substantial support at 18 inches above the floor of the garage and if the appliance is vented and equipped for complete shut-off of gas. The gas appliance must be so located or protected that it will not be subject to physical damage by a moving vehicle.~~

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City of Rapid City that Section 15.20.210 of the Rapid City Municipal Code be and is hereby amended to read in its entirety as follows:

15.20.210 Use of flame restricted.

A. In no case should a flame be allowed to touch a gas meter, meter connection or other gas piping. When an open flame light, as a match or candle, is used in a basement, it must be carried or set not more than 3 feet above the floor level. A gas fitter shall not smoke while working on piping which is filled with gas, or which has been filled with gas, nor permit others to smoke while near the work.

B. Every gas fitter shall be provided with an electric flash lamp or safety lamp which is adequately protected to prevent explosion or fire, if used in a gaseous atmosphere. No other type of lamp shall be used in the atmosphere when searching for a leak or when working on piping filled with live gas. ~~The ordinary gas fitter's torch or furnace shall not be left within the premises from the end of one working day to the beginning of the next, unless the torch or furnace is placed in a fire resistive receptacle.~~

CITY OF RAPID CITY

Mayor

ATTEST

Finance Officer

(seal)

First Reading:
Second Reading:
Published:
Effective: