

PREFACE AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Baraboo, like most cities, began its municipal existence as a village. The City of Baraboo was created by a Special Act of the Wisconsin Legislature in 1882. Chapter 21 of the Special Laws of 1882 contains the original Special Charter of the City. This Charter was repealed by operation of law in 1921 by Section 62.02 of the Wisconsin Statutes and the City was incorporated on October 5, 1921 under the General City Charter Laws contained in Chapter 62 of the Statutes. Section 62.04 of that Chapter declared it to be the intention of the Legislature to grant all the privileges, rights and powers to cities which were formerly had under Special Charter unless the contrary was declared. In view of Section 62.04, former powers not in conflict with General Charter Law are still retained by the City.

From 1882 until 1956, the Baraboo Common Council adopted 803 Ordinances. These Ordinances were recorded in Ordinance books in chronological order and proper indexing of these Ordinances was practically impossible. On April 23, 1953 the Baraboo Common Council authorized and directed the City Attorney, Robert L. Greenhalgh, to commence the codification of the Baraboo Ordinances. At that time, extensive studies of the Ordinances were made by Mayor D. Peck and all of the Aldermen and on April 12, 1956, the final draft of the Baraboo Ordinance Code was duly adopted and became effective on July 1, 1956. Between 1956 and 1986 the Code has gradually become outdated and in need of a complete revision. Good city government requires that both officials and citizens be able to readily determine the city laws that are enforced at any time. Likewise, police officers must necessarily have the Ordinances available in a form which can easily be consulted by them. In addition, it is difficult for a city attorney to give opinions on the application of Ordinances when these are out-of-date and poorly organized.

The Common Council authorized and directed the City Attorney, James C. Bohl, to commence work on a complete revision of the Baraboo Code of Ordinances. The revision project began in May of 1985 and was completed in November of 1986. The Mayor and Common Council are to be commended for enacting a new Code which should improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the government for the City in the years ahead. The assistance of Attorney Jerry A. Edgar, of Darlington, Wisconsin, a municipal legal specialist, was invaluable in organizing, updating and revising the Code into its present format. Special acknowledgment is made to the following City officials who reviewed, revised and critiqued the many chapters of the Code: City Engineer Terry Kramer, City Clerk Dean T. Bothell, Captain Fred Larson and Chief Michael Lien of the Baraboo Police Department, City Building Inspector and Assessor Art Hemshrot, Park and Recreation Director Tom Stephany, Fire Chief Ron Federman, City Treasurer Pat Stone, and Mayor Donald R. Pierce.

Special acknowledgment must also be made to my secretary, Inez Greiber, who typed many, many drafts of the Code and who maintained the organizational continuity of the Code and Index as revisions were made. Her efforts and assistance on this project were invaluable.

James C. Bohl
City Attorney

The need for a complete revision of the Baraboo Code of Ordinances has occurred due to the large number of Ordinances adopted or revised since 1968. It is of great importance to all who rely on these laws that this information be kept current. The revision will provide an up-to-date index which will greatly assist those using the Code. It has been a pleasure to work with City Attorney James C. Bohl, with assistance from Attorney Jerry A. Edgar and other City officials and Department heads on this project.

Dean T. Bothell
City Clerk

The revised Municipal Code of Baraboo was adopted pursuant to Section 66.035, Wis. Stats., and became effective on December 3, 1986.

Mayor Donald R. Pierce
Alderswoman Karen Kasdorf (Dist. 1)
Alderman Dean Steinhorst (Dist. 2)
Alderman John Clapper (Dist. 3)
Alderman Frederick Arndt (Dist. 4)
Alderswoman Mary Hein (Dist. 5)
Alderman Warren Bidwell (Dist. 6)
Alderman Walter McMahon (Dist. 7)
Alderman Robert Janke (Dist. 8)
Alderman Robert Wolkowski (Dist. 9)