



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BUILDING TRADESMEN CHANGES

ATHENS, TENNESSEE – October 16, 2019 – On September 17, 2019, Athens City Council approved Ordinance No. 1080, amending Title 9, Chapter 7 “Building Tradesmen”, to clarify definitions, qualifications, and revocation of license.

Building Tradesmen requirements have changed in the City of Athens now making it easier for those who currently have a contractor’s license or those seeking a career as a skilled tradesman.

The amendment changes affect Building Contractors, State of Tennessee Home Improvement Contractors, Limited Licensed Electrical Contractors, and Limited Licensed Plumbing Contractors as they can now purchase a City of Athens Contractor License (which allows the contractor to legally do contracted projects within the Athens City Limits) after presenting their State of Tennessee License.

Limited Licensed Electrician Contractors, and Limited Licensed Plumbers will be allowed to pull permits for contracted projects with a value less than twenty-five thousand (25,000) dollars within the Athens City Limits.

Athens City Manager C. Seth Sumner stated, “I’m very proud of the work our Community Development Office did on easing the regulations for building tradesmen, and thankful to the Council for authorizing the Code change. This simple legislative fix will allow more tradesmen and contractors access to the Athens construction market and provides more options to our property owners.”

Tradesmen facts from Go Build Tennessee

- The industry is getting older and smaller. The average age of a tradesman today is 43 years old.
- It’s not just a man’s job – but women make up only 10% of the construction labor force.
- Across the country, employers need more than 1 million workers to meet industry demand.
- In the trades, you can start at an entry level position and work your way up to CEO – without a college degree.
- The construction industry is projected to grow 22% through 2022.
- Nearly 90% of apprentices find jobs when they’ve finished their training.

- Commercial construction tradesmen are paid on average 33% more per week than the rest of Americans.
- Thousands of new jobs open up every year, and with training programs all throughout the state, you can start earning a competitive salary with increasing benefits right away — without worrying about student loans.

For questions or concerns, please contact Gene McConkey at (423) 744-2700 ext. 5 or via email at gmconkey@cityofathenstn.com

The City of Athens is a full-service municipality nestled in the foothills of the Great Smoky Mountains and has garnered a reputation as the “Friendly City.”

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