

TITLE I: GENERAL PROVISIONS

Chapter

10. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section

§ 10.03 APPLICATION TO FUTURE ORDINANCES.

- 10.01 Title of code
- 10.02 Interpretation
- 10.03 Application to future ordinances
- 10.04 Captions
- 10.05 Definitions
- 10.06 Rules of interpretation
- 10.07 Severability
- 10.08 Reference to other sections
- 10.09 Reference to offices
- 10.10 Errors and omissions
- 10.11 Official time
- 10.12 Reasonable time
- 10.13 Ordinances repealed
- 10.14 Ordinances unaffected
- 10.15 Effective date of ordinances
- 10.16 Repeal or modification of ordinance
- 10.17 Ordinances which amend or supplement code
- 10.18 Section histories; statutory references
- 10.99 General penalty

CHAPTER 10: GENERAL PROVISIONS

Of Title I compatible with future legislation, shall apply to ordinances hereafter adopted amending or supplementing this code unless otherwise specifically provided.

§ 10.04 CAPTIONS.

Headings and captions used in this code other than the title, chapter, and section numbers are employed for reference purposes only and shall not be deemed a part of the text of any section.

§ 10.05 DEFINITIONS.

(A) General rule. Words and phrases shall be taken in their plain, or ordinary and usual sense. However, technical words and phrases having a peculiar and appropriate meaning in law shall be understood according to their technical import.

(B) For the purpose of this code, the following definitions shall apply unless the context clearly indicates or requires a different meaning.

CODE, THIS CODE or **THIS CODE OF ORDINANCES.** This town code as modified by amendment, revision, and adoption of new titles, chapters, or sections.

COUNCIL or **TOWN COUNCIL.** The legislative body of the town.

COUNTY. Bladen County, North Carolina.

MAY. The act referred to is permissive.

MONTH. A calendar month.

§ 10.01 TITLE OF CODE.

This codification of ordinances by and for the Town of Elizabethtown shall be designated as the Code of Elizabethtown and may be so cited.

§ 10.02 INTERPRETATION.

Unless otherwise provided herein, or by law or implication required, the same rules of construction, definition, and application shall govern the interpretation of this code as those governing the interpretation of state law.

Elizabethtown - General Provisions

OATH. An affirmation in all cases in which, by law, an affirmation may be substituted for an oath, and in such cases the words **SWEAR** and **SWORN** shall be equivalent to the words **AFFIRM** and **AFFIRMED**.

OFFICER, OFFICE, EMPLOYEE, COMMISSION, or DEPARTMENT. An officer, office, employee, commission, or department of this town unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

PERSON. Extends to and includes person, persons, firm, corporation, copartnership, trustee, lessee, or receiver. Whenever used in any clause prescribing and imposing a penalty, the terms **PERSON** or **WHOEVER** as applied to any unincorporated entity shall mean the partners or members thereof, and as applied to corporations, the officers or agents thereof.

PRECEDING or FOLLOWING. Next before or next after, respectively.

SHALL. The act referred to is mandatory.

SIGNATURE or SUBSCRIPTION. Includes a mark when the person cannot write.

STATE. The State of North Carolina.

SUBCHAPTER. A division of a chapter, designated in this code by a heading in the chapter analysis and a capitalized heading in the body of the chapter, setting apart a group of sections related by the subject matter of the heading. Not all chapters have subchapters.

WRITTEN. Any representation of words, letters, or figures, whether by printing or otherwise.

YEAR. A calendar year, unless otherwise expressed; equivalent to the words **YEAR OF OUR LORD**.

§ 10.06 RULES OF INTERPRETATION.

The construction of all ordinances of this town shall be by the following rules, unless such construction is plainly repugnant to the intent of the

legislative body or of the context of the same ordinance:

(A) **AND** or **OR.** Either conjunction shall include the other as if written "and/or," if the sense requires it.

(B) Acts by assistants. When a statute or ordinance requires an act to be done which, by law, an agent or deputy as well may do as the principal, such requisition shall be satisfied by the performance of such act by an authorized agent or deputy.

(C) Gender; singular and plural; tenses. Words denoting the masculine gender shall be deemed to include the feminine and neuter genders; words in the singular shall include the plural, and words in the plural shall include the singular; the use of a verb in the present tense shall include the future, if applicable.

(D) General term. A general term following specific enumeration of terms is not to be limited to the class enumerated unless expressly so limited.

§ 10.07 SEVERABILITY.

If any provision of this code as now or later amended or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the invalidity does not affect other provisions that can be given effect without the invalid provision or application.

§ 10.08 REFERENCE TO OTHER SECTIONS.

Whenever in one section reference is made to another section hereof, such reference shall extend and apply to the section referred to as subsequently amended, revised, recodified, or renumbered unless the subject matter is changed or materially altered by the amendment or revision.

§ 10.09 REFERENCE TO OFFICES.

Reference to a public office or officer shall be deemed to apply to any office, officer, or employee of this town exercising the powers, duties, or

functions contemplated in the provision, irrespective of any transfer of functions or change in the official title of the functionary.

§ 10.10 ERRORS AND OMISSIONS.

If a manifest error is discovered, consisting of the misspelling of any words; the omission of any word or words necessary to express the intention of the provisions affected; the use of a word or words to which no meaning can be attached; or the use of a word or words when another word or words was clearly intended to express such intent, such spelling shall be corrected and such word or words supplied, omitted, or substituted as will conform with the manifest intention, and the provisions shall have the same effect as though the correct words were contained in the text as originally published. No alteration shall be made or permitted if any question exists regarding the nature or extent of such error.

§ 10.11 OFFICIAL TIME.

The official time, as established by applicable state/federal laws, shall be the official time within this town for the transaction of all town business.

§ 10.12 REASONABLE TIME.

(A) In all cases where an ordinance requires an act to be done in a reasonable time or requires reasonable notice to be given, reasonable time or notice shall be deemed to mean the time which is necessary for a prompt performance of such act or the giving of such notice.

(B) The time within which an act is to be done, as herein provided, shall be computed by excluding the first day and including the last. If the last day be Sunday, it shall be excluded.

§ 10.13 ORDINANCES REPEALED.

This code, from and after its effective date, shall contain all of the provisions of a general nature pertaining to the subjects herein enumerated and embraced. All prior ordinances pertaining to the subjects treated by this code shall be deemed repealed from and after the effective date of this code.

§ 10.14 ORDINANCES UNAFFECTED.

All ordinances of a temporary or special nature and all other ordinances pertaining to subjects not embraced in this code shall remain in full force and effect unless herein repealed expressly or by necessary implication.

§ 10.15 EFFECTIVE DATE OF ORDINANCES.

All ordinances passed by the legislative body requiring publication shall take effect from and after the due publication thereof, unless otherwise expressly provided. Ordinances not requiring publication shall take effect from their passage, unless otherwise expressly provided.

§ 10.16 REPEAL OR MODIFICATION OF ORDINANCE.

(A) Whenever any ordinance or part of an ordinance shall be repealed or modified by a subsequent ordinance, the ordinance or part of an ordinance thus repealed or modified shall continue in force until the due publication of the ordinance repealing or modifying it when publication is required to give effect thereto, unless otherwise expressly provided.

(B) No suit, proceedings, right, fine, forfeiture, or penalty instituted, created, given, secured, or accrued under any ordinance previous to its repeal

shall in any way be affected, released, or discharged, but may be prosecuted, enjoyed, and recovered as fully as if the ordinance had continued in force unless it is otherwise expressly provided.

(C) When any ordinance repealing a former ordinance, clause, or provision shall be itself repealed, the repeal shall not be construed to revive the former ordinance, clause, or provision, unless it is expressly provided.

(2) If a statutory cite is set forth as a "statutory reference" following the text of the section, this indicates that the reader should refer to that statute for further information.

Example:

§ 31.10 MAYOR.

§ 10.17 ORDINANCES WHICH AMEND OR SUPPLEMENT CODE.

(A) If the legislative body shall desire to amend any existing chapter or section of this code, the chapter or section shall be specifically repealed and a new chapter or section, containing the desired amendment, substituted in its place.

(B) Any ordinance which is proposed to add to the existing code a new chapter or section shall indicate, with reference to the arrangement of this code, the proper number of such chapter or section. In addition to such indication thereof as may appear in the text of the proposed ordinance, a caption or title shall be shown in concise form above the ordinance.

§ 10.18 SECTION HISTORIES; STATUTORY REFERENCES.

(A) As histories for the code sections, the specific number and passage date of the original ordinance, and the most recent three amending ordinances, if any, are listed following the text of the code section. Example: (Ord. 10, passed 5-13-60; Am. Ord. 15, passed 1-1-70; Am. Ord. 20, passed 1-1-80; Am. Ord. 25, passed 1-1-85)

(B) (1) If a statutory cite is included in the history, this indicates that the text of the section reads substantially the same as the statute. Example: G.S. § 160A-69 (Ord. 10, passed 1-17-80; Am. Ord. 20, passed 1-1-85).

T
h
e

M
a
y
o
r

s
h
a
l
l

p
r
e
s
i
d
e

a
t

a
l
l

m
e
e
t
i
n
g
s

o
f

t

h
e

T
o
w
n

C
o
u
n
c
i

t
h
e

M
a
y
o
r
,

see G.S. § 160A-67.

§ 10.99 GENERAL PENALTY.

Statutory reference:

(A) Whenever in this code or any ordinance of the town any act is prohibited or is made or declared to be unlawful, an offense or a misdemeanor, or whenever in this code or any ordinance the doing of any act is required or the failure to do such act is declared to be unlawful, where no specific penalty is provided therefor, the violation of any such provision of this code or other ordinance shall be punished as described therein or by a fine not exceeding \$50 or by imprisonment for a term not exceeding 30 days.
(Am. Ord. 94-6, passed 11-7-94)

(B) A violation of this code or any ordinance shall also subject the offender to liability for a civil penalty to be recovered by the town in a civil action in the nature of debt if the offender does not pay the penalty within ten days after he has been cited for violation of this code or any ordinance. The penalty shall be issued in the form of a civil citation by any sworn police officer of the Town of Elizabethtown or the Fire Chief.

(C) Any provision of this code or any ordinance may be enforced by an appropriate equitable remedy issuing from a court of competent jurisdiction. In such case, the general court of justice shall have jurisdiction to issue such orders as may be appropriate, and it shall not be a defense to the application of the town for equitable relief that there is an adequate remedy at law.

(D) Any provision of this code or any ordinance that makes unlawful a condition existing upon or use made of real property may be enforced by injunction and order of abatement, and the general court of justice shall have jurisdiction to issue such orders. when a violation of such a provision of this code or an ordinance occurs, the town may apply to the appropriate division of the general court of justice for a mandatory or prohibitory injunction and order of abatement commanding the defendant to correct the unlawful condition upon, or cease the unlawful use of the property. The action shall be governed in all respects by the laws and rules governing civil proceedings, including the Rules of Civil Procedure in general and Rule 65 in particular.

(E) In addition to an injunction, the court may enter an order of abatement as a part of the judgement in the cause. An order of abatement may direct that buildings or other structures on the property be closed, demolished or removed; that fixtures, furniture, or other movable property be removed from buildings on the property; that grass and weeds be cut; that improvements or repairs be made; or that any other action be taken that is necessary to bring the property into compliance with the code or other ordinance. If the defendant fails or refuses to comply with an injunction or with an order of abatement within the time allowed by the court, he may be cited for contempt, and the town may execute the order of abatement. The town shall have a lien on the property for the cost of executing the order of abatement in the nature of a mechanic's and materialmen's lien. The defendant may secure cancellation of an order of abatement by paying all costs of the proceedings and posting a bond for compliance with the order. The bond shall be given with sureties approved by the Clerk of Superior Court in an amount approved by the judge before whom the matter is heard, and shall be conditioned on the defendant's full compliance with the terms of the order of abatement within a time fixed by the judge. Cancellation of an order of abatement shall not suspend or cancel an injunction issued in conjunction therewith.

(F) The terms of this code or any ordinance may be enforced by any one, all or a combination of the remedies authorized and prescribed by this section. The procedure herein prescribed for abatement of a nuisance shall not be deemed to be exclusive.
(82 Code, Ch. 1, § 7) (Am. Ord. 00-5, passed 6-5-00; Am. Ord. 02-4, passed 4-8-02; Am. Ord. 03-3, passed 11-3-03)

