

TITLE VI PROPERTY AND LAND USE

CHAPTER 1 TELECOMMUNICATIONS TOWERS AND ANTENNAS

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6-1-1 PURPOSE. The purpose of this ordinance is to establish general guidelines for the siting of towers and antennas for commercial wireless telecommunications as provided for in the federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 and any other communication towers which meet the structural criteria listed in this ordinance.

6-1-2 DEFINITIONS. For use in this ordinance, certain words used herein shall be defined as follows:

1. Antenna. Any structure or device used to collect or radiate telecommunications signals.
2. Height. The vertical distance measures from the base of the structure to the highest point of the structure.
3. Telecommunications. The transmission between or among points specified by the user, of information of the user's choosing, without change in the form or content of the information as sent and received.
4. Telecommunications Tower. Any guyed, monopole, or self-supporting tower, constructed as a free-standing structure or in association with a building or other permanent structure, containing one or more telecommunications antennas, any part of which exceeds 100 feet in height.

6-1-3 SPECIAL EXCEPTION. A telecommunications tower may be permitted as a Special Exception use as provided in the Clinton County Zoning Ordinance upon determination that all of the applicable conditions in this ordinance are met. Special Exception Use applications are submitted to the Clinton County Board of Adjustment for action. No additional permits are required for placemen of additional equipment on existing towers.

6-1-4 PERMITTED LOCATIONS. Telecommunications towers are permitted as a Special Exception use in the Prime Agricultural (A-1), Agricultural-Recreational (AR-1), Highway Commercial (C-1), General Commercial (C-2), Limited Industrial (M-1) and General Industrial (M-2) Zoning Districts. Telecommunication towers are not permitted in the Suburban-Residential (R-

2) or the Multi-Family Residential (R-3) Zoning Districts.

6-1-5 APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS. The applicant for a Special Exception for construction of a telecommunications tower or placement of commercial telecommunications tower on an existing structure other than a tower previously permitted shall file an application with the County Zoning Administrator accompanied by a fee of \$50.00. The application shall include the following documents:

1. A site plan, drawn to scale, identifying the site boundary; tower location; tower height; guy wires and anchors; existing and proposed structures including accessory structures; photographs or elevation drawings depicting design of proposed structures, parking, fences and landscape plan; and existing uses on adjacent parcels. A site plan is not required if antenna is to be mounted on an approved existing structure;
2. A current map showing locations of applicant's antennas, facilities, existing towers and proposed towers which are reflected in public records serving any property within the County;
3. A report from a structural engineer containing the following;
 - a. A description of the tower, including a description of the design characteristics and material.
 - b. Documentation to establish that the tower has sufficient structural integrity for the proposed uses at the proposed location and meets the minimum safety requirements in Electronics Industries Association (EIA) Standard 222, "Structural standards for Steel Antenna Towers and Antenna Support Structures."
 - c. The general capacity of the tower in terms of the number and type of antennas it is designed to accommodate.
4. If applicant is other than the site owner, written authorization from the site owner for the application.
5. Identification of the owners of all antennas and equipment to be located at the site;
6. Pursuant to Subsection 6(A), evidence that the applicant contacted owners of all existing or approved towers within a one-half mile radius of the proposed new tower site, including county-owned property, and that the equipment for which the tower is being constructed cannot be technologically or structurally accommodated on an existing or approved tower;
7. Evidence that a valid FCC license for the proposed activity has been issued;
8. A line of sight analysis showing the potential visual and aesthetic impacts on adjacent residential districts (areas);

9. A written agreement to remove the tower and/or antenna within 180 days after cessation of use;
10. Evidence that necessary FAA approval has been obtained;
11. Evidence that the applicable conditions of Section 6-1-6 of this ordinance have been met;
12. Additional information as required to determine that all applicable conditions of this ordinance have been met.

6-1-6 APPLICABLE CONDITIONS. Any applicant must show that all of the following applicable conditions are met:

1. Co-location. Prior to consideration of a permit for location on private property which must be acquired, applicant must show that available publicly owned sites and available privately owned sites, are unsuitable for operation of the facility under applicable telecommunications regulations and applicant's technical design requirements. A separate tower is not allowed if co-location can be found upon an existing or alternative tower structure which meets the engineering requirements of an applicants' cellular network or other broadcasting needs within a one-half mile radius of the proposed new tower site.

2. Applicant must show that the new tower is designed to accommodate applicant's future demand for additional antennas.

3. Applicant must show that all applicable health, nuisance, noise, fire, building, and safety code requirements are met.

4. All towers and telecommunications facilities shall be of camouflage design standards. Examples of camouflage facilities include, but are not limited to, architecturally screened roof-mounted antennas, antennas integrated into architectural elements, telecommunications towers designed to blend into the surrounding environment or to look other than a tower, such as light poles, power poles and trees. At a minimum, all towers not requiring FAA painting or markings shall have an exterior finish which is galvanized or painted dull blue, grey or black.

5. For telecommunications towers on county property, applicant must file with the County Zoning Administrator a written indemnification of the County and proof of liability insurance or other proof of financial ability to respond to claims up to \$1,000,000.00 in the aggregate which may arise from operation of the facility during its life, in form approved by the County Attorney, This information shall be updated annually by the applicant.

6. Land use regulations, visibility, fencing, screening, landscaping, parking, access, lot size, exterior illumination, sign, storage, and all other general zoning regulations except setback and height shall apply to the telecommunications tower.

7. For free-standing or guyed telecommunications towers, setbacks on all sides shall be a distance equal to ½ the height of the tower. For monopole towers, the setback shall be equal to the height of the tower.

8. The base of any telecommunications tower shall be screened from view with a solid screening fence a minimum of six feet in height, or conifer plantings around an unscreened fence.

9. Upon completion, a sign at the entrance to the tower site shall identify a name and phone number of whom to contact in case of emergency.

6-1-7 INSPECTION. At least every 24 months, every telecommunications tower shall be inspected by an expert who is regularly involved in the maintenance, inspections and/or erection of telecommunications towers. At a minimum, this inspection shall be conducted in accordance with the tower inspection check list provided in the Electronics Industries Association (EIA) Standard 222, "Structural Standard for Steel Antenna Towers and Antenna Support Structures." A copy of such inspection record shall be provided to the County.

6-1-8 ABANDONMENT. In the event the use of any telecommunications tower has been discontinued for a period of 180 consecutive days, the tower shall be deemed to be abandoned. Determination of the date abandonment shall be made by the County Zoning Administrator. Upon such abandonment, the tower owner shall have an additional 180 days within which to (1) Reactivate the use of the tower, or (2) Dismantle and remove the tower. If the tower is not dismantled and removed as required, the County may do so and assess the cost against the property for collection in the same manner as a property tax, pursuant to Iowa Code 331.384.

6-1-9 PENALTY. Any person as defined in Iowa Code 4.1(20), found to be in violation of any of the provisions of this ordinance shall be subject to a civil penalty of \$500 for each day of violation, or \$750 for each day of violation if the infraction is a repeat offense, pursuant to Iowa Code 331.302(15).

(Ord. 98-02, Passed February 23, 1998)

(Amended during 2004 recodification)