

**Zoning and Development Code Amendment
NEC (National Electric Code)**

DATE OF REVIEW: May 1, 2024

CODE REFERENCES: Chapter 8, Article X, Division 9, Sec. 8-144. – General and Sec. 8-151 – Standards and Specifications

PROPOSED REVISION:

Article X of the Zoning and Development Code contains the city's building regulations. The current Development Code references the 2020 edition of the NEC (National Electric Code), which is a freestanding document. State law requires a municipality to adopt the most recent NEC every three years.

This proposed ordinance replaces references to the 2020 edition of the NEC with the 2023 edition. Additionally, this ordinance proposes a clarification to Section 8-151, regarding requirements for closet lighting. The previous Code required a readily accessible light switch for closets deeper than 48 inches, and the clarification will add that an actual light is required as well.

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

Staff recommends approval of the code amendment.

1 (2) It shall be unlawful for any person to occupy or maintain any building or structure in which the
2 electrical work, wiring or appliances are in violation of this division.

3 (3) Any person who commits any acts declared to be unlawful, or fails to perform an act required by
4 this division, shall be subject to any and all penalties as provided herein. Any electrical
5 installations erected or altered in violation of this Code shall be summarily condemned and
6 removed at the expense of the person erecting or altering or allowing the same.

7 (f) *Amendments to the National Electrical Code, 2020-2023 edition.*

8 (1) Article 300, National Electrical Code, 2020-2023 edition, is hereby amended by adding Section
9 24 which shall read as follows:

10 300.24. Special Safety Measures.

11 (a) Except upon written permission of the building official, no electrical conductor of any nature
12 shall be installed nearer than three (3) inches to any metal pipe or duct which could
13 operate at a temperature in excess of one hundred twenty (120) degrees Fahrenheit.

14 (b) Thermostat, low voltage control wiring and communications cables in dwellings shall be
15 protected from mechanical damage and shall maintain two (2) inches clearance from all
16 other wiring and pipes. Thermostat, low voltage control wiring and communications cables
17 shall be well strapped or supported with insulated staples or supports not to exceed four
18 (4) feet spacing.

19 **II.**

20 That Zoning and Development Code, Chapter 8, Article X, Division 9, Section 8-
21 151(c), Code of Ordinances (2018 Edition), City of Round Rock, Texas, is hereby
22 amended as follows:

23 **CHAPTER 8. ZONING AND DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS**

24
25 **DIVISION 9. ELECTRICAL CODE**

26
27 **Sec. 8-151. Standards and specifications.**

28
29 (c) *Special electrical circuit requirements.* The following additional requirements shall be met for all new
30 construction:

31 (1) All circuits shall have conductors sized in accordance with article 310 of the ~~National Electrical~~
32 ~~Code~~NEC. No conductor smaller than No. 12 copper American wire gauge size, shall be used in any
33 electrical work as covered by this Code, except the following as approved by the ~~National Electrical~~
34 ~~Code~~NEC:

35 a. Pendant and portable cords;

36 b. No. 14 for control circuits, operating contractors, relays, etc.;

37 c. Wiring within display cases;

38 d. Wiring for system covered by chapter 7 of the ~~National Electrical Code~~NEC;

39 (2) All panels must be large enough to accommodate the present load requirements and have at
40 least two spaces for future use.

41 (3) All 125 volt, single phase 15 or 20 ampere rated devices installed in commercial and industrial
42 installations shall be of the nonresidential type or shall be 20 ampere rated only.

43 (4) Temporary service for construction sites are required to have a driven ground rod.

1 (5) Flexible metal conduit smaller than one-half-inch electrical trade size shall not be permitted.

2 (6) Kerneys or split bolt connectors shall not be allowed for taps in electrical services and gutters.
3 Only blocks and couple taps are permitted.

4 (7) All building services shall have a UFER grounded and be grounded by Art. 250 of NEC.

5 (8) All closets and storage areas that are over 48 inches deep or more shall have a ~~light-switch~~
6 luminaire controlled by a switch that is readily accessible and complies with Section 410.16 of the
7 NEC.

8
9 **III.**

10
11 **A.** All ordinances, parts of ordinances, or resolutions in conflict herewith are
12 expressly repealed.

13 **B.** The invalidity of any section or provision of this ordinance shall not
14 invalidate other sections or provisions thereof.

15 **C.** The City Council hereby finds and declares that written notice of the date,
16 hour, place and subject of the meeting at which this Ordinance was adopted was posted
17 and that such meeting was open to the public as required by law at all times during
18 which this Ordinance and the subject matter hereof were discussed, considered and
19 formally acted upon, all as required by the Open Meetings Act, Chapter 551, Texas
20 Government Code, as amended.

21 Alternative 1.

22 By motion duly made, seconded and passed with an affirmative vote of all the
23 Council members present, the requirement for reading this ordinance on two separate
24 days was dispensed with.

25 **READ, PASSED, and ADOPTED** on first reading this _____ day of
26 _____, 2024.

27 Alternative 2.

1 **READ** and **APPROVED** on first reading this the ____ day of
2 _____, 2024.

3 **READ, APPROVED** and **ADOPTED** on second reading this the ____ day of
4 _____, 2024.

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CRAIG MORGAN, Mayor
City of Round Rock, Texas

ATTEST:

MEAGAN SPINKS, City Clerk