

**BOROUGH OF CANONSBURG
WASHINGTON COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

ORDINANCE NO. 1374

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF CANONSBURG, COUNTY OF WASHINGTON, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, REPEALING AND REPLACING CHAPTER 63 ALARMS, OF THE BOROUGH CODE OR ORDINANCES ESTABLISHING A PERMIT SYSTEM FOR ALARMS AND VIOLATIONS THEREOF.

WHEREAS, Council for the Borough of Canonsburg (“Council”) has adopted Chapter 63 contained within its Code of Ordinances, governing the installation and permitting of alarms in structures located within the Borough; and

WHEREAS, Council has determined that Chapter 63 requires an amendment to ensure that its contents are consistent with the elimination of the Borough’s 911 Emergency Dispatch System; and

WHEREAS, The Borough of Canonsburg is desirous of repealing and replacing Chapter 63 Alarms within the Codes of the Borough of Canonsburg with the provisions contained herein.

NOW THEREFORE, be it ordained by the Council of the Borough of Canonsburg, and it is hereby ordained and enacted as follows:

NOW THEREFORE, it is hereby ordained and enacted as follows:

Section 1: False Alarms

- A. **Definitions** – The following definitions shall apply in the interpretation and enforcement of this Ordinance.
- i. **EMERGENCY SERVICES** – The services provided by any police, fire department, or any other emergency agency within the Borough of Canonsburg.
 - ii. **FALSE ALARM** – Any activation of an alarm system by inadvertence, negligence, or intentional or unintentional acts or means to which emergency services of the Borough of Canonsburg respond and where it is determined that the alarm was not the result of a crime in progress, fire, medical or other emergency necessitating a response by emergency services, excepting those alarms which are caused solely by weather extremes or inadvertent utility interruptions.
- B. **False Alarms Prohibited** – It shall be unlawful for the property owner, lessee, or any person occupying, or in control of any premises within Borough of Canonsburg, to make or cause to be made, a false alarm, directly or indirectly, that unduly requires the response of any emergency services providers.

C. False Alarm Service Fees

- i. Whether an alarm is a false alarm as defined herein is to be determined by the responding emergency services provider and shall be subject to review and final determination by Borough Council.
- ii. There shall be no service fee for the First False Alarm in any one calendar year.
- iii. Upon notification to the Borough by the emergency services provider of a Second False Alarm within any one calendar year, the Borough shall send a written warning to the owner and/or occupant of the premises giving notice of the violation of this Ordinance, and directing that a written report be provided to the Borough within fourteen (14) days setting forth what steps have been taken to eliminate future false alarms.
- iv. Service fees for false alarms shall be assessed by and paid to the Borough as follows:
 - a. A Third False Alarm in any one calendar year shall be subject to a service fee of one hundred and fifty dollars (\$150.00) for residential properties and two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250.00) for commercial properties.
 - b. A Fourth False Alarm and all subsequent false alarms in any one calendar year shall be subject to a service fee of three hundred dollars (\$300.00) for residential properties and five hundred dollars (\$500.00) for commercial properties.
- v. False alarm service fees shall be due and payable to the Borough of Canonsburg within 30 days from the date of the mailing of the notice of the assessment of the false alarm service fee.

D. Penalties and Remedies for Violations

- i. Any person who violates or fails to comply with any provision of this Ordinance shall upon conviction thereof be sentenced to pay a fine of not less than three hundred dollars (\$300.00), nor more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00), together with the costs of prosecution and service fees as set forth above.
- ii. The Borough's Code Enforcement Officer, Fire Code Official or Police shall have exclusive authority to determine whether the service fees and penalties provided for by this Ordinance shall be levied against the owner of the property or the occupant of the property.

Section 2: Effective Date

This Ordinance shall be effective immediately.

Section 3: Repealer

Any ordinance, resolution or part thereof in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance is hereby repealed to the extent of said conflict.

Section 4: Severability

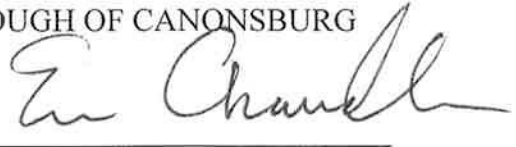
If any section, subsection, sentence, or clause of this ordinance is held, for any reason, to be invalid, such decision or decisions shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance.

ORDAINED AND ENACTED this 8 day of May, 2023 by the BOROUGH OF CANONSBURG.

ATTEST:


Denise Lesnock
Borough Manager

BOROUGH OF CANONSBURG

By 
Eric Chandler
Council President