

TITLE V: EMERGENCY SERVICES

CHAPTER I.

RURAL ADDRESS SYSTEM ORDINANCE

SECTION 1. PURPOSE. This ordinance mandates the use of a uniform rural address system for resident of all unincorporated areas of Muscatine County in order to establish a familiar system of named roads with street addresses that follow orderly assignments, to promote the accurate and timely provision of emergency services, and to promote the health, safety and welfare of the public.

SECTION 2. DEFINITIONS. For purposes of this Ordinance, terms and words used in the present tense shall include the future, the singular number shall include the plural, and the plural includes the singular. The word "shall" and the word "will" are mandatory; the word "may" is permissive. For purposes of this Ordinance, the following words and terms shall be defined as follows:

Person Shall mean any individual, firm, corporation, unincorporated association or other entity.

Subdivision Shall mean the division of a tract of land into separate lots or parcels for the purpose of transfer of ownership or building development, or land so divided and platted.

Improved Property Shall mean a parcel of real property upon which there is constructed or placed a residence, commercial establishment or mobile home capable of, or designed or intended for human habitation or use.

Unincorporated Area All land located outside the city limits of municipalities which are incorporated with the State of Iowa. Such land is under the jurisdiction of the Muscatine County Board of Supervisors.

Building Official The Muscatine County Zoning Administrative Officer or designated assistant.

County Engineer The Muscatine County Engineer or designated assistant.

Base Maps Shall mean the maps used by the agency coordinating the uniform rural address system in Muscatine County and maintained by the Building Official. Such maps shall indicate all addresses in Muscatine County subject to the provisions of this Ordinance.

Avenues All roadways that generally run north or south, usually a through street, but may end in a dead end.

Streets All roadways that generally run east or west, usually a through street, but may end in a dead end.

Roads All roadways that generally run opposite of the streets or avenues, usually a through street, but may end in a dead end.

Private Road A non-public roadway officially recognized by the Board of Supervisors as an access for vehicles from a public road to a private driveway leading to the principal building. Usually a subdivision road platted on the final plat, serving a number of subdivision lots. These roads are not recognized as public roadways by the State and the County and are, therefore, not maintained as such.

Public Road All land between the right-of-way lines perpetually dedicated to the City, County, State, or Federal Government as an access for vehicles. The term does not include public easements on private property where the roadway has not been dedicated to a

jurisdiction or the jurisdiction has not accepted ownership. These roads are recognized by the State and the County as public roadways and maintained by the appropriate jurisdiction.

SECTION 3. RURAL ADDRESS SYSTEM.

- 3.1 A Rural Address System, including roadway names and residence numbers as set forth in the base maps, is hereby adopted.
- 3.2 The Rural Address System shall apply to the entire unincorporated area of Muscatine County.
- 3.3 The Building Official shall be responsible for the maintenance of the Rural Address System in Muscatine County, including, but not limited to assigning addresses and designating the numbers to be assigned to existing and subsequently constructed residences, commercial establishments, subdivisions and mobile home parks; updating base maps carrying each individual address assignment; updating the rural reference map that is available to the public; enforcing the provisions of this Ordinance, including the institution of such proceedings against persons violating such provisions as may from time to time be necessary to secure the observance of the same; and other duties necessary to insure the effectiveness of the System.

SECTION 4. ADDRESS MARKERS REQUIRED.

- 4.1 Generally. The owner of improved property within the County shall cause said property to be marked as provided by this Ordinance.
- 4.2 Subdivisions. The owner of each improved property in a Subdivision shall install an approved address marker adjacent to the public or private street, road or avenue from which vehicular access is gained to the property, in a uniform, prominent and visible position approved by the building official.
- 4.3 Mobile Home Parks. The owner of each residence in a mobile home park shall install an approved address marker immediately adjacent to the mobile home in a uniform, prominent and visible position approved by the building official.
- 4.4 Rural Residences or Commercial Establishments. The owner of each improved property in unincorporated Muscatine County, not within a subdivision or mobile home park shall install an approved address marker adjacent to the public street, road or avenue from which vehicular access is gained to the property, in a uniform, prominent and visible position approved by the building official.

SECTION 5. APPROVED ADDRESS MARKERS.

- 5.1 Only address markers approved by the building official may be used to comply with this ordinance. In determining the construction specifications of property markers, the building official shall take into account the visibility, durability and cost of the markers.
- 5.2 Address markers shall display the rural address system number assigned to the property by the building official.
- 5.3 Address markers shall be placed as provided in Section 4 of this ordinance, in a specific position approved by the building official. In determining rules regarding the placement of address markers, the building official shall take into account marker visibility and uniformity, such that the intent of the ordinance will be furthered, and to provide ready identification of each property so that timely assistance of law enforcement, fire and ambulance services may be rendered.
- 5.4 The original address markers required herein shall be provided and installed by the building official at no cost to the property owner.

5.5 Address markers shall be maintained and replaced, as necessary, by the property owner. The building official shall make available for purchase replacement address markers at reasonable cost.

SECTION 6. NEW CONSTRUCTION.

The owner of any building, residence, or commercial establishment constructed after the effective date of this Ordinance shall comply with all provisions hereof prior to commencement of such construction.

SECTION 7. VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES.

These rules and regulations shall be enforced in accordance with the provisions of Title I Administration, Chapter V Enforcement Ordinance.