

AN ORDINANCE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF BARTOW COUNTY FOR THE PURPOSE OF **AMENDING THE CODE OF BARTOW COUNTY, CHAPTER 74, WATER AND SEWER; AMENDING ARTICLE I, ADOPTING PROVISIONS GOVERNING FIRE HYDRANT TESTING, MAINTENANCE AND IDENTIFICATION**; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES AT THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMISSIONER OF BARTOW COUNTY HELD ON THE 10<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2014.

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**WHEREAS**, Bartow County provides fire protection to the unincorporated areas of the County as well as six of the seven municipalities in the County; and

**WHEREAS**, properly maintained, tested and identified fire hydrants are an essential part of a fire protection plan; and

**WHEREAS**, the Bartow County Fire Department as well as the Bartow County Water System both recommend a regular program of testing and maintenance of fire hydrants, as well as marking them for ready identification of their capacity; and

**WHEREAS**, the Commissioner has determined it is in the best interests of the public health, safety and welfare to adopt the amendments set forth below; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED**, AND IT IS HEREBY ORDAINED, by virtue of the authority vested in the Commissioner by law, that the Code of Bartow County is amended as follows:

**I. Chapter 74 – WATER AND SEWER shall be amended by adding the following Sections to Article I, “In General”:**

Sec. 74-1        Reserved.

Sec. 74-2        Fire Hydrant Testing, Maintenance and Identification.

(a)     Purpose. The purpose of this ordinance is to provide a standard system for hydrant color identification and establish a practice of maintenance for fire hydrants within the service area of the Bartow County Fire Department. These provisions shall incorporate by reference the American Water Works Association (AWWA) manual M17, “Installation, Field Testing, and Maintenance of Fire Hydrants”; the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 291 latest edition, defining Fire Flow Testing and Marking Hydrants; and Insurance Service Organization (ISO) standards for fire hydrant testing, collectively referred to herein as the “Standards.”

(b)     Testing Required. All fire hydrants within the service area of the Bartow County Fire Department shall be flowed and tested in accordance with the Standards. The testing shall determine the Gallons Per Minute (GPM) fire flow for

that hydrant. Testing shall be coordinated with the water system that operates the system upon which the hydrant is located. Proper public notice shall be issued in advance of any testing to ensure the public is aware of potential water discoloration.

(c) **Color Coding.** After testing, each hydrant shall then be color coded in accordance with NFPA 291, as follows:

Standard Hydrants

	<b>GMP Flow rate</b>	<b>Paint Color</b>
Barrels:	Any	Safety Yellow
Bonnet and Caps:	less than 500	Safety Red
	500 to 999	Safety Orange
	1,000 to 1,499	Safety Green
	1,500 or greater	Safety Blue
Trim of Bonnet:	Any	Silver or White Reflective (if available)

*Disclaimer: Color coding is only descriptive of what GPM flow was at the time of the last documented test. It in no way guarantees that the hydrant will flow that GPM at the time of an incident and does not take into account any high demands, broken mains, closed valves or other events that could affect GPM flow. Color coding is only used as a general reference to what the potential flow may be at any given time and citizens and staff should be aware and prepared for GPM changes.*

Special Hydrants:

Bastard thread hydrant (Non-NST):	Caps – gloss black
Private hydrant:	Barrel, bonnet and caps – solid red
Out of service hydrant:	Barrel, bonnet and caps – safety yellow or clearly marked with a covering to identify out of service status.

(d) **Maintenance Procedures.** An annual maintenance schedule and visual check program shall be established by the Bartow County Fire Department. Personnel and citizen safety shall be a high priority. All fire hydrants are to be opened and closed very slowly to prevent water hammer, line damage and equipment failure.

(e) **Recording Data.** All test data shall be maintained in the Bartow County Fire Department records as well as the records of the relevant water system owning the hydrant. A record of malfunctions, corrections and system changes

shall be recorded. Any malfunction of the system, while performing work on the system, is to be immediately reported to the Battalion Chief, who will in turn notify appropriate water system officials.

All other Ordinances and Resolutions, or parts of said Ordinances or resolutions, in conflict herewith are hereby repealed, except to the extent said Ordinances are more restrictive than this Ordinance.

**SO ADOPTED** this 10th day of September, 2014, to be effective immediately, the public health, safety, and general welfare demanding.

ATTEST:

BARTOW COUNTY, GEORGIA

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Kathy Gill, Clerk

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Steve Taylor, Commissioner