

ARTICLE VI

EXCEPTIONS AND MODIFICATIONS

SECTION

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6.010. Scope. ARTICLE VI of this ordinance is devoted to providing for the necessary exceptions and modifications to the specific zoning district provisions and the supplementary provisions provided in ARTICLE IV and ARTICLE V.

6.020. Nonconforming uses. The districts established in this ordinance ~~(as set forth in district regulations in ARTICLE V)~~ are designed to guide the future use of land in Lewisburg, Tennessee by encouraging the development of desirable residential, commercial, and industrial areas with appropriate groupings of compatible, and related uses and thus promote and protect the public health, safety, and general welfare.

As a necessary corollary, in order to carry out such purposes, nonconforming uses which adversely affect the development of such areas must be subject to certain limitations. The provisions governing nonconforming uses set forth in this Article are therefore established to contain the existing undesirable conditions resulting from such incompatible nonconforming uses, which are detrimental to the achievement of such purposes. While such uses are generally permitted to continue, this ordinance is designed to restrict any expansion of such uses beyond the site which the use occupied upon the effective date of this ordinance.

In the case of buildings or other structures not complying with the bulk regulations of this ordinance, the provisions governing noncomplying buildings or other structures set forth in this Article are established in order to permit the continued use of such buildings or other structures, but to limit the creation of additional noncompliance or increase in the degree of noncompliance.

These provisions are thus designed to preserve the character of the districts established in this ordinance in light of their suitability to particular uses, and thus to promote the public health, safety, and general welfare.

6.021. Provisions Governing Nonconforming Uses

Applicability

The provisions of this section are applicable to all uses which are not permitted within the districts in which they are located. Additionally, buildings and other structures located within the floodplain are considered within the regulations of nonconforming uses.

6.022. Construction or Use Permit Approved Prior to Ordinance Adoption

Nothing contained herein shall require any change in the overall layout, plans, construction, site or designated use of any development, building, structure, or part thereof where official approvals and required building permits have been granted before the enactment of this ordinance, or any amendment thereto, the construction of which, conforming with such plans, shall have been started prior to the effective date of this ordinance and completion thereof carried on in a ~~normal manner within the subsequent six (6) months period,~~ and not discontinued until completion except for reasons beyond the builder's control.

In the event that the activity or construction of such building or other structures is not substantially underway and being diligently pursued within the six (6) month period following the issuance of a building permit, then such permit shall automatically lapse and the provisions of this ordinance shall apply.

6.023. Repairs and Alterations

Nothing in this Article shall prevent the strengthening or restoring to a safe condition of any part of any building or structure declared unsafe by proper authority.

6.024. Lot Containing Nonconforming Use

A lot containing a nonconforming use shall not be reduced in area except to comply with Section 6.023.

6.025. Continuation of Nonconforming Use

Any nonconforming use which shall become nonconforming upon enactment of this ordinance, or any subsequent amendments thereto, may be allowed to continue in operation and be permitted provided that no change in use (See Section 6.026) is undertaken.

6.026. Change of Nonconforming Use

6.026.1 General Provisions

For the purpose of this chapter, a change in use is a change to another use either under the same activity type or any other activity type or major class of activity; however, a change in occupancy or ownership shall not, by itself, constitute a change of use.

A nonconforming use may be changed to any conforming use, and the applicable bulk regulations and accessory off-street parking requirements shall apply to such change of use or to alterations made in order to accommodate such conforming use.

6.026.2 Nonconforming To Conforming Use

Whenever a nonconforming use is changed to a conforming use, such use shall not thereafter be changed to a nonconforming use.

6.027. Expansion of Nonconforming Uses

6.027.1 General Provisions

Any nonconforming use which shall become nonconforming upon enactment of this ordinance, or any subsequent amendments thereto, may be allowed to expand operations and construct additional facilities which involve an actual continuance and expansion of the nonconforming use provided that any such expansion shall not violate the provisions as set out below.

6.027.2 Adequate Space for Expansion

No expansion of any nonconforming use shall infringe upon, or increase the extent of any infringement existing at the time of adoption of this ordinance, upon any open space required by this ordinance. All required yard setback requirements must be adhered to in any such expansion project.

6.027.3 Expansion Limited

Any expansion of a nonconforming use permitted under the provisions of this section shall take place only upon the lot(s) on which said use was operating at the time the use became nonconforming. Nothing within this provision shall be construed so as to permit expansion of any nonconforming use through the acquisition and development of additional land.

6.027.4 Expansion Upon Land Subject to Flood

No expansion of any nonconforming use shall violate the provisions of Section 6.030.

6.028 Damage or Destruction

6.028.1 General Provisions

Any nonconforming use which shall become nonconforming upon enactment of this ordinance, or any subsequent amendments thereto, may be permitted to reconstruct damaged or destroyed facilities which involve any actual continuance of the nonconforming use provided that any such reconstruction shall not violate the provisions set out below.

6.028.2 Change in Use Prohibited

No reconstruction of damaged or destroyed facilities may occur which shall act to change the nonconforming use ~~(as regulated in Section 6.026 above) to other than a~~ permitted use.

6.28.3 Infringement Upon Open Space Restricted Floodway

No reconstruction of damaged or destroyed facilities utilized by a nonconforming use shall increase the extent of any infringement upon any open space required by this ordinance.

6.028.4 Reconstruction of Flood Damaged Property

The provisions of Section 6.030 shall apply to the reconstruction of all buildings and structures associated with any nonconforming use located within floodway district.

6.029 Discontinuance

When a nonconforming use of land or the active operation of substantially all the nonconforming uses in any building or other structure or tract of land is discontinued for a period of one (1) year, then the land or building or other structure shall thereafter be used only for conforming use. Intent to resume active operations shall not affect the foregoing provision.

Any discontinued use for a period of thirty (30) days of a nonconforming mobile home shall not be re-established furthermore any nonconforming mobile home shall not be re-established thirty (30) days after its removal.

6.030 Special Provisions Governing Nonconforming Buildings Within Floodway District

6.030.1 General Provisions

In all districts or portions thereof which extend into the floodway districts as established by Section 5.054, any building or other structure or use which is not permitted by the floodway district provisions shall become nonconforming upon the effective date of this ordinance, or subsequent amendment as applicable.

6.030.2 Enlargement of Buildings Within the Floodway

A building or other structure which is nonconforming by reason of location within the floodway shall not be enlarged or expanded but may be altered, or repaired as set forth in Section 6.023 or as may be expressly authorized by the Board of Zoning Appeals in order to incorporate flood-proofing measures provided that such alteration will not increase the level of the 100-year flood or extend the normal life of such nonconforming building or structure.

6.030.3 Special Provisions Governing Reconstruction of Building or Structure Located within the Floodway District

Within the floodway district any building or structure in existence prior to the effective date of this ordinance that is hereafter destroyed or substantially damaged by any means may be reconstructed and used as before only if the following requirements are met.

- A. The reconstruction does not exceed the volume and external dimensions of the original structure or does not offer any greater obstruction to the flow of floodwaters than did the original structure.
- B. Nonresidential structures may be reconstructed only if the lowest floor (including basement) elevation is at least one (1) foot above the level of the 100-year flood or the structure is flood proofed (in accordance with the requirements of Section 4.110 to a height of at least one (1) foot above the level of the 100-year flood).
- C. Residential structures may be reconstructed only if the lowest floor (including basement) of the structure is elevated to a point at least one (1) foot above the level of the 100-year flood.

D. That no reconstruction or alteration permitted herein under shall result in any increase in the level of the 100-year flood.

6.040 Bulk and Lot Size Noncompliance

6.040.1 General Provisions

The provisions of this section shall control buildings and other structures which do not meet the bulk or any other provisions applicable in the districts in which they are located except those provisions which pertain to activity or use.

6.040.2 Continuation of Use

The use of a noncomplying building or other structure or parcel may be continued, except as otherwise provided by this chapter.

6.040.3 Repairs and Alterations

Repairs, incidental alterations, or structural alterations may be made in noncomplying buildings or other structures subject to the provisions of Section 6.040.4 through 6.040.6.

6.040.4 Enlargements or Conversions

A noncomplying building or other structure may be enlarged or converted, provided that no enlargement or conversion may be made which would either create a new noncompliance or increase the degree of noncompliance of a building or other structure or parcel of any portion thereof.

6.040.5 Buildings Noncomplying as to Lot Area

If a building does not comply with the applicable district regulations on lot area per dwelling unit (lot area being smaller than required for the number of dwelling units on such lot) such building may be converted (except when in the floodway district), provided that the deficiency in the required lot area is not thereby increased (for example, a noncomplying building on a lot of 3,500 square feet, which before conversion required a lot area of 5,000 square feet and was, therefore, deficient by 1,500 square feet, can be converted into any combination of dwelling units allowed in the zoning district in question requiring a lot area of no more than 5,000 square feet).

6.040.6 Damage or Destruction of Noncomplying Uses

A noncomplying building which is damaged or destroyed may be reconstructed, provided that the reconstruction will not

either create a new noncompliance or increase the degree of noncompliance of a building or structure or parcel or portion thereof.

6.050 Exceptions to Height Limitations. The height limitations of this ordinance shall not apply to church spires, belfries, cupolas and domes not intended for human occupancy; monuments, water towers, transmission towers, windmills not in residential zones, chimneys, smokestacks, conveyors, flag poles, public and semi-public radio towers, masts and aerials. Height exceptions for radio towers and windmills in residential zoning districts shall be allowed only when approved by the planning commission.

6.060 Lots of Record. The following provisions shall apply to all existing lots of record:

- A. Where the owner of a lot consisting of one or more adjacent lots of official record at the time of the adoption of this ordinance does not own sufficient land to enable him to conform to the yard or other requirements of this ordinance, an application may be submitted to the Board of Zoning Appeals for a variance from the terms of this ordinance. Such lot may be used as a building site, provided, however, that the yard and other requirements of the district are complied with as closely as in the opinion of the Board of Zoning Appeals is possible.
- B. No lot which is now or hereafter built upon shall be so reduced in area that the yards and open space will be smaller than prescribed by this ordinance, and no yard, court, or open space provided around any building for the purpose of complying with the provisions hereof, shall again be considered as a yard, court, or other open space for another building.
- C. Where two or more lots of record with a continuous frontage are under the same ownership, or where a substandard lot of record has continuous frontage with a larger tract under the same ownership, such lots shall be combined to form one or more building sites meeting the minimum requirements of the district in which they are located.

6.070 Exceptions to Setback Requirements. The front setback requirement of this ordinance for dwellings shall not apply to any lot where the average depth of existing setbacks on the developed lots located within one hundred (100) feet on each side of such lot is less than the minimum required front yard depth. In such cases, the front yard setback may be less than required but not less than the average of the existing depth for front yards on developed lots within one hundred (100) feet on each side of the

lot. In residential districts, however, the setback shall in no case be less than ten (10) feet from the street right-of-way line.

6.080 Absolute Minimum Lot Size. In no case shall the Building Inspector or the Board of Zoning Appeals permit any lot in a residential district to be used as building site which is less than six thousand (6,000) square feet in total area and thirty (30) feet in width at its narrowest point, or has a front setback of less than fifteen (15) feet and a side setback of less than five (5) feet, with the exception of officially approved planned developments.