

## ORDINANCE NO. 95

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF SAINT PAUL, COLLIN COUNTY, TEXAS, AMENDING ORDINANCE NUMBER 68 RELATING TO DANGEROUS BUILDINGS OR STRUCTURES; DECLARING SUCH STRUCTURES TO BE A PUBLIC NUISANCE; PROVIDING FOR STANDARDS FOR REPAIR, VACATION, OR DEMOLITION; PROVIDING FOR THE DUTIES OF THE BUILDING OFFICIAL, FIRE MARSHAL, AND TOWN COUNCIL ACTING AS A BUILDING COMMISSION; PROVIDING FOR A FINE OF NOT LESS THAN \$100.00 NOR MORE THAN \$1,000.00 FOR EACH DAY THAT THIS ORDINANCE IS VIOLATED; AND PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS, SEVERABILITY, PUBLICATION AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

**WHEREAS**, Texas Local Government Code Section 214.001 provides that a Type A general law municipality may, by ordinance, require the demolition or repair of a building that is:

- (1) dilapidated, substandard, or unfit for human habitation; and
- (2) a hazard to the public health, safety, and welfare;

**WHEREAS**, the Town of St. Paul is a Type A general law municipality as defined by the Texas Local Government Code; and

**WHEREAS**, the St. Paul Town Council finds that it is in the best interests of the citizens of St. Paul to adopt an ordinance that provides for the repair, vacation, or demolition of dangerous buildings or structures.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL FOR THE TOWN OF ST. PAUL, COLLIN COUNTY, TEXAS:

### **SECTION 1. "DANGEROUS BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES" DEFINED.**

Dangerous buildings and structures are defined as:

- (a) all buildings or structures of any nature including any trailer houses, mobile homes, wells, septic tanks or swimming pools that are found to be dangerous, dilapidated, or a fire hazard, and a hazard to the public health, safety, and welfare;
- (b) regardless of structural condition, those buildings or structures unoccupied by the owners, lessees or other invitees, and unsecured from unauthorized entry to the extent it could be entered or used by vagrants or other uninvited persons as a place of harborage or could be entered or used by children; or

(c) despite being secured in any manner, the means of securing the building or structure are inadequate to prevent unauthorized entry or use in a manner described by subsection (b) of this section.

## **SECTION 2. DECLARED TO BE PUBLIC NUISANCES.**

All dangerous structures within the terms of Section 1 are hereby declared to be public nuisances and shall be repaired, vacated, or demolished as provided in this ordinance.

## **SECTION 3. STANDARDS FOR REPAIR, VACATION, OR DEMOLITION.**

The following standards shall be followed by the Building Official, Fire Marshal, and the Town Council, acting in its capacity as Building Commission, under the terms of this Ordinance in ordering the repair, vacation or demolition:

(a) If the dangerous structure can reasonably be repaired so that it will no longer exist in violation of this Ordinance, it shall be ordered repaired.

(b) If the dangerous structure is in such a condition as to make it dangerous to the health, safety, morals, or general welfare of its occupants, it shall be ordered to be vacated.

(c) In any case where a dangerous structure is fifty percent (50%) or more damaged, decayed, or deteriorated from its original value or structure, it shall be demolished, and, in all cases where a structure cannot be repaired so that it will no longer exist in violation of the terms of this Ordinance, it shall be demolished. In all cases where a dangerous structure is a fire hazard existing or erected in violation of the terms of this Ordinance or any ordinance of the Town or statutes of the State, it shall be demolished. Included in the term "demolished" in this Ordinance is the cleaning of the property and removing of all debris and trash.

## **SECTION 4. DUTIES OF BUILDING OFFICIAL OR FIRE MARSHAL.**

The duties of the Building Official or Fire Marshal under this Ordinance shall be as follows:

(a) Inspect or cause to be inspected annually all public buildings, schools, halls, churches, or other structures as may be deemed necessary for the purpose of determining whether any conditions exist which render such places dangerous structures.

(b) Inspect any building, wall, or structure about which complaints are filed by any person to the effect that a building, wall, or structure is or may be existing in violation of this Ordinance.

(c) Inspect any building, wall, or structure reported by the fire or police departments of the Town as probably existing in violation of the terms of this Ordinance.

(d) Notify in writing, by certified mail, the owner, occupant, lessee, mortgagee, agent, and all other persons having an interest in such building or structure as shown by the Town's tax roll or the deed records of the County Clerk, of any building or structure found by them to be a dangerous

building or structure, stating: (1) the name and address of the owner of the affected property; (2) a legal description of the property; (3) a description of the hearing including the time and place; (4) a description of the building or structure deemed a nuisance; and (5) a statement of the particulars which make the structure a nuisance as defined in Section 1. The notice shall direct all interested parties to appear before the Building Commission to show cause why the building or structure reported to be a dangerous structure should not be repaired, vacated, or demolished in accordance with the statement of particulars set forth in the Building Official's and Fire Marshal's notice.

(e) File a copy of the notice required by subsection (d) in the Official Public Records of Real Property for Collin County.

(f) Appear at all hearings conducted by the Town Council in its capacity as Building Commission and testify as to the conditions of dangerous buildings.

(h) Place a notice on all dangerous structures upon determination, reading as follows:

**"This building has been found to be a dangerous building by the Town of St. Paul Building Official or Fire Marshal. This notice is to remain on this building until it is repaired, vacated, or demolished in accordance with the notice which has been given the owner, occupant, lessee, mortgagee, or agent of this building, and all other persons having an interest in said building as shown by the Deed Records in the office of the County Clerk of Collin County, Texas. It is unlawful to remove this notice until such notice is complied with."**

(i) After the hearing, mail by certified mail, return receipt requested, a copy of the order to the owner, mortgagee, occupant, lessee and all others having an interest in the building.

## **SECTION 5. DUTIES OF TOWN COUNCIL ACTING AS BUILDING COMMISSION.**

The duties of the Town Council acting in its capacity as Building Commission under this Ordinance shall be as follows:

(a) Hold a hearing and hear such testimony as the Building Official or Fire Marshal and the owner, occupant, mortgagee, lessee, or any other person having an interest in the structure as shown by the deed records of the County Clerk's office shall offer relative to the determination of the question of whether the building or structure in question is a dangerous structure.

(b) Make written findings of fact from the testimony offered, pursuant to subsection (a) of this section as to whether or not the building in question qualifies as a nuisance as defined in Section 1.

(c) Upon a determination that the building or structure in question does constitute a dangerous building, issue an order based upon findings of fact made pursuant to subsection (b) of this section commanding the owner, occupant, mortgagee, lessee, or all other persons having an interest in the building as shown by the deed records of the County Clerk's office to repair, vacate, secure, or demolish any structure found to be a dangerous building within a reasonable time not to

exceed thirty (30) days unless the owner establishes at the hearing that the work cannot be reasonably performed within thirty (30) days.

(d) If it is found that the work cannot be completed within thirty (30) days, the Building Commission may allow up to ninety (90) days provided specific time schedules for the commencement and performance of the work are established and the property can be secured in a reasonable manner from unauthorized entry while the work is being performed.

(e) If the building or structure is not vacated, secured, repaired, removed, or demolished, or the occupants are not relocated within the allotted time, it may be demolished at the expense of the owner thereof by the Town or its contractor. The materials of such structure shall be sold and the net cost of the demolition shall be charged to the owner and, if any balance remains, it shall be held for the owner or any other parties entitled thereto. If the cost of the demolition exceeds the value of the materials of such building, such excess shall be charged as a lien upon the real property on which the building is situated and the Town may file suit to foreclose and satisfy the lien to the extent allowed by law.

#### **SECTION 6. MAILING AND POSTING OF NOTICES WHEN OWNER, LESSEE, ET CETERA, IS ABSENT FROM TOWN.**

In cases, save those that constitute a clear and present danger as defined in Section 5, where the owner, occupant, lessee, or mortgagee is absent from the Town, all notices or orders provided for in this Ordinance shall be sent by certified mail to the owner, occupant, mortgagee, lessee, and all other persons having an interest in the structure as shown by the deed records of the County Clerk's office, to the last known address of each, and a copy of such notice shall be posted in a conspicuous place on the building or structure in question. Such mailing and posting shall be deemed sufficient notice for the Building Commission to hold its hearing.

#### **SECTION 7. ADOPTION.**

This Ordinance is hereby added to the Ordinances of the Town of St. Paul, Texas, and the provisions contained therein shall apply to all dangerous buildings as herein defined, which are now in existence or which may hereafter become dangerous in the jurisdiction of the Town of St. Paul.

#### **SECTION 8. CONFLICTS.**

All ordinances and provisions of the Town of St. Paul, Texas, that are in conflict with this Ordinance shall be, and the same are, hereby repealed, and all ordinances and provisions of ordinances of said Town not so repealed are hereby retained in full force and effect.

#### **SECTION 9. SEVERABILITY.**

It is the intent of the Town Council that each paragraph, sentence, subdivision, clause, phrase, or section of this Ordinance be deemed severable and, should any such paragraph, sentence, subdivision, clause, phrase, or section be declared invalid or unconstitutional for any reason, such

declaration of invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not be construed to effect the validity of those provisions of this Ordinance left standing, nor the validity of any ordinances of the Town of St. Paul.

**SECTION 10. PENALTY.**

Any person, firm, company, partnership, corporation, or association violating any provision of this Ordinance shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined an amount of not less than One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) nor more than One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) for each such violation, and each and every day that the provisions of this Ordinance are violated shall constitute a separate and distinct offense.

**SECTION 11. EMERGENCY.**

The fact that the Town of St. Paul does not presently have an enforceable ordinance to provide for the needs of the citizens of the Town of St. Paul to promote health, safety, and welfare of the public, an urgency and emergency necessitates that this Ordinance become effective immediately from and after its date of passage and the publication of its caption as the law in such cases provides, and it is accordingly so ordained.

**DULY APPROVED AND PASSED** by the Town Council of the Town of St. Paul, Collin County, Texas, this 13th day of February, 1995.

**ADOPTED:**

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Jim Treece, Mayor

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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Marie Finley, Town Secretary

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John E. Rapier, Town Attorney