

Code of Ordinances
Of the Township of Ligonier

PREFACE

Ligonier Township, bordered on the east and west by mountain ridges of the Laurel Highlands, played a strategic role in the opening up and settling of Western Pennsylvania. Prior to the 1700's, the township was crossed by Indian trails. Loyalhanna, the site of a Native American settlement, was located on or near the site of Fort Ligonier. The fort itself was constructed in 1758 by General John Forbes to serve as an outpost along the road he laid out to carry his troops to attack the French at Fort Duquesne and was named after Sir John Ligonier, Commander in Chief of the British Army in 1758.

Ligonier Township was first settled around 1773, and incorporated in 1822, from portions of adjacent Fairfield and Donegal Township. Early road and rail networks from Pittsburgh to Philadelphia opened access to the Ligonier Valley and its natural resources, permitting exploitation of coal and timber.

The clean streams and mountain forests of Ligonier Township attract a number of visitors each year as do multi-season activities such as golf, camping, and skiing. Ligonier Township is home to Idlewild Park, one of the oldest amusement parks in the United States.

Ligonier Township encompasses an area of approximately 91.8 square miles and is located in eastern Westmoreland County.

The Township of Ligonier has, over the years, passed through a process of legislative change common to many American communities. While only a few simple laws were necessary at the time of the establishment of the township, subsequent growth of the community, together with the complexity of modern life, has created the need for new and more detailed legislation for the proper function and government of the township. The recording of local laws in an aspect of municipal history, and as the community develops and changes, review and revision of old laws and consideration of new laws, in the light of current trends, must keep pace. The orderly collection of these records is an important step in this ever-continuing process. Legislation must be more than mere chronological enactments reposing in the pages of old records. It must be available and logically arranged for convenient use and must be kept up-to-date. It was with thoughts such as these in mind that the Board of Supervisors ordered the following codification of the township's legislation.

Contents of Code

The various chapters of the Code contain all currently effective legislation of a general and permanent nature enacted by the Board of Supervisors of the Township of Ligonier, including revisions or amendments to existing legislation deemed necessary by the Board of Supervisors in the course of the codification.

Division of Code

The Code is divided into Parts. Part I, Administrative Legislation, contains all township legislation of an administrative nature, namely, that dealing with the administration of government, that establishing or regulating municipal departments and that affecting officers and employees of the municipal government and its departments. Part II, General Legislation, contains all other township legislation of a regulatory nature. Part III, Zoning and Land Use, contain all township legislation relating to zoning, planning, land use, and building. Items of legislation in Part II and Part III generally impose penalties for violation of their provisions, whereas those in Part I do not.

Grouping of Legislation and Arrangement of Chapters

The various items of legislation are organized into chapters, their order being an alphabetical progression from one subject to another. Wherever there are two or more items of legislation dealing with the same subject, they are combined into a single chapter. Thus, for example, all legislation pertaining to the regulation of streets and sidewalks may be found in Part II, in the chapter entitled "Streets and Sidewalks." In such chapters, use of article or part designations has preserved the identity of the individual items of legislation.

Table of Contents

The Table of Contents details the alphabetical arrangement of material by chapter as a means of identifying specific areas of legislation. Wherever a chapter is divided into two or more articles or parts, titles of the several articles or parts are listed beneath the chapter title.

Reserved Chapters

Space has been provided in the Code for the convenient insertion, alphabetically, of later enactments. In the Table of Contents such space appears as chapters entitled "(Reserved)." In the body of the Code, reserved space is provided by breaks in the page-numbering sequence between chapters.

Numbering of Sections

A chapter-related section numbering system is employed, in which each section of every item of legislation is assigned a number which indicates both the number of the chapter in which the legislation is located and the location of the section within that chapter. Thus, the first section of Chapter 6 is § 6-1, while the fourth section of Chapter 53 is § 53-4. New sections can then be added between existing sections using a decimal system. Thus, for example, if two

sections were to be added between §§ 53-4 and 53-5, they would be numbered as §§ 53-4.1 and 53-4.2.

Scheme

The Scheme is the list of section titles which precedes the text of each chapter. These titles are carefully written so that, taken together, they may be considered as a summary of the content of the chapter. Taken separately, each describes the content of a particular section. For ease and precision of reference, the Scheme titles are repeated as section headings in the text.

Histories

At the end of the Scheme in each chapter is located the legislative history for that chapter. This History indicates the specific legislative source from which the chapter was derived, including the enactment number (e.g., ordinance number, local law number, bylaw number, resolution number, etc.), if pertinent, and the date of adoption. In the case of chapters containing parts or articles derived from more than one item of legislation, the source of each part or article is indicated in the History. Amendments to individual sections or subsections are indicated by histories where appropriate in the text.

Codification Amendments and Revisions

New chapters adopted during the process of codification are specifically enumerated in chapter Histories with reference to “Ch. 1, General Provisions,” where the legislation adopting this Code and making such revisions will appear after final enactment. Sections amended or revised are indicated in the text by means of Editor’s Notes referring to the chapter cited above.

General References; Editor’s Notes

In each chapter containing material related to other chapters in the Code, a table of General References is included to direct the reader’s attention to such related chapters. Editor’s Notes are used in the text to provide supplementary information and cross-references to related provisions in other chapters.

Appendix

Certain forms of local legislation are not of a nature suitable for inclusion in the main body of the Code but are of such significance that their application is community-wide or their provisions are germane to the conduct of municipal government. The Appendix of this Code is

reserved for such legislation and for any other material that the Board of Supervisors thinks may be relevant to the community.

Disposition List

The Disposition List is a chronological listing of legislation adopted since the publication of the Code, indicating its inclusion in the Code or the reason for its exclusion. The Disposition List will be updated with each supplement to the Code to include the legislation reviewed with said supplement.

Instructions for Amending the Code

All changes to the Code, whether they are amendments, deletions, or complete new additions, should be adopted as amending the Code. In doing so, existing material that is not being substantively altered should not be renumbered. Where new sections are to be added to a chapter, they can be added at the end of the existing material (continuing the numbering sequence), or inserted between existing sections as decimal numbers (e.g., a new section between §§ 45-5 and 45-6 should be designated § 45-5.1). Every effort should be made to put new chapters should be added in the proper alphabetical sequence in the appropriate division or part (e.g., Part I, Administrative Legislation, or Part II, General Legislation), utilizing the reserved chapter numbers. New chapter titles should begin with the key words for the alphabetical listing (e.g., new legislation on abandoned vehicles should be titled “Vehicles, Abandoned” under “V” in the table of contents, and a new enactment on coin-operated amusement devices should be “Amusement Devices” or “Amusement Devices, Coin-Operated” under “A” in the table of contents). Where a reserved number is not available, an “A” chapter should be used (e.g., a new chapter to be included between Chapters 45 and 46 should be designated Chapter 45A). New articles may be included between existing articles in a chapter (e.g., a new article to be included between Articles XVI and XVII should be designated Article XVIA). The section numbers would be as indicated above (e.g., if the new Article XVIA contains six sections and existing Article XVI ends with § 45-30 and Article XVII begins with § 45-31, Article XVIA should contain §§ 45-30.1 through 45-30.6).

Supplementation

Supplementation of the Code will follow the adoption of new legislation. New legislation or amendments to existing legislation will be included and repeals will be indicated as soon as possible after passage. Supplemental pages should be included and repeals will be indicated as soon as possible after passage. Supplemental pages should be inserted as soon as they are received and old pages removed, in accordance with the Instruction Page which accompanies each supplement.

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