

Ordinances of the City of Grand Junction, Colorado

ORDINANCE NO. 227.

AN ORDINANCE CONCERNING THEATRES AND MOVING PICTURE SHOWS.

Be it Ordained by the City Council of the City of Grand Junction, Colorado:

Section 1. Every theatre or opera house or other building or parts of building used for theatrical or operatic purposes, or motion picture shows, within the meaning of this ordinance, now or hereafter occupied as such in the city of Grand Junction, Colorado, shall be made to comply with the requirements of this ordinance.

The requirements herein named so far as installation of moving picture device and the construction and location of booth are concerned shall apply to theatres, churches, schools and public halls.

Sec. 2. No building hereinbefore described shall be opened to the public until the Mayor of the city of Grand Junction shall have approved the same in writing as conforming to the requirements of this ordinance; he shall certify in writing that all appliances for the extinguishing of fires and to the special requirements of the Fire Department are in a complete and satisfactory working condition, and that the apparatus used in connection with moving picture exhibitions are in compliance with this ordinance.

The City Council shall have authority and it shall be its duty to revoke the license issued to any person, firm or corporation for conducting or maintaining any theatre, opera house, moving picture exhibition, when it shall be satisfied that such licensee has violated any of the provisions of this ordinance; provided, however, before revoking such license opportunity shall be given such licensee to appear before the City Council and show, if possible, cause why the same should not be revoked.

Sec. 3. By the term "Picture Machine," as used in the following sections, is meant any machine or device operated by or with the aid of electricity, calcium light or other illuminant, and adapted or used to project upon a screen or other surface pictorial representations in which inflammable films are used.

Sec. 4. Every picture machine installed or operated, within the meaning of this ordinance, shall be enclosed within a booth, said booth to comply with the following specifications:

The booth must not be less than six (6) feet in height, with a minimum area of floor space varying in accordance with the number of machines in booth, as follows:

One picture machine, 6 feet x 6 feet.

One picture machine and one stereoptican, or two picture machines, 9 feet x 6 feet.

Two picture machines and one stereoptican, 12 feet x 6 feet.

The frame must be at least $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch by $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch by $\frac{1}{4}$ inch angle or tee irons, constructed as follows: Four outside horizontal members at top and bottom. Four corner uprights. Intermediate uprights on sides and intermediate members on roof, spaced every two feet. Doorway to be two feet wide by six feet high, with angle iron framing. All joints in frame to be made with 3-16 inch steel plates, to which each angle or tee iron shall be securely riveted or bolted by use of at least two $\frac{1}{4}$ inch bolts or rivets. All bolts or rivets to have flat heads, said heads always to be placed on exterior side of booth and properly countersunk.

The sides, bottom and top of booth and main or entrance door must be covered with steel or galvanized sheet iron of not less than No. 20 U. S. gauge, or with hard asbestos boards at least $\frac{1}{4}$ inch thick. If asbestos board is used it must be so cut and arranged that the vertical joints between the boards will always come over an angle or tee iron, to which it shall be securely fastened by means of proper bolts and nuts, spaced not more than six inches apart. If sheet metal is used it must be so cut and arranged that the joints will always come over a member, be over-lapped, and bolted or riveted to such member, bolts or rivets to be spaced not over 3 inches on centers.

The floor of booth must be covered with an insulating matting of rubber, hard asbestos board or cork.

There shall be not more than two openings in the booth for each machine, one for observation by the operator and for the operation of the machine. Opening for machine must be not more than six inches high and twelve inches long. Opening for operator must be not more than ten inches wide or more than twelve inches high. The two openings for each machine must be provided with gravity door, constructed of metal not less than No. 14 U. S.

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gauge iron, and, when closed, shall overlap the openings at least two inches on all sides, and arranged to slide, without binding, in properly constructed grooves; said doors to be held open normally by use of a fine combustible cord fastened to a 160 degree F. fusible link, the whole arranged so that the doors may be easily released and closed by hand.

The door shall be constructed with angle iron frame and covered with same material as booth. It must be hung with two substantial gravity or spring hinges securely bolted or riveted to frame of booth and door. The door must open outward. Two latches of steel shall be provided and be placed, one 12 inches from top and the other 12 inches from bottom of door. The latch bars shall be connected by metal rod so that one operation opens both latches. The latch handles shall be placed on each side of door. No opening can be made in booth other than specified.

All shelves or fixtures within the booth must be constructed of, or covered with, non-combustible material.

In the top of booth there must be a circular opening of not less than ten inches in diameter. Securely bolted or riveted to this opening shall be a metal vent pipe of not less than ten inches in diameter, said pipe leading to the outside of the building. To provide better ventilation, an electric exhaust fan may be placed in this vent pipe, fan to be controlled from within booth. Where there is not ample space for the vent pipe between top of booth and ceiling, the connection may be made on the side, as near as possible to the top of booth.

If the room, compartment, booth or enclosure is constructed of brick, tile or concrete, it must have walls not less than eight inches thick, except that if reinforced concrete is used the thickness need be only three inches. The ventilation and general arrangement of the booth, and the protection of openings, shall conform to the preceding requirements.

All machines in use or to be hereafter installed shall be made to comply with the National Board of Fire Underwriters' specifications and the supplements thereto.

The films must be re-wound inside booth and a separate metal case or metal cabinet with separate compartments shall be provided for each film when same is not in the magazine or in process of rewinding, said films to be kept in these cases. No material of a combustible nature shall be stored within any booth, except the films needed for one day's operation.

Sec. 5. The arc lamp used in the picture machines must be constructed and arranged as follows:

It must be substantially constructed and entirely of metal, except where the use of approved insulating materials is necessary. It must be so designed as to provide for proper ventilation, and to prevent sparks from being emitted from lamp when same is in operation; mica must be used for frame insulation. Observation ports not larger than two inches square may be provided when closed with glass. The lamp must be controlled by an enclosed double-pole knife switch within easy reach of operator.

The rheostats must be plainly marked with their rated capacity in volts and amperes and must be of suitable design and capacity for purpose used, and must be kept not less than one foot from any combustible material or be separated from same by a slab of slate or marble, and must be enclosed in a substantial and properly ventilated metal case which affords a clearance of at least one inch between case and resistant element.

The mercury arc rectifiers must be located in a readily accessible place, with ample clearance between compensating coils and any combustible material.

All wiring must be installed in accordance with the National Electrical code. All wiring for lights or power in the entire theatre must be installed as a complete conduit or metal moulding system. Metal moulding can only be used for branch lighting circuits and must not be used on stage or in booth. Concealed knob and tube or open cleat and knob wiring will not be permitted in any part of motion picture theatre. All conduit or metal moulding must be equipped at all outlets with approved outlet boxes or conduit fittings. All knife switches and fuse blocks must be installed in approved steel cabinets, located in a readily accessible place. No fuse blocks or knife switches shall be permitted inside booth unless the same are enclosed in an approved metal cabinet with self-closing door. Snap switches for controlling the branch lighting circuits may be located in booth.

Insulation on conductors must be in accordance with specifications of the 1913 National Electrical Code. Conductors supplying current for arc lamp must not be less than No. 6 B. & S. gauge. Standard conductors with flame-proof insulation and approved lug connection must be used between the arc lamp and the permanent conduit wiring. Conductors passing through case of lamp must be protected with porcelain bushings. No artificial light shall be used in booth, except that produced by electricity. One light will be permitted for each machine and one for rewinding bench, but all such lights must be provided with wire guards and reinforced cord must be used for pendant purposes.

Sec. 6. Each machine, while in operation, shall be in charge of an experienced and competent operator holding a certificate of fitness from the Mayor.

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Sec. 7. No more persons shall be allowed in such building at any one time than the actual number of seats therein contained.

Sec. 8. No portion of any building hereinbefore described, used or intended to be used as a theatre, opera house, or motion picture show, shall be occupied or used for any business dealing in any article or material dangerous to life. The before mentioned restriction relates not only to that portion of the building which contains the auditorium and the stage, but applies also to the entire structure in conjunction therewith.

Sec. 9. No workshop, storage or general property room shall be allowed in or under the auditorium, above the stage or under the same, or in any of the fly galleries, but such rooms or shops may be located in the rear of the auditorium at the side of the stage, and in such cases they shall be separated from the stage vertically and horizontally by a brick or concrete wall or other equally efficient cut-off; provided, however, such rooms or shops will be permitted within theatres already constructed if such rooms or shops are enclosed with fireproof material.

Sec. 10. Interior walls or partitions built of fireproof materials shall separate the auditorium from the entrance vestibule, and from any communicating room or rooms over or under the same, also from any lobbies, corridors, refreshment or other rooms forming a part of the theatre building.

Sec. 11. All seats in the auditorium, except those contained in boxes, accommodating not more than 12 persons, shall be firmly secured to the floor, and shall be placed not less than 28 inches from back to back, measured in a horizontal direction; provided, however, if seats are upholstered the distance shall be 30 inches.

Sec. 12. All seats in any exhibition hall for moving picture machines shall be so arranged that there will not be more than six seats between an aisle and a wall and not more than twelve seats between two aisles.

No seat in any gallery shall have more than four seats intervening between it and an aisle, or more than ten seats in a row between any two aisles.

Sec. 13. There shall be no more than eleven feet rise, measured vertically, in any aisle in any gallery without direct exit by tunnel or otherwise to a corridor or passage with a free opening to the gallery stairs or other direct discharge to the street. At such elevation of eleven feet or less an intervening or cross aisle leading directly to an exit may be substituted for the tunnel. No such tunnel or cross aisle shall be less than four feet wide in the clear.

No platforms in galleries formed to receive the seats shall be more than 21 inches in height of riser nor less than 32 inches in width of platform. No such platform shall be nearer than 8 feet from the ceiling.

Aisles shall not be less than 3 feet wide at the beginning, and all aisles shall be increased in width toward the exits and entrances at the rate of not less than 3 inches to ten feet of run. All aisles shall lead directly to exits and all exits shall be directly accessible to aisles.

In no case shall the main floor of any moving picture exhibition room be more than six feet above or below the adjoining street level. To overcome any difference of level on the ground floor gradients shall be employed of not less than $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches nor more than 2 inches to the foot; no steps shall be permitted. Floors in auditorium at all exits shall be flush with adjacent inside floors and shall extend for an unbroken width of not less than four feet in front of each exit, but no step downward shall be nearer than one foot to the door opening.

Sec. 14. Steps in aisles shall be the full width of the aisle. No risers shall be more than 9 inches in height, and no tread shall be less than 10 inches in width, and whenever the rise of seat platforms is 4 inches or less, the floor of the aisles shall be made as a gradient. Where steps are placed in passages they shall be grouped together and shall be clearly lighted. No stool, seat or other obstruction shall be placed in any aisle. The width of passages and hallways shall be computed in the same manner as that herein provided for stairways, but no passage may be less than five feet in width. All passages, hallways and stairways leading from any balcony or gallery in any direction shall permit of free passage to an exit, without returning. The aggregate capacity of the foyers, lobbies, hallways, passages and rooms for the use of the audience, not including aisle spaces, shall on each tier be sufficient to contain the entire number to be accommodated on said tier, in the ratio of 150 superficial square feet of floor for every hundred persons; provided, when the aisles of the main auditorium open directly to the outside

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exits and the said exits are in the aggregate twice as the aggregate width of the aisles, then the foyer in the rear of such auditorium need not contain more than 50 superficial square feet of floor for every one hundred persons seated in such auditorium.

Sec. 15. The term "exit" as used in this section refers to emergency exits only; the term "entrance" refers to all other traffic ingress or egress. All entrances and exits shall open directly from the auditorium or exhibition room to the street, alley or court or into a vestibule or lobby opening immediately into the street or alley.

The combined width of entrances and exits for each tier, likewise their stairs, shall provide one foot of width for each 20 persons to be accommodated in that tier.

The width of entrance stairs shall be at least 50 per cent of the combined width of the entrance and exit stairs, and the aggregate width of exit doorways opening from each gallery shall be 60 per cent more than the stairs to which they lead.

A common place of entrance may serve for the orchestra floor of the auditorium and the first gallery, provided such entrance and the passages leading thereto are of the width required for the aggregate capacity of these two tiers. Separate places of entrance shall be provided for each gallery above the first. The minimum width of doorways shall be five feet in the clear, except exit doorways, which may have a minimum width of four feet.

Sec. 16. All entrance and exit doors shall open outwardly and be hung in such a manner as not to obstruct any part of the required width of a doorway, passage or stairway. The fastenings of these doors shall be such as can readily be opened from the inside at all times without the use of keys or any special knowledge or effort. The use of draw bolts is prohibited. All such doorways shall be entirely unobstructed. Standpipes and hose and miscellaneous fire appliances shall be installed as designated and specified by the Chief of the Fire Department. All apparatus for the extinguishment of fire shall be installed in accordance with the ordinances of the city of Grand Junction, and be kept at all times in condition satisfactory to and under control of the Chief of the Fire Department.

Sec. 17. When stairs return directly on themselves, a landing of the full width of both flights, without any steps, shall be provided. Stairs turning at an angle shall have a proper landing. In stairs when two side flights connect with one main flight, the width of the main flight shall be at least equal to the aggregate width of the side flights. No stairway shall ascend to a greater height than twelve feet without a level landing, and the length and width of such landing shall be not less than the width of the stairs; no run of stairs shall consist of less than six risers between platforms. All stairs shall have on both sides strong hand rails. Where stairs are built between walls rails shall be firmly secured to the walls about 3 inches distant therefrom. All rails shall be kept about 3 feet above the center of the treads. This provision shall also apply to all steps in side aisles of galleries. The width of all stairs must be measured between hand rails. All stairs and landing between stories, when seven feet and over in width, shall be provided with a center hand rail of metal, not less than two inches in diameter, placed at a height of about three feet above the center of treads and landings. Such rails shall be supported on wrought metal or brass standards securely bolted to the treads or risers of stairs, or both. At the head of the flight of stairs terminating at each story, the post or standard shall be at least 6 feet in height, to which the rail shall be secured.

Sec. 18. The entrances opening directly on a street shall not be on a higher level from the sidewalk than four steps of $7\frac{1}{2}$ inch risers each. Where the number accommodated in a gallery exceeds two hundred, there shall be at least two separate and distinct entrances. No entrance stair to any tier in the auditorium shall be less than five feet wide. No stairway from a gallery shall communicate with the basement or cellar. No door shall open immediately upon a flight of stairs, but a landing at least the width of the door shall be provided between such stairs and such doors. All stairs shall have treads of uniform width and risers of uniform height throughout each flight. In no case shall the risers in any stairs exceed $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches in height nor shall the treads, exclusive of nosing, be less than $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide. No circular or winding stairs shall be permitted and no winders may be introduced in any stairs.

Sec. 19. The minimum width of gallery exit stairways shall be four feet. All exit balconies and stairs shall be constructed of steel throughout or of other forms of incombustible construction approved by the Building Inspector, and the construction shall be of strength sufficient to safely sustain a like load of 100 pounds per square foot. Suitable hand rails of incombustible material and securely fastened to stairway shall be provided on the outer side of all of these open air stairs, balconies and platforms. All stairs and balconies shall be kept free of obstructions of every kind including snow and ice. All exits and fire escapes from the stage section shall be independent of the exits for the audience above the street grade.

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Sec. 20. Every building used for theatrical or operatic purposes or motion picture shows shall have at least the front or one side wall bordering on a street, and not less than one-half of the openings required for entrance of the audience to the auditorium shall be provided in such wall or walls.

Sec. 21. A fire wall built of approved fire proof material shall separate the auditorium from the stage and shall extend at least four feet above the stage roof or the auditorium roof if the latter be higher. Above the proscenium opening there shall be a girder or other supports of sufficient strength to safely carry the load. If a girder is used it shall be protected against fire by at least four inches of fire proof material with special provisions for re-inforcing or support. The proscenium opening shall be provided with an approved fire proof curtain, specifications for the construction of which shall be approved by the Building Inspector. Openings between the stage and auditorium other than the proscenium opening shall not exceed four in number, two at the approximate stage level and two at the musician's pit. The size of such opening shall not exceed twenty-one square feet. The openings at stage level shall have self-closing fire doors on one side of wall.

No stoves or other open heating shall be permitted. Steam boilers when not located outside the building shall have the space allotted to the same enclosed by walls of brick or concrete at least 8 inches thick on all sides, or enclosed by other fire-proof material approved by the Building Inspector, and the ceiling of such space shall be constructed of fire-proof materials. No floor register for heating, ventilating or other purpose shall be permitted in aisles, corridors or passageways. All blowers used to circulate air through heating or ventilating pipes with openings to the auditorium shall be provided with a device to stop the blowe automatically in case of fire. Fusible links for this purpose shall be located near the blower, both inside and outside the pipe leading to openings in the auditorium. No coil, radiator, or pipe shall be placed so as to obstruct any aisle or passageway. Any exposed radiator or coil shall be guarded.

Sec. 22. The stage section and every portion of the building devoted to the use or accommodation of the public, also all passages leading to streets, including open courts and corridors, shall be satisfactorily lighted during every performance, and until the entire audience has left the premises. Only electric lights shall be used in the auditorium. Where electric current from two separate street mains is available, two separate and distinct services must be installed; one service to be of sufficient capacity to supply current for the entire equipment of the theatre, while the other must be at least sufficient to supply current for all emergency light, including the exit lights or signs, and all lights in outside courts, lobbies, stairways, corridors and other portions of the theatre which are normally kept lighted during the performance. Where only one supply from a street main is available, the connection used exclusively for emergency lights must be taken from a point on the street side of the main service fuses. All emergency lights shall be controlled by a special switch located in the lobby and accessible only to authorized persons. The stage switch-board shall have a metal hood over the top, running the full length of the board and fully protecting same from anything falling from above.

Passed and adopted this 14th day of July, A. D. 1914.

Geo. E. Livingston
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Mayor.

Attest: *Charles K. Holmberg*
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City Clerk

I HEREBY CERTIFY, that the foregoing ordinance, entitled "An Ordinance Concerning Theatres and Moving Picture Shows," was introduced and read at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Grand Junction, held on the 30th day of June, A. D. 1914, and that the same was published in full in the Daily News, a daily newspaper published and in general circulation in said city, at least ten days before its passage.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the official seal of said city, this 14th day of July, A. D. 1914.

Charles K. Holmberg
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City Clerk.

First publication, July 2, 1914.
Final publication, July 17, 1914.