Introduced June 24th, 1980 by Councilman Singletary, seconded by Council Martinez (By Request)

Item Number 80-6-179

ORDINANCE NO. 1280

Amended July 22nd, 1980 (B)

PLUMBING & GAS CONTROL ORDINANCE

An Ordinance repealing and replacing Section 7-7 of the Slidell Code of Ordinance and regulating the installation, replacement and repair of plumbing and gas systems in the City of Slidell, providing for and creating the Board of Plumbing Examiners, providing for a City Inspector, setting forth his powers and duties, providing for issuance of permits, collection of fees, examination for licenses, issuance of license therefor; providing certain restrictions and standards; providing penalties for violation thereof and repealing all ordinances and parts of ordinances in conflict therewith.

Section 1. THE SCOPE. The purpose of this Code is to provide minumum standards to safeguard life or limb, health, property and public welfare by regulating and controlling the quality of materials, use and maintenance of all plumbing and gas work. Where in any specific case different sections of the Slidell Plumbing Code or Slidell Gas Code specify different materials, methods of installation or other requirements, the most restrictive shall apply. Where there is a question as to interpretation, the decision of the Plumbing Inspector shall stand.

Section 2. BOARD MEMBERS. The Board of Plumbing Examiners of the City consists of the City Plumbing Inspector and five (5) persons appointed by the Mayor.

Section 3. TERM OF OFFICE. The City Inspector shall serve throughout his term of employment by the City. The term of office for the five (5) other members shall be five (5) years with staggered terms. The first appointments shall be for shorter durations to achieve that staggering.

All members may be reappointed by the Mayor. All members shall be a resident of the Parish of St. Tammany and his membership shall automatically be vacated if he moves outside the limits of the Parish. Any member may be removed for cause by the Mayor.

At the first board meeting of the year, the members shall elect a Chairman and other necessary officers. The board shall meet once each quarter of the calendar year or at the call of the Chairman, or any two members of the board.

Section 4. APPLICATION FOR LICENSE. No one may be licensed as a Master Plumber or Gasfitter Master in the City of Slidell without having passed an examination given by the Board of Plumbing Examiners. This shall not apply to those already licensed.

- 1. All applications for examination shall be taken by the City Inspector. The examination itself will be given in the presence of at least one of the board members and shall be graded by at least two of the board members.
- 2. Applications for examination must be submitted thirty (30) working days prior to the date of examination. The application shall include such information as may be required by the board to show that the applicant meets the qualifications for issuing a license. A financial statement will be required.
- 3. Applicants shall be required to obtain a minimum of 70% to pass the examination. The examination will be to test the applicant's knowledge of the Slidell Plumbing Code and plumbing materials and practices.
- 4. To apply for a license, a person must meet the following requirements:
 - a) They shall have met the requirements of the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Journeyman Plumbers and have in their possession a current license issued by said board, plus for two previous years.
 - b) They shall submit two letters of reference from previous employers submitting to the applicants experience and character.
 - c) They shall have been a jourveyman plumber for at least three years.

Applicants who pass the examination and receive the plumbing or gasfitting license must establish a place of business and have someone in attendance during regular business hours or have an answering service.

5. Before being issued a license they shall deposit with the City a bond in the principal sum of three thousand dollars (\$3,000.00) secured by a surety approved by the City, conditioned that the principal shall faithfully comply with the provisions of this code and the ordinances of the City and shall indemnify and hold harmless the City, and all officers

and employees thereof against all cost, expense, damage and injury sustained by the negligence of such principal, his agents, servants and employees and on his failure to comply with the terms of this code, the Slidell Plumbing Code and other ordinances of the City.

Section 5. EXAMINATION FEES. The fee for each initial examination shall be \$25.00 each (plumbing and gas) if it is conducted at a regularly scheduled quarterly meeting. Special examination fees will be \$100.00 each (plumbing and gas).

Section 6. LICENSE FEES, EXPIRATION AND RENEWAL. Licenses shall be renewed without further examination. Exceptions: If license is not renewed by March 1st, re-examination will be required.

Section 7. PAYMENT OF FEES. The examination and re-examination fees and renewal fees shall be paid to the City Permit Office.

Section 8. FAILURE TO PASS EXAMINATION. In the event the applicant fails to pass the examination, he shall be permitted to apply for further examination after ninety (90) days have expired from the date of the previous examination. There shall be no limit as to the number of examinations a person shall be allowed to undergo. If a review of a test is required in writing, a quorum of at least three members of the board must be present for the review.

Section 9. AUTHORITY TO INSTALL PLUMBING.

- a) No person shall engage in the profession of plumber or gasfitter or accept or perform any job for the installation, alteration, extension, repair or replacement of any plumbing or gas system without having previously obtained a master plumbers license ("A" Card) or master gasfitters license ("A" Card) from the City of Slidell, except as provided in (b) and (c) of this section.
- b) A "B" Card gasfitters license shall be issued to anyone having sucessfully passed a test given by the Slidell Plumbing Board and holding a journeyman plumbers license from the State of Louisiana for three years. Such a card shall allow the holder to work only from the last gas cock to the equipment.

A "B" Card plumber's license shall be issued to anyone having

sucessfully passed a test given by the Slidell Plumbing Board of Examiners and holding a journeyman plumber's license from the State of Louisiana for three years. Such a card shall allow the holder to do repair work on plumbing lines and fixtures and installation of new fixtures. But, such a license shall not be valid for the installation, extension or alteration of plumbing systems.

c) An apprentice engaged in the learning of the plumbing trade may participate in such work, provided that he shall at all times when doing such work, be under the direct supervision of a licensed master plumber or licensed journeyman plumber who is physically present at the site of the work.

Section 10. APPLICATION FOR A PERMIT. It shall be unlawful to proceed with the installation of any plumbing or gas systems, with the alteration, extension or replacement of such system, without haveing previously obtained a permit from the City for such work. Applications for permits shall be made in person or in writing by the Master Plumber or Master Gasfitter, to the City giving such information as may be required to show that the work will be performed in accordance with the provisions of the Slidell Plumbing Code and Slidell Gas Code.

It shall be the duty of the Plumbing Inspector to see that the work which is being done and which required a permit under the provisions of the Slidell Plumbing Code and Slidell Gas Code is authorized by such a permit, and where such work is being done without a permit, to promptly stop all such work and report the fact to the Permit Officer.

The Plumbing Inspector shall have the authority to set such inspections as he deems necessary to insure that installations are performed according to the Slidell Plumbing Code and Slidell Gas Code. He shall have the authority to stop the concealing of pipes, devices or fixtures that have not been inspected or have not been installed according to the Slidell Plumbing Code or Slidell Gas Code. He shall have such other power as may be necessary to properly inspect installations to assure they meet the Slidell Plumbing Code and Slidell Gas Code.

Before a person, firm or corporation shall proceed with a plumbing or gas installation, he shall file a request for a permit with the City and

pay the fees established by the City Council which are due and payable upon application for permits.

These fees shall cover all inspections of the work for which a permit is issued, as well as the issuance of the certificate of inspection. If, however, the Inspector is forced to make an additional trip or trips to the work by reason of the fact that the work is not ready for inspection at the time he calls in or code violations are discovered, then additional re-inspection fees, as set by the City Council, shall be paid for each trip so made.

Section 11. NOTIFICATION. Upon completion of the installation of a plumbing or gas system, the alteration, replacement, or extension of such a system, it shall be the duty of the license holder to notify the Plumbing Inspector of Permit Office, either verbally or in writing, who shall inspect the same within forty-eight (48) hours of time such notice shall have been given, weekends and holidays not included. However, any person or firm challenging the Plumbing Inspector or Permit Office on the time, must have submitted their request for inspection in writing.

Whenever any work for which a permit is required under the provisions of this ordinance has been commenced without the authorization or in violation of a code, an investigation fee shall be collected. When the final permit fee is less than Ten Dollars (\$10.00), the minimum investigation fee shall be Ten Dollars (\$10.00). When the final permit fee is above Ten Dollars (\$10.00), the investigation fee shall be Ten Dollars (\$10.00) plus fifty percent (50%) of the final permit fee.

Section 12. GENERAL RE-INSPECTION. If, upon inspection, any dangerous or unsanitary installations are discovered a written notice shall be served on the owner or occupant to have same corrected in accordance with the requirements of this code. On failure of the owner or occupant to comply with such notice, the Inspector shall have the authority to give written notice to the utility company to cut off or dusconnect utility services, or otherwise cause the operation to be discontinued, until the defects are corrected.

Section 13. CERTIFICATE OF INSPECTION. After final inspection of said installation, alteration, extension or connection and finding no

violations of this code, the City shall release to the license holder a certificate of inspection.

Section 14. VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES. Any license granted under this code may be revoked by the Slidell City Council if the holder of the license violates this ordinance or the Slidell Plumbing Code as amended or is guilty of any act or in any installation work which is dangerous or unsanitary to life or property, or for transferring or allowing directly or indirectly persons, firms or corporation other than the lawful holder to operate or to obtain permits to do work under said license, provided the holder of the license be found guilty of such violations in a court of law.

Section 15. LICENSE RE-ISSUED. When a license is revoked, a new license will not be granted to the same person, firm or corporation for a period of ninety (90) days or more, nor unit1 such person, firm or corporation shall have corrected the faulty work or the violations of these regulations. Licenses will be re-issued after applicant has taken an examination and paid the fees required for the original license.

Section 16. APPEAL. Appeal from the decision of the board may be taken within thirty (30) days to the City Council.

Section 17. LIABILITY. Any officer or employee of the City of Slidell, or member of the Slidell Plumbing Board of Examiners, charged with the enforcement of this code, acting lawfully and without gross negligence or willful misconduct for the governing body in the discharge of his duties, is hereby relieved from personal liability for any damage that may accrue to persons or property as a result of any act required or permitted in the discharge of his duties. Any suit brought against any officer or employee because of such act performed by him in the enforcement of any provisions of this code be defended by the City Attorney of Slidell until the final termination of the proceedings.

Section 18. RIGHT OF ENTRY. The Plumbing Inspector of his representative shall have the right of entry, during business hours, to inspect any and all premises for plumbing or gas installations in the performance of his duties.

Section 19. SAVING CLAUSE. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this ordinance is for any reason held to be unconstitutional,

such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this code.

ADOPTED this 22 day of July , 1980.

DELIVERED 7-25-80

10:45 A to the Mayor

RECEIVED 7-31-80

3:15 nd from the Mayor

nn Swenson, CMC erk of the Council AlvinaD. Singletary Councilman-at-Large

President of the Council

M. W. "Webb" Hart

Mayor