ORDINANCE NUMBER -26

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE 2021 INTERNATIONAL MECHANICAL CODE BY REFERENCE; ESTABLISHING A LOCAL MECHANICAL PERMIT AND INSPECTION PROGRAM FOR RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL WORK; PROVIDING FOR ADMINISTRATION, FEES, ENFORCEMENT, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that minimum mechanical-system standards promote public health, safety, and welfare; and

WHEREAS, the State of Arkansas has adopted the 2021 International Mechanical Code for HVAC/R regulation, subject to state amendments and requirements; and

WHEREAS, Arkansas Code Annotated § 14-55-207 provides a procedure for municipal adoption of technical codes by reference; and

WHEREAS, the City desires to establish its first local mechanical permitting and inspection program for both residential and commercial construction.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CAMDEN, ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. ADOPTION BY REFERENCE

The 2021 International Mechanical Code (IMC), published by the International Code Council, is adopted by reference as the mechanical code of the City of Camden, subject to controlling Arkansas statutes, state rules, and applicable state-adopted codes and amendments. Adoption shall follow the filing and public-notice requirements of Arkansas Code Annotated § 14-55-207.

SECTION 2. SCOPE AND APPLICATION

This Ordinance applies to mechanical installations, alterations, repairs, replacements, and related work in residential and commercial buildings within the corporate limits of Camden to the extent regulated by the applicable code.

For one- and two-family dwellings and townhouses, applicable residential provisions of the Arkansas Fire Prevention Code and state amendments shall govern where controlling. Existing lawful installations are not required to be reconstructed solely due to this adoption, except where otherwise required by applicable law or for unsafe conditions.

SECTION 3. LOCAL PROGRAM AND ADMINISTRATION

A local mechanical permit and inspection program is established within the City's building inspection function. The Building Official shall administer permit intake, records, plan review coordination, inspection scheduling, and lawful enforcement. Technical inspections shall be performed only by persons meeting applicable Arkansas HVAC/R Board qualifications, registration, and training requirements. Nothing herein displaces authority reserved to the State.

SECTION 4. PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

Before beginning mechanical work for which a permit is required, the owner or responsible contractor shall obtain a City permit, except where an exemption or emergency-work procedure applies. Applications shall identify the premises, owner, scope of work, responsible contractor, estimated project cost, and any plans or specifications reasonably required by the applicable code. State HVAC/R licensing and registration requirements remain applicable. No separate municipal HVAC/R occupational license shall be imposed where prohibited by state law.

SECTION 5. INSPECTIONS AND APPROVAL

Mechanical work subject to inspection shall be inspected at applicable stages, including rough-in, before concealment, and final completion, as warranted by the work. Required work shall not be concealed before approval unless authorized under the applicable code. The City may require correction and reinspection of noncompliant work. Final approval shall be issued only upon satisfaction of applicable requirements; City approval does not relieve any person of responsibility under state law.

SECTION 6. BUILDING OFFICIAL; ENFORCEMENT

Within powers authorized by law, the Building Official may issue written

notices of violation, require corrections, and issue stop-work orders when legally justified. Any penalties, court proceedings, or enforcement remedies must be authorized by applicable Arkansas law and a valid City ordinance; this Ordinance does not independently establish a monetary fine.

SECTION 7. INSPECTOR COMPLIANCE

The City shall comply with all applicable Arkansas HVAC/R Board requirements for municipal mechanical inspectors, including registration deadlines, required initial training, and continuing education. The City shall not begin technical inspections until qualified personnel or another lawful inspection arrangement is in place.

SECTION 8. BUILDING PERMIT VALUATION AND FEES

Mechanical permit and inspection charges shall be calculated under the City's existing duly adopted building permit fee schedule, based on estimated construction cost, to the extent that schedule lawfully applies to mechanical work. Estimated cost shall include applicable equipment, materials, labor, and installation consistent with existing City valuation practices. Mechanical work included in the valuation of a larger permitted project shall not be charged a second permit fee solely for the same work. For standalone mechanical work, the existing schedule shall apply only where authorized by the City's current fee ordinance; if it does not authorize such application, the City Council must amend that ordinance before collecting such fees. No new fee rate is created by this Ordinance.

SECTION 9. APPEALS

An affected person may seek administrative or judicial review through procedures otherwise established by applicable City ordinance and Arkansas law. Nothing herein creates an appeals board or suspends an order addressing an immediate hazard unless authorized by law.

SECTION 10. CODE COPIES AND NOTICE

Prior to final passage, the City Clerk shall ensure that the required copies of the technical code are filed and available for public inspection, and that the required notice of availability is published, in compliance with Arkansas Code

Annotated § 14-55-207. The City shall also comply with applicable ordinance passage, recording, and publication requirements.

SECTION 11. CONFLICTS; SEVERABILITY

Ordinances or parts of ordinances conflicting with this Ordinance are repealed only to the extent of conflict. If any provision is held invalid, the remaining provisions shall remain effective.

Passed and approved this _____ day of _____, 2026.

_____
MAYOR

ATTEST:

_____
CITY CLERK