

# Decision Paper

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11/28/2017

1. SUBJECT: First reading of Ordinance #17-0859
2. PURPOSE: An ordinance to amend chapter 7 health and sanitation in the Code of Ordinances of Town Of Surfside Beach.
3. ASSUMPTIONS: Amending out dated text and enacting Article III Nuisances, Division 1 - general, Division 2 - Weeds, grass, brush and debris removal, Division 3 - Unfit dwellings, Division 4 - Graffiti, Division 5 - Ejectment, Exclusion; Reentry as public nuisance in public place will streamline and expedite nuisances code enforcement.
4. FACTS:
  - a. Nuisance ordinance was brought to council on October 10, 2017, Council requested to hold workshops to go through the ordinance.
  - b. Council held first workshop on October 19, 2017. Council request staff to set up a second workshop.
  - c. Council held second workshop on November 20, 2017, consensus from council to bring nuisance ordinance to next meeting.
  - d. Proposed ordinance defines nuisances affecting public health, offending public decency, peace and order, affecting public welfare and safety, public economy and any other act.
  - e. Proposed ordinance designed to streamline process for enforcement of nuisance's violations.
  - f. Proposed ordinance requires advertisement at beginning of each year as a reminder to property owners of their duties to maintain their properties in the newspaper.
  - g. Provides streamlined alternatives for notifying property owners of their code violations, and for more immediate remediation for non-compliance of notices when it comes to weeds, grass, brush and debris removal.
  - h. Provides discretion to elect the uses of other applicable Code sections pertaining to remediation, abatement and/or offenses.
  - i. Provides Town Council the authority to hold a Rule to Show Cause Hearing to abate or order demolition of dilapidated, blighted property.
  - j. Prevent the spread of graffiti vandalism by providing a program to expeditious remove of graffiti from public and private property.
  - k. The Town Attorney has reviewed the proposed ordinance.
5. IMPACT OF SUCCESS OR FAILURE:

## 1 Chapter 7 - HEALTH AND SANITATION

2 ARTICLE I. ~~IN GENERAL~~3 ~~Sec. 7-1. Littering and dumping prohibited.~~

4 (a) ~~Littering.~~ It shall be unlawful for any person to put, place or throw any trash, cigarette butts, tobacco  
 5 products residue of any kind, beer cans, bottles, paper cups, garbage, shavings or other refuse upon  
 6 any beach, beach access, sidewalks, public streets, public alleys, or other public places in the town,  
 7 except in receptacles of the type required by the town. No person shall deposit in or sweep into any  
 8 street, sidewalk, beach, beach access, or in any gutter or catch basin of the town, any paper, trash,  
 9 rubbish, broken glass, tin cans, bottles, fruit or vegetables, peelings or any other refuse, ashes or  
 10 waste. Such materials shall be accumulated as herein before specified and placed in receptacles. No  
 11 householder or storekeeper, by himself or agent, shall cause to be swept from any house, yard, store  
 12 or elsewhere, any dirt or refuse in or upon the sidewalks or public places of the town.

13 (b) ~~Dumping.~~ It shall be unlawful for any person to dump, throw, drop, leave, or in any way deposit any  
 14 garbage, ashes, rubbish, paper, trash, refuse, building materials, glass bottles, glass or cans, or any  
 15 other manner or form of litter on any property belonging to another on or along any street, road,  
 16 highway, curb, sidewalk, or public right-of-way, except inside an approved bulk refuse container,  
 17 Moby cart or other approved solid waste refuse receptacle issued or belonging to that person; nor  
 18 shall any person throw or deposit any refuse in any stream or other body of water within the  
 19 boundaries of the town.

20 (c) ~~Responsibility of driver.~~ When garbage, cigarette butts, tobacco products residue of any kind, beer  
 21 cans, bottles, ashes, rubbish, paper, trash, building materials, glass or cans, or any other form or  
 22 manner of litter is thrown from a vehicle, the driver shall be held responsible regardless of who  
 23 throws the litter out of the vehicle.

24 ~~Sec. 7-2. Scavenging through Moby cart or other refuse receptacle.~~

25 It shall be unlawful for any person to rummage through, remove, or salvage items from or otherwise  
 26 scavenge from or tamper with any town-owned Moby cart, solid waste refuse receptacle or the area  
 27 located around such Moby carts and solid waste refuse receptacle.

28 ~~Sec. 7-3. Debris on lots.~~

29 (a) ~~Definition.~~ For purpose of this section, the term "debris" means refuse, rubbish, trash, garbage,  
 30 offal, junk including, but not limited to abandoned vehicles, boats, motorized objects, appliances,  
 31 furniture, spilled material, waste, litter, and/or building materials that are determined to be deleterious  
 32 to good health and public sanitation.

33 (b) ~~Declaration of nuisance.~~ Debris allowed to accumulate and remain on any lot or parcel of land within  
 34 the town may be deemed and declared a nuisance in the judgment of the town administrator or his  
 35 designee.

36 (c) ~~Duty of owner, etc., to remove.~~ It shall be the duty of any owner, lessee, occupant, agent, or  
 37 representative of the owner of any lot or parcel of land in a developed residential area within the  
 38 town to remove such debris as often as may be necessary to prevent the accumulation of such  
 39 debris.

40 (d) ~~Notice to owner, etc., to remove.~~ Whenever the town administrator or his designee shall find that  
 41 debris has been allowed to accumulate and remain upon any lot or parcel of land in a developed  
 42 residential area within the town in such a manner as to constitute a nuisance, s/he may serve written  
 43 notice upon the owner, or the occupant of the premises, or upon the agent or representative of the  
 44 owner of such land having control thereof to comply with the provisions of this section. It shall be  
 45 sufficient notification to deliver the notice to the person to whom it is addressed or to deposit a copy  
 46 of such in the United States mail, properly stamped, certified, and directed to the person to whom the  
 47 notice is addressed, or to post a copy of the notice upon such premises.

48 (e) ~~Failure to comply with notice.~~ If the person to whom the notice is directed, under the provisions of  
 49 the preceding subsection fails, or neglects to cause such debris to be removed from any such  
 50 premises within ten (10) days after such notice has been served or deposited in the United States  
 51 mail with first class postage pre paid, or posted upon premises, such person shall be deemed guilty  
 52 of a misdemeanor and subject to the penalty provisions of this chapter.

53 (f) ~~Removal by town.~~ In the event any property is determined to be a nuisance, and twenty (20) days  
 54 has elapsed after such notice has been served, deposited in the United States mail, or posted upon

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11-22-2017 Town Attorney review

~~the premises, then the administrator or his designee or its duly authorized agent or representative may enter upon any such lands and abate such nuisance by removing the debris, and the cost of doing so may become a lien upon the property affected, or may be recovered by the town through judgment proceedings initiated in a court of competent jurisdiction.~~

~~(g) *Work may be done by town upon request.* Upon the written request by the owner or the person in control of any lot or parcel of land covered by this section, and the payment to the town for the services, the town may enter upon any such lands and remove the debris therefrom, the charge and cost of such service to be paid into the town treasury before the commencement of work. Failure to pay for the service described in this paragraph shall entitle the town to file a lien against the property and record such lien in the county register of deeds as a mechanics lien.~~

## ARTICLE II. - SOLID WASTE

### DIVISION 1. - GENERALLY

#### Sec. 7-7. - Definitions.

For the purpose of this article, the following terms, phrases, words and their derivatives shall have the meanings given herein. When not inconsistent with the context, words used in the present tense include the future tense, words used in the plural include the singular and words in the singular include the plural. The word "shall" is always mandatory and not merely discretionary. The following definitions shall apply in the interpretation, administration and enforcement of this article:

*Building material* shall mean any material such as lumber, brick, block, stone, plaster, concrete, asphalt, roofing shingles, gutters and other substances accumulated as the result of repairs or additions to existing buildings or structures, construction of new buildings or structures or the demolition of existing buildings or structures.

*Bulk container* shall mean a metal container of not less than six (6) cubic yards capacity nor larger than eight (8) cubic yards capacity, constructed so as to be watertight but with drain plugs at the lowest point of the container to facilitate the drainage of any liquids that might accumulate in the container or from cleaning the container. Bulk containers shall be designed so that they can be emptied mechanically by specially designed trucks operated by the division of sanitation, department of public works of the town.

*Business trash* shall mean any waste accumulation of dust, paper, cardboard, excelsior, rags or other accumulations other than garbage or household trash which are usually attendant to the operation of stores, offices and similar businesses.

*Commercial establishment* shall mean any retail, wholesale, motel, hotel, institutional, religious, governmental or other nonresidential establishment which may generate garbage, business trash or other refuse.

*Compactor* shall mean a roll-off container of thirty (30) cubic yards or more capacity having an auxiliary packing mechanism.

*Garbage* shall mean the waste produced by the handling, processing, preparation, cooking and consumption of animal or vegetable products used for human consumption. This definition shall include any other matter that is also subject to decomposition, decay, putrefaction or the generation of noxious or offensive gases or odors, or which before, during and after decay may serve as feeding or breeding material for animals or flies or other insects.

*Hazardous refuse* shall mean materials such as poisons, acids, caustics, harmful or dangerous chemicals, infected materials, offal, fecal matter, explosives, highly flammable material, and parts of the human anatomy including pathological specimens.

*Household trash* shall mean waste accumulation of paper, sweepings, dust, rags, bottles, cans or other waste material of any kind, other than garbage, which is attendant to residential housekeeping.

*Industrial waste* shall mean all waste, including solids, semisolids, sludges and liquids, created or generated by factories, processing plants or other manufacturing enterprises.

*Litter* shall mean garbage, refuse, waste materials or any other discarded, used or unconsumed substance which is not handled as specified herein.

*Loading and unloading area* shall mean any space or area used by any moving vehicle for the purpose of receiving, shipping, and transporting goods, wares, commodities and persons.

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11-22-2017 Town Attorney review

1 *Moby cart* means a rollout recycling container as defined hereafter.

2 *Multiple residential unit* shall mean any duplex, apartment, group of apartments or condominiums  
3 used for dwelling places for more than one (1) family.

4 *Parking lot* shall mean any area, paved or unpaved, the principal function of which is the parking of  
5 six (6) or more motor vehicles. This definition excludes those parking spaces on public streets.

6 *Person* shall mean any individual, firm, company, corporation or association.

7 *Refuse* shall mean solid waste accumulations consisting of garbage, household trash, yard trash and  
8 business trash as defined herein.

9 *Refuse receptacles:*

10 (1) A mobile rollout refuse container shall be a plastic container of substantial construction  
11 approved by the Town of Surfside Beach, of a specification recommended by the town  
12 administrator to the town council and adopted by resolution from time to time. The mobile rollout  
13 refuse container shall have a hinged lid. Mobile rollout refuse containers shall be designed so  
14 that they can be emptied mechanically by specially designed lift devices attached to the town  
15 sanitation trucks.

16 (2) A mobile rollout recycling container shall be a plastic container of substantial construction  
17 approved or issued by the Town of Surfside Beach, of a specification recommended by the town  
18 administrator to the town council and adopted by resolution from time to time. The mobile rollout  
19 recycling container shall have a hinged lid. Mobile rollout recycling containers shall be designed  
20 so that they can be emptied mechanically by specially designed lift devices attached to the town  
21 sanitation trucks. The use of mobile rollout recycling containers shall be limited to recyclable  
22 items such as newspapers, magazines, mailing envelopes and paper, and household glass,  
23 metal and plastic bottles and containers, and such other items as the town administrator shall  
24 designate from time to time.

25 (3) In this article, mobile rollout refuse containers and mobile rollout recycling containers are  
26 referred to jointly as "mobile rollout containers" whenever the context so requires.

27 (4) Cardboard boxes, cartons or crates may be used only to contain other cardboard boxes,  
28 cartons or crates, and must be properly secured by tying or taping. Said cardboard boxes shall  
29 not exceed a dimension of five (5) feet by six (6) feet by three (3) feet, and shall have a volume  
30 of at least eight (8) cubic feet. Such boxes shall have a one-time use and shall be collected  
31 along with the refuse contained in them.

32 (5) Two-ply kraft paper bags may be used for yard trash and shall not weigh more than twenty-five  
33 (25) pounds when full.

34 *Single residential unit* shall mean any dwelling place occupied by one (1) family.

35 *Small dead animals* shall mean cats, dogs, small household pets and other animals of similar size.

36 *Town* shall mean the Town of Surfside Beach, South Carolina.

37 *Tree and shrubbery trimmings* shall mean waste accumulation of tree branches, tree limbs, bushes,  
38 shrubbery, cuttings or clippings usually created as refuse in the trimming or cutting of trees, shrubs or  
39 bushes. Parts of trees including stumps, providing that such parts of trees or stumps do not weigh more  
40 than fifty (50) pounds, shall be included in this definition.

41 *Yard trash* shall mean grass clippings, leaves, twigs or the combination of these that are usually  
42 associated with yard or lawn maintenance activity. This type of refuse shall be containerized as provided  
43 in this article. Exceptions shall be only as provided in this article.

44 Sec. 7-8. - Administration.

45 The administration of the provisions of this article shall be the duty and responsibility of the town  
46 administrator or his designee.

47 Sec. 7-9. - Responsibility for compliance.

48 The owners or agents, tenants or lessees, jointly or separately, of all residential units and  
49 commercial establishments shall be responsible for compliance with this article.

50 Sec. 7-10. - Notice of violation or nonconformity.

51 Any notice of violation of this article or nonconformity with this article shall be in writing. Written  
52 notice of the violation shall be delivered to the violator or, in lieu of hand delivery, shall be sent to the  
53 violator via certified mail. Copies of all notices of violation shall be kept and maintained by the town  
54 administrator or his designee.

55 Sec. 7-11. - Violation; penalty.

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1 Any person continuing to violate any provision or requirement of any section or subsection of this  
 2 article after notice of violation has been issued to him, or any person willfully failing, refusing or neglecting  
 3 to comply with any such provision or requirement, shall, in addition to any other remedy, be issued a  
 4 citation in which a possible penalty of two hundred dollars (\$200.00) may be assessed for each offense,  
 5 with each and every day of violation being a distinct and separate offense. Upon failure to pay said  
 6 penalty, a civil action may be instituted to enforce collection of the same.

7 DIVISION 2. - RATES AND CHARGES

8 Sec. 7-12. - Service charges.

9 (a) *Mobile container service.* Mobile refuse container service shall be charged at the rate of eighteen  
 10 dollars and 75 cents (\$18.75) per month per cart for all customers serviced by the town.

11 (b) *Roll-out curb service.*

12 (1) *Summer roll-out curb service.* Mandatory rollout curb service shall be in effect for transient  
 13 rental properties, i.e., rentals less than thirty (30) days, which are deemed commercial  
 14 operations, located within the R-3 and C-3 zoning districts, from the second Saturday in May  
 15 through the first Saturday following Labor Day at the rate of seventy-six dollars and twenty-five  
 16 cents (\$76.25) per month per cart. This charge is broken down as follows: eighteen dollars and  
 17 seventy-five cents (\$18.75) x three (3) times per week service = fifty-six dollars and twenty-five  
 18 cents (\$56.25); plus twenty dollars (\$20.00) summer service charge.

19 (2) Winter roll out curb service of twelve dollars (\$12.00) per month shall be optional for the total  
 20 R-3 district and shall be mandatory for the total C-3 district.

21 Persons or properties who want to opt out of the winter roll out curb service in the R-3 district  
 22 shall notify the Town of Surfside Beach Public Works Department. This notification shall be  
 23 made each and every year that a person or property want to opt out of the winter roll out curb  
 24 service to the Surfside Beach Public Works Department.

25 Failure to notify the Surfside Beach Public Works Department shall result in that person or  
 26 property in the R-3 district being charged a winter roll out service of twelve dollars (\$12.00) per  
 27 month.

28 If a cart for a person or property that has opted out of the winter roll out services is rolled out to  
 29 the street and the person or property fails to remove the cart from the street, or if waste or  
 30 garbage becomes a health or safety hazard, the Surfside Beach Public Works Department can  
 31 reinstate the winter roll out service fee of twelve dollars (\$12.00) without notifying the person or  
 32 property who chose to opt out, this action shall be at the discretion of the public works director  
 33 or his designee.

34 Winter rates shall be a price of thirty dollars and seventy-five cents (\$30.75), broken down at  
 35 eighteen dollars and seventy-five cents (\$18.75) per month plus a twelve dollars (\$12.00) winter  
 36 roll out curb service fee from the second Wednesday after Labor Day until the second  
 37 Wednesday in May at the rate of twelve dollars (\$12.00) per month per cart for the roll out curb  
 38 service for transient rental properties, i.e., rentals less than thirty (30) days, for properties in the  
 39 C-3 and R-3 districts."

40 Exception: Year-round resident owners of multi unit homes are exempt from summer roll-out  
 41 curb service for rental units that are attached to their primary residence, provided that Moby  
 42 carts for the rental units located on the property are curbside at the appointed times. Should  
 43 said resident owner fail to place Moby carts curbside at the appointed time, the town reserves  
 44 the right to require the owner to participate in summer roll-out service as set forth herein.

45 (c) *Exemption from rollout curb service.* Owners of noncommercial properties in the R-3 and C-3 zoning  
 46 districts must provide written notification to the Town of Surfside Beach of either permanent  
 47 residency or non-rental status. This notification must be made each year to the town. Acceptable  
 48 forms of notification shall include a valid South Carolina driver's license with address of property  
 49 within town limits to establish residency, a copy of a current lease for a rental property within town  
 50 limits, or a signed notification of noncommercial use.

51 (d) *Bulk containers service.* Bulk container service shall be charged at the rate of twenty-six dollars and  
 52 twenty-five cents (\$26.25) per container per pickup for 6-yard containers and thirty-one dollars and  
 53 seventy-five cents (\$31.75) per container per pickup for 8-yard containers.

54 Sec. 7-13. - Payments, late payment penalty.

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11-22-2017 Town Attorney review

1 Effective January 1, 2002, sanitation services shall be billed by GSWSA on the monthly water and  
2 sewer bill as a separate item. Town sanitation will be billed to the water meter customer unless a hardship  
3 is determined in the town's sole discretion, in which case the sanitation service will be billed to another  
4 customer or address.

5 Effective January 1, 2002, and as long as an agreement is effective, all sanitation service charges  
6 will be paid to GSWSA. Penalties for nonpayment will be at the current rate charged by GSWSA for late  
7 payments. Late fees shall be credited to GSWSA as payment for its additional collection services. If a  
8 customer should become delinquent in the payment of sanitation service charges, GSWSA has the  
9 authority to discontinue water services until payment is made in full.

10 Sec. 7-14. - Applicability.

11 Service charges for complete sanitation services shall be applied monthly to every single or multiple  
12 residential unit and every commercial establishment located within the town. The service is available to all  
13 units and establishments within the town; therefore, the appropriate service charge will be applied  
14 whether or not the required refuse receptacles are utilized by the unit or establishment.

15 DIVISION 3. - DISPOSAL AND COLLECTION

16 Sec. 7-15. - Unsightly, offensive or dangerous materials.

17 It shall be unlawful for any person to cause or allow unsightly litter, material causing foul or offensive  
18 odors, or potentially dangerous materials to remain on or emanate from any property under his control, or  
19 to discard, abandon, or cause the same on any public or private property within the corporate limits of the  
20 town.

21 Sec. 7-16. - Dumping on open lots.

22 No garbage, refuse, abandoned junk or other offensive material shall be dumped, thrown or allowed  
23 to remain on any lot or space within the town limits.

24 Sec. 7-17. - Scattering refuse.

25 (a) It shall be a violation of this article for any person to:

26 (1) Scatter refuse or litter on any public or private street, area or place;

27 (2) Cast, throw, place, sweep or deposit anywhere within the town any refuse or trash in such a  
28 manner that it may be carried or deposited by the elements upon or in any street, sidewalk,  
29 alley, stormdrain or other public place or into any occupied or unoccupied premises within the  
30 town; or

31 (3) Throw or deposit any refuse, trash or debris in any stream or body of water.

32 (b) It shall be a violation of this article for any vehicle transporting loose materials within the town to  
33 transport the same without suitable covers.

34 Sec. 7-18. - Property maintenance.

35 (a) All owners or occupants, jointly or separately, of property shall maintain their property in a clean and  
36 litter-free manner, including adjacent sidewalks, grass strips, one-half of alleys, curbs, gutters, and  
37 rights-of-way to the edge of the surface of the vehicular travelway of any public street.

38 (b) Planting grass and/or laying sod on town rights-of-way is allowed. Landscaping of and/or planting of  
39 shrubbery, trees, plant beds on the town rights-of-way is prohibited.

40 Sec. 7-19. - Authorized collectors.

41 Only the town or its authorized representative is permitted to collect garbage, household trash, etc.,  
42 within the town.

43 Sec. 7-20. - Vehicles used for collection.

44 All collectors or refuse haulers or handlers operating within the town shall use a commercially  
45 manufactured truck body provided with a tightly fitting cover so operated as to prevent offensive odors  
46 escaping therefrom and refuse from being dropped, blown or spilled. These vehicles shall also be kept in  
47 good repair and shall be cleaned as often as necessary to prevent the body of the vehicle from becoming  
48 a breeding place for insects or a source of foul or offensive odors.

49 Sec. 7-21. - Tampering with containers; depositing hazardous refuse.

50 No person or persons shall interfere with or otherwise deter the normal refuse collection process by  
51 tampering with refuse containers or their contents unless by permission of the town administrator or his  
52 designee, nor shall any person place any hazardous refuse in any collection receptacle.

53 Sec. 7-22. - Container specifications.

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11-22-2017 Town Attorney review

1 (a) *Mobile rollout refuse containers.* Mobile rollout refuse containers shall have a volumetric capacity of  
 2 not less than ninety (90) gallons and not more than one hundred (100) gallons, and shall be required  
 3 at each single-family residence. All mobile rollout refuse containers shall be approved or issued by  
 4 the Town of Surfside Beach.

5 (b) *Mobile rollout recycling containers.* Mobile [rollout] recycling containers shall have a weight-bearing  
 6 capacity of not less than one hundred twenty-two (122) pounds, and shall be required at each single-  
 7 family residence. All mobile rollout recycling containers shall be approved or issued by the Town of  
 8 Surfside Beach.

9 Sec. 7-23. - Issuance, damage, replacement of mobile containers.

10 (a) *Containers town property; responsibility for damage.* One (1) mobile rollout refuse container and  
 11 one (1) mobile rollout recycling container shall be issued to each residential unit in the town. The  
 12 sanitation foreman may add as many additional mobile containers as is necessary to maintain a  
 13 clean, neat, and sanitary premises, not to exceed five (5) mobile containers of all types per  
 14 residential unit. All mobile containers shall become and remain the property of the town for use of the  
 15 residential units to which they are issued. Residents who damage mobile containers issued to them  
 16 shall pay for repairing the container or purchase replacement containers from the town at the current  
 17 replacement value. Containers that are damaged through normal use as a result of being emptied by  
 18 the town will be repaired at the town's expense. Collection will be suspended at any location at which  
 19 one (1) or more mobile container is missing or at which one (1) or more mobile container is damaged  
 20 to such an extent as to interfere with normal collection methods.

21 (b) *Collectors to exercise reasonable care.* Collectors for the town shall exercise reasonable care in the  
 22 handling of mobile containers and shall not willfully break, deface or injure same.

23 Sec. 7-24. - Removal of existing garbage racks.

24 Any person having garbage racks constructed of wood or metal will be required to remove such rack  
 25 within sixty (60) days after the effective date of this article. Any person having a freestanding garbage  
 26 rack made of masonry, such as block, brick or concrete, will not be required to remove such rack. Any  
 27 person having a masonry garbage rack, such as block, brick or concrete, which is a part of a permanent  
 28 building or wall will not be required to remove same. It is the intent of this article that all garbage racks be  
 29 removed where practical. Mobile refuse containers shall not be enclosed in garbage racks.

30 Sec. 7-25. - Frequency of service; number and type of containers.

31 (a) Mobile containers shall be serviced once weekly. Backdoor service is available on a once per week  
 32 basis, subject to the approval of the town administrator or his designee, who may require a doctor's  
 33 certificate for those persons who are unable to roll their mobile container to the curb.

34 (b) All persons, firms or corporations who generate more refuse than can be serviced by five (5) mobile  
 35 containers once weekly, and desiring service by the town, shall no longer receive mobile container  
 36 service, but shall be required to furnish a bulk container of the type approved by the town  
 37 administrator, provided that such container can be installed and serviced. Such containers shall not  
 38 be serviced more than once per day but must be serviced at least once per week if refuse results  
 39 from the preparation or disposal of products used for human consumption. Suggested distribution of  
 40 containers shall follow, as closely as possible, to the following schedule:

41 (1) *Residential home or complex; one (1) to five (5) units:* One (1) mobile container per unit. The  
 42 sanitation foreman may add as many additional mobile containers as is necessary to maintain a  
 43 clean, neat, and sanitary premises, not to exceed five (5) mobile containers per residential unit.

44 (2) *Residential complex:*

45 a. Six (6) to fifteen (15) units—Minimum one (1) six-yard dumpster.

46 b. Sixteen (16) to twenty-five (25) units—Minimum one (1) eight-yard dumpster or two (2) six-  
 47 yard dumpsters.

48 c. Twenty-six (26) to forty (40) units—Minimum two (2) eight-yard dumpsters or three (3) six-  
 49 yard dumpsters.

50 d. Forty-one (41) to sixty (60) units—Minimum three (3) eight-yard dumpsters.

51 e. Sixty-one (61) units or more—Minimum one (1) thirty-yard compactor.

52 (3) *Trailer parks; mobile home parks.* Six- or eight-yard dumpster to be located at entrance of park;  
 53 or, at the request of the park owner, mobile toters will be provided for each mobile home,  
 54 provided speed bumps are removed and adequate turnaround space is available.

- 1 (c) The town administrator or his designee is authorized to determine when a bulk container is  
2 unserviceable and may discontinue service for same.
- 3 (d) *Summer mobile cart service.* Mobile refuse containers shall be serviced three (3) times weekly  
4 beginning the second Saturday in May and continuing through first Saturday following Labor Day for  
5 transient rental property, i.e., rental less than thirty (30) days, which are hereby deemed commercial  
6 operations, located within the R-3 and C-3 zoning districts.
- 7 (e) *Winter mobile cart service .* Mobile refuse containers shall be serviced once weekly beginning the  
8 first Wednesday after Labor Day until the second Wednesday in May for the transient rental property,  
9 i.e., rental less than thirty (30) days, for properties along the side and touching Ocean Boulevard,  
10 Seaside Drive, Yaupon Drive, and Dogwood Drive from 3rd Avenue North to 3rd Avenue South,  
11 which are hereby deemed commercial operations.
- 12 (f) The town reserves the right to add additional moby carts and require rollout service to properties  
13 located in the R-3 and C-3 commercial districts to insure adequate carts are on-site to properly store  
14 refuse, and that collection is managed appropriately throughout the year. Any associated payment  
15 for extra carts and/or rollout service assigned by the town shall be the responsibility of the customer.

16 Sec. 7-26. - Collection procedures—Residential.

17 Garbage and household trash accumulated at residences shall be collected at curbside or at the  
18 edge of the vehicular travel-way on a schedule determined by the town administrator or his designee.  
19 Such collections shall be limited to town-issued mobile containers as defined herein and placement to be  
20 as follows; all garbage and household trash must be placed in the town-issued mobile containers, mobile  
21 containers are to be placed as close to the road or vehicular travel-way as possible, bags and/or garbage  
22 placed adjacent to or outside the mobile containers will not be picked up, and mobile containers that are  
23 loaded so that the top cannot close will not be serviced. Additional mobile containers are available to  
24 residents for an additional monthly fee. Recyclable waste, oversized household trash, yard trash and tree  
25 or shrubbery trimmings shall be collected on a separate schedule determined by the administrator, at  
26 each resident's curbside, as specified in this article. The provisions of this section do not apply to  
27 undeveloped property.

28 Sec. 7-27. - Same—Bulk containers; bulk container maintenance.

29 Any person or establishment that furnishes and maintains a bulk container suitable for handling by  
30 town equipment will be serviced by the town as stated herein; provided that said container shall be of  
31 sufficient size, as specified and approved by the town administrator or his designee, for collection. Doors  
32 shall be kept closed at all times that the bulk container is not being filled or emptied. Bulk containers shall  
33 at all times be maintained in a safe, serviceable and sanitary condition as directed by the administrator.  
34 Notice shall be given by the administrator of any bulk container not meeting the requirements of this  
35 article. If, within thirty (30) days, the unit is not in compliance, town service of this unit may be suspended.  
36 Bulk containers shall at all times be kept in a place easily and safely accessible to town equipment even  
37 during periods of inclement weather such as snow and ice. Every person who shall engage in the leasing,  
38 renting or supplying, other than absolute sale, of bulk containers and portable packing units to persons to  
39 whom this chapter applies shall operate and maintain facilities and equipment for servicing, cleaning,  
40 repairing and painting such containers and units and for otherwise maintaining such units in a safe,  
41 serviceable and sanitary condition as required by this article. Persons or establishments utilizing bulk  
42 containers shall be responsible for preparing said containers for servicing. No service shall be given to  
43 those persons or establishments permitting objects, obstructions or vehicles to hinder in any way the  
44 servicing of the container. The immediate cleaning up of spilled refuse in the area of the container shall  
45 be the responsibility of the property owner or occupant utilizing the container. Service shall be  
46 discontinued to persons or establishments failing to locate or maintain containers in accordance with the  
47 requirements of this article. The town shall not afford both mobile refuse container service and bulk  
48 container service to the same persons or establishments. In those cases that the administrator directs the  
49 change from mobile refuse receptacles to bulk containerization, compliance shall be within thirty (30)  
50 days or service may be discontinued. Any cause for discontinuation of service shall also constitute a  
51 violation of this article.

52 Sec. 7-28. - Same—Specific wastes.

- 53 (a) *Industrial waste.* The collection and disposal of industrial waste shall be the responsibility of the  
54 operator of the factory, plant or enterprise creating or causing the same.

11-20-2017 Workshop consensus bring forward discussion at next meeting.

11-22-2017 Town Attorney review



- 1 (b) *Hazardous refuse*. No hazardous refuse, as defined herein, shall be placed in any receptacle,  
2 container or unit used for refuse collection by the town.
- 3 (c) *Dead animals*. Small dead animals, as defined herein, will be collect by the town on request;  
4 provided that it is during the operating hours of the landfill and the body is in a place easily  
5 accessible to the collector and is wrapped or contained in a plastic bag or other suitable container  
6 that will be collected with the body. Owners of large dead animals shall be responsible for their  
7 removal and disposal.
- 8 (d) *Building materials*. The town shall not be responsible for the collecting, handling or disposal of  
9 building materials, as defined herein, that originate from private property preliminary to, during or  
10 subsequent to the construction of new buildings or from demolition of existing structures. Such  
11 materials or refuse shall be collected and disposed of by the property owner or the person doing the  
12 work. If such material or refuse has not been removed and disposed of by the property owner or the  
13 person doing the work, the town shall not issue a certificate of occupancy, even though other  
14 requirements for such certificate have been met. The certificate of occupancy shall be issued only  
15 when this requirement as well as any other requirements have been met.

16 Sec. 7-29. - Placement for collection.

- 17 (a) Garbage collection begins at 6:00 a.m. Mobile containers which are not out when the truck passes  
18 may not be collected until the next regularly scheduled pickup date. Lid must be closed when in use.
- 19 (b) All refuse shall be placed in town-issued mobile containers as defined is sections 7-7 and 7-22. All  
20 refuse resulting from the preparation or disposal of products used for human consumption shall be  
21 placed in plastic bags before being placed in mobile containers. A mobile container is to be placed  
22 with the handle toward the house and yellow arrows pointing toward the street. A mobile container  
23 must be placed in an accessible location at least three (3) feet away from any obstacle (vehicles,  
24 mailboxes, utility poles, trees, etc.) and away from any low-hanging utility lines or tree branches. All  
25 leaves must be bagged. Bundled limbs shall not exceed four (4) feet in length. Any receptacles  
26 placed at the curb next to the approved mobile containers will not be serviced as per section 7-26.  
27 No stumps, logs or other materials or tree limbs placed by landscape or tree service contractors or  
28 workmen shall be hauled by the town.

29 Sec. 7-30. - Storage and placement of material prior to collection.

- 30 (a) *Permitted locations; junk; appliances*. All accumulations of refuse and trash shall be stored or  
31 placed for collection in accordance with the following provisions:
- 32 (1) *Public streets*. No refuse, trash, yard trash, leaves, tree and shrubbery trimmings, refuse  
33 receptacle or bulk container shall be placed within the vehicular travelway or gutter of any  
34 street.
- 35 (2) *Public sidewalks*. Refuse, trash, yard trash, leaves, or tree and shrubbery trimmings contained  
36 in approved refuse receptacles may be placed on the sidewalk on the day of collection so long  
37 as they do not unreasonably interfere with pedestrian traffic.
- 38 (3) *Public alleys*. Refuse contained in approved refuse receptacles may be placed in a public alley  
39 on the day of collection so long as it does not unreasonably interfere with vehicular or  
40 pedestrian traffic.
- 41 (4) *Blocking stormdrains; gutters*. No person shall place any refuse, trash refuse receptacle or  
42 container on, upon or over any stormdrain opening or so close thereto as to be drawn by the  
43 elements into the same. No person shall place any refuse, trash, refuse receptacle or container  
44 in a gutter, thereby causing blockage of stormwater flows or possible blockage of storm  
45 drainage systems if carried by the elements into the same.
- 46 (5) *Unauthorized accumulations prohibited*. Any unauthorized accumulation of refuse or trash on  
47 any lot, property, premise, public street, sidewalk, alley or other public or private place is  
48 prohibited. Failure or the owner or occupant, after notice of violation, to remove and correct any  
49 such unauthorized accumulation of refuse or trash shall be deemed a violation of this article.
- 50 (6) *Junk*. It shall be a violation of this article for any person to place or store outside any building or  
51 dwelling, except as provided herein, any dilapidated furniture, appliances, vehicles, machinery,  
52 equipment, building materials or any other item which is either in a wholly or partially rusted,  
53 wrecked, junked, dismantled or inoperative condition and which is not completely enclosed  
54 within a building or dwelling. This shall not apply to authorized junk dealers or authorized

- 1 establishments engaged in the business of repairing, rebuilding, reconditioning or salvage, who  
2 are required to provide a six-foot screened enclosure.
- 3 (7) *Appliances.* It shall be unlawful and a violation of this article for any person to leave outside any  
4 building or dwelling, in a place accessible to children, any appliance, refrigerator, or container of  
5 any kind which has an airtight door or cover with a snaplock or latch without first removing the  
6 lock or latch, door or cover from the appliance, refrigerator or container.
- 7 (b) *Mobile containers at multifamily residential complexes and in commercial districts.* At townhouses,  
8 condominiums, apartments, etc., and in commercial districts, where it is deemed impractical to move  
9 mobile rollout containers to back yards, a screened area will be required. The location and design  
10 must be approved by the town administrator or his designee.
- 11 (c) *Using property, receptacles of other persons.* It shall be unlawful and a violation of this article for  
12 any person to store or place refuse, yard trash, leaves, tree and shrubbery trimmings, a refuse  
13 receptacle, or bulk container, on or abutting at the front of property of another person, or to store or  
14 place refuse, yard trash, leaves, tree and shrubbery trimmings in a refuse receptacle or bulk  
15 container of another person.
- 16 Sec. 7-31. - Responsibility for placement.
- 17 (a) On the day of collection, unless otherwise provided by this article, it shall be the responsibility of the  
18 owner or occupant to place refuse receptacles at the curbside or at the edge of the vehicular  
19 travelway as specified in subsections 7-30(a)(1) through (3). No refuse receptacle or container,  
20 unless otherwise provided in this article, shall be stored in front of a building or dwelling, except on  
21 the day of collection.
- 22 (b) It shall be the responsibility of each householder or storekeeper to place their refuse for collection at  
23 the proper time and in the proper manner as provided for in this article.
- 24 Sec. 7-32. - Removal of containers following collection.
- 25 Mobile refuse containers returned to curbside after collection shall be removed by 11:00 p.m. on the  
26 day of collection, unless otherwise provided in this article. The property owner or occupant shall be  
27 responsible for such removal. Failure to remove said receptacle shall constitute a violation of this article.
- 28 Sec. 7-33. - Special service.
- 29 Hardship cases, such as age, disability or infirmity, when confirmed by the town administrator or his  
30 designee, may be afforded the special service of refuse container carryout and carryback upon  
31 application as stated in subsection 7-25(a).
- 32 Sec. 7-34. - Commercial establishments.
- 33 (a) All commercial establishments shall store their refuse in refuse receptacles or containers as  
34 specified herein so as to eliminate the dispersal of such refuse by the elements and the resulting  
35 unsightly litter in and about their establishments. Approved methods of containerization include  
36 mobile refuse containers and bulk containers. All refuse resulting from the preparation or disposal of  
37 products used for human consumption shall be placed in plastic bags before being placed in a  
38 container for disposal. The number and type of containers and frequency of pickup necessary for  
39 each commercial establishment shall be as required to maintain clean, neat and sanitary premises.  
40 Spillage and overflow shall be immediately cleaned up by the establishment when and as it occurs.
- 41 (b) When a commercial establishment generates so much refuse that it requires five (5) or more mobile  
42 refuse containers per collection, said establishment shall be required to provide a bulk container or  
43 detachable container as described herein.
- 44 (c) It shall be the responsibility of the sanitation division, during the plan review process and prior to the  
45 issuance of a building permit for new commercial buildings, extensive renovations to existing  
46 commercial buildings, or changes of ownership to coordinate with the building and zoning  
47 department to review the method and location of refuse storage for collection for the building. Such  
48 reviews shall include the input and comments of both the sanitation division, public works  
49 department and the building and zoning department. If any problems are foreseen during this review,  
50 they shall be called to the attention of the owner or designer for correction.
- 51 Sec. 7-35. - Loading and unloading areas.
- 52 All loading and unloading areas shall, at the direction of the town administrator or his designee, be  
53 provided with refuse receptacles or containers for loose papers, debris, packaging materials and other

11-20-2017 Workshop consensus bring forward discussion at next meeting.

11-22-2017 Town Attorney review

1 business trash. The number and type of such containers necessary for each area shall be as required to  
2 maintain clean, neat and litter-free premises and as directed by director of public works or his designee.

3 Sec. 7-36. - Construction, demolition sites.

4 All construction and demolition contractors shall provide on-site refuse receptacles or bulk containers  
5 for loose debris, paper, waste building materials, scrap building materials and other trash produced by  
6 those working on the site. All such materials shall be containerized by the end of each workday and the  
7 site shall be kept in a reasonably clean and litter-free condition. The number and type of refuse  
8 receptacles or bulk containers shall be determined by the town administrator or his designee, based on  
9 the size of the project. Dirt, mud, construction materials or other debris deposited upon any public or  
10 private property as a result of construction or demolition activities shall be immediately removed by the  
11 contractor and in all cases by the end of the workday.

12 Sec. 7-37. - Special disposal problems.

13 (a) *Contagious disease refuse.* The removal of clothing and bedding from places where highly  
14 infectious diseases have prevailed shall be performed under the supervision and direction of the  
15 Horry County Health Department. Such refuse shall not be placed in containers for town collection  
16 and disposal.

17 (b) *Hypodermic instruments.* No person shall dispose of or discard any hypodermic needle or any  
18 instrument or device for making hypodermic injections before first breaking, disassembling, destroying  
19 or otherwise rendering inoperable and incapable of reuse such hypodermic syringe, needle,  
20 instrument or device, and without safeguarding the disposal thereof by wrapping or securing the  
21 same in a suitable manner so as to avoid the possibility of causing injury to collection personnel.

22 (c) *Ashes.* Ashes that are to be collected by the town shall have been wetted and shall be cool to the  
23 touch prior to collection. Ashes shall be placed in a watertight container, such as a plastic bag, can,  
24 etc. Refuse receptacles containing ashes shall not weigh more than fifty (50) pounds.

25 (d) *Cardboard boxes and cartons.* Prior to being deposited as refuse for collection in approved  
26 receptacles or containers as defined herein, all cardboard boxes, cartons or crates shall be  
27 completely collapsed, or in lieu of being placed in receptacles or containers, such cardboard boxes,  
28 cartons or crates shall be completely collapsed and securely bundled. Each bundle shall not weigh  
29 more than fifty (50) pounds.

30 (e) *Rubber tires.* The town shall not collect any unsplit rubber tire or any rubber tire that has not  
31 otherwise been reduced from its original shape or conformation by a generally accepted and  
32 approved manner or method. It shall be a violation of this article for any person to place any unsplit  
33 rubber tire or any rubber tire that has not otherwise been reduced from its original shape or  
34 conformation by a generally accepted and approved manner or method in any refuse receptacle or  
35 container from which refuse is collected by the town.

36 (f) *Food processing waste.* All fish (seafood) processing waste, surplus entrails, heads, tails, scales,  
37 shells, bones, etc., must be packaged in a watertight container, such as a plastic bag, can, etc.

38 (g) *Electronic waste (E-scrap).* Effective July 1, 2011 - residents may not knowingly place or discard a  
39 computer, computer monitor, printer or television, or component of same, in any waste stream that is  
40 to be disposed of in a solid waste landfill. The town will not collect these items with regular refuse  
41 after this date.

42 Sec. 7-438. - Penalties.

43 (a) Any person who violates the provisions of this article shall appear before the town's municipal judge  
44 and be subject to a civil fine of not less than two hundred dollars (\$200.00), nor more than five  
45 hundred dollars (\$500.00) plus any applicable local, state or federal assessments.

46 (b) Violations shall be issued on a uniform ordinance summons.

47 (c) Violators shall only be cited by police officers or authorized code enforcement officials.

48 (d) Violators shall appear and be subject to the jurisdiction of the town's municipal court.

49 (e) Violators shall have a right to a jury trial upon proper request.

50 (f) Violators shall be subject to Set-off debt process and failure to pay or appear may result in a non-  
51 resident violator compact (NRVC) notice for South Carolina licensed drivers.

52 ~~(g) Violators shall not be subject to incarceration.~~

53 (h) Each days continuing violation shall constitute a separate and distinct offense, unless otherwise  
54 specified.

11-20-2017 Workshop consensus bring forward discussion at next meeting.

11-22-2017 Town Attorney review

- 1 (i) If any of the matter, litter, debris or material dumped in violation of this chapter can be identified as  
 2 having last belonged to, been in the possession of, sent to, or received by, or to have been the  
 3 property of any person, firm, or corporation prior to its being dumped as prohibited herein, such  
 4 identification shall be presumed to be prima facie evidence that such owner dumped or caused to be  
 5 dumped such matter or material in violation of this article.
- 6 (j) In addition to the fines established by this section, repeated violations of this article by a person who  
 7 owns, manages, operates, or otherwise controls a public place or place of employment may result in  
 8 the suspension or revocation of any occupancy permit or business license issued to the person for  
 9 the premises on which the violation occurred.
- 10 ~~(k) Violation of this article is hereby declared to be a public nuisance, which may be abated by the town  
 11 by restraining order, preliminary and permanent injunction, or other means provided for by law, and  
 12 the town may take action to recover the costs of the nuisance abatement.~~
- 13 (l) Each day of a continuing violation of this article shall be considered a separate and distinct offense.

14 ARTICLE III. - NUISANCES<sup>41</sup>

15 DIVISION 1. - GENERALLY

16 **Authority.**

- 17 (a) Pursuant to S.C. Code 1976, § 5-7-80, the Town is authorized to provide that the owner of any lot or  
 18 property in the municipality shall keep such lot or property clean and free of rubbish, debris and other  
 19 unhealthy and unsightly material or conditions which constitute a public nuisance.
- 20 (b) Pursuant to S.C. Code 1976, § 5-7-30, the Town is authorized to provide for the abatement of  
 21 nuisances.
- 22 (c) Pursuant to S.C. Code 1976, § 5-25-340, an inspector shall have a right to enter premises to inspect  
 23 without molestation, upon permission or upon probable cause to believe that a violation of provisions  
 24 respecting fire laws, or there exists imminent danger to the occupant thereof.
- 25 (d) Pursuant to S.C. Code 1976, § 6-9-10, building codes shall be enforced by local government.
- 26 (e) Pursuant to S.C. Code 1976, § 6-9-130, adopted codes are applicable to building inspections.
- 27 (f) Pursuant to S.C. Code 1976, § 31-15-10 et seq., the Town is authorized to abate unfit or unsafe  
 28 dwellings.
- 29 (g) Pursuant to South Carolina Code, the cost of public abatement under this chapter shall become a  
 30 lien upon the real estate and shall be collectable in the same manner as municipal taxes.

31

32 ~~Sec. 7-41. - Prohibited.~~

33

34 ~~Subject to the procedures, requirements and limitations set forth in article VII, Landscaping and tree~~  
 35 ~~protection, sections 17-700 through 17-741, Every person shall keep his property clean and free of~~  
 36 ~~unsightly materials such as rubbish, debris and downed trees. Dead and diseased trees or trees leaning~~  
 37 ~~by being partially damaged or uprooted which may endanger or cause actual injury or impairment to any~~  
 38 ~~person or adjacent property shall also be removed. The existence of such unsightly, unhealthy or harmful~~  
 39 ~~conditions shall be deemed a nuisance.~~

40 ~~Sec. 7-42. - Premises constituting nuisance.~~

41 ~~It shall be unlawful for any owner, occupant or agent of lots or premises within the town, whether~~  
 42 ~~occupied or vacant, to permit the same to become a nuisance by allowing offensive things or matter such~~  
 43 ~~as trash, rubbish, waste, refuse, manure, straw or hay to be placed or accumulated thereon or by~~  
 44 ~~permitting the growth or accumulation of grass, weeds and vegetation within one hundred (100) feet of~~  
 45 ~~any building or dwelling so as to render the premises unsightly and unhealthy, or by allowing ponds,~~  
 46 ~~swimming pools, or other water features on a lot or premise within the town to become insanitary, emit~~  
 47 ~~effluvium or allow infestation by vermin or insects.~~

48 ~~Sec. 7-43. - Drainage ditches.~~

49 ~~It shall be unlawful for any property owner within the town to allow drainage ditches on his property~~  
 50 ~~to become obstructed so as to back up water on property owned by anyone else, including property~~  
 51 ~~owned by the town. Upon failure of the owner, after notice, to keep such drainage ditches open the town~~  
 52 ~~shall abate the condition at the expense of the owner.~~

53 ~~Sec. 7-44. - Abatement.~~

11-20-2017 Workshop consensus bring forward discussion at next meeting.

11-22-2017 Town Attorney review

1       ~~It shall be unlawful for any person to refuse or neglect to abate a nuisance after having been directed~~  
 2 ~~by any person acting under authority of the town council after being notified by registered mail, pursuant~~  
 3 ~~to section 7-45.~~

4 ~~Sec. 7-45. Removal and abatement.~~

5 ~~(a) Any person violating the provisions of this division 1 of article III herein shall be given notice by~~  
 6 ~~registered mail by one acting under authority of the town and shall thereafter have five (5) business~~  
 7 ~~days from mailing of the notice in which to correct or remedy such unlawful conditions, weather~~  
 8 ~~permitting.~~

9 ~~(b) Upon failure to comply with this notice, a duly appointed agent of the town may enter upon the~~  
 10 ~~premises and cause the nuisance to be abated by removing, abating or rectifying the objectionable~~  
 11 ~~nuisance, thing, matter condition by cutting, removing, or applying an approved counter agent to any~~  
 12 ~~weeds, grass, insanitary material or condition therefrom, and charge the expense to the owner of the~~  
 13 ~~premises.~~

14 ~~(c) The town shall be authorized to place a lien on record against the offending real property in respect~~  
 15 ~~of the monetary amount incurred by the town to rectify any nuisance occurring thereon. The costs of~~  
 16 ~~the town may include but not be limited to labor and materials, and the recording costs of any lien of~~  
 17 ~~record so placed.~~

18 ~~Sec. 7-46. Certain animals a nuisance.~~

19 ~~In the interest of maintaining clean, sanitary and quiet neighborhoods, it shall be unlawful for any~~  
 20 ~~person, firm, corporation, or others to keep or exhibit within the Town of Surfside Beach any horses,~~  
 21 ~~mules, swine, goats, sheep, cattle, chickens or fowl, unless such animals are kept inside a residence.~~  
 22 ~~Likewise, there will be no stables, barns, sheds, pens or other enclosures intended for housing such~~  
 23 ~~animals. The keeping of such animals would constitute a nuisance.~~

24  
 25  
 26 **Section 7- ? Code official duties and powers.**

27 *(a) In general.* The building code official, his deputies and designees, or other appropriately  
 28 appointed official administering or enforcing codes regulating buildings, and constructions services  
 29 (hereinafter code official) shall enforce the provisions of this Code. If a code official determines  
 30 that any of the provisions of any division of this chapter are being violated, he shall enforce the  
 31 requirements of the ordinance by any and all lawful means. The code enforcement officer is not  
 32 required to warn a violator before the issuance of an ordinance summons or the institution of  
 33 enforcement procedures. The code enforcement officer may invoke a single course of  
 34 enforcement or parallel courses of enforcement in his discretion as the exigencies of the  
 35 circumstances demand.

36 *(b) Administrative and interpretive authority.* The code official, with the consent of the  
 37 Administrator, shall have authority as necessary in the interest of public health, safety and general  
 38 welfare, to adopt and promulgate rules and procedures; to interpret and implement the provisions  
 39 of the applicable codes; to secure the intent thereof; and to designate requirements applicable  
 40 because of local climatic or other conditions. Such rules shall not have the effect of waiving  
 41 structural or fire performance requirements specifically provided for in this Code, or of violating  
 42 accepted engineering methods involving public safety.

43 *(c) Inspections.* The code official shall carry proper identification when inspecting structures or  
 44 premises in the performance of duties under this Code. The code official shall make all of the  
 45 required inspections, or shall accept reports of inspection by approved agencies or individuals. All  
 46 reports of such inspections shall be in writing and be certified by a responsible officer of such  
 47 approved agency or by the responsible individual. The code official is authorized to engage such  
 48 expert opinion as deemed necessary to report upon unusual technical issues that arise, subject to  
 49 the approval of the appointing authority. The code official shall issue all necessary notices or  
 50 orders to ensure compliance with this Code. The code official shall keep official records of all  
 51 business and activities of the department specified in the provisions of this Code. Such records  
 52 shall be retained in the official records as long as the building or structure to which such records  
 53 relate remains in existence, unless otherwise provided for by other regulations.

54 *(d) Right of entry, permissive and by warrant.*

11-20-2017 Workshop consensus bring forward discussion at next meeting.

11-22-2017 Town Attorney review

1 (1) The code official shall, after proper presentment of identification and notification, have  
 2 the right and authority to go onto the grounds of any premises within the town at any  
 3 reasonable time for the purpose of making inspections to ascertain if the premises are in  
 4 compliance with this chapter.

5 (2) The code enforcement officer, city health officer, or any other appropriate town official  
 6 shall, after proper presentment of identification and notification, have the right and authority  
 7 to enter premises after receiving permission from a responsible person within the town at  
 8 any reasonable time for the purpose of making inspections to ascertain if the premises are  
 9 in compliance with this chapter.

10 (3) If any responsible person owning or residing in the premises shall refuse to allow the  
 11 town official to enter onto any grounds or enter into any premises in the town for the  
 12 purposes of conducting the inspection as provided in this section, the town official shall  
 13 make no entry, but shall withdraw and make application to the municipal judge for an  
 14 administrative search warrant to be issued.

15 (4) An administrative search warrant can be obtained if there is a showing that reasonable  
 16 administrative or legislative standards are in place for the issuance of the administrative  
 17 warrant and the conduct of the search. For the purposes of establishing reasonable  
 18 standards, and for securing an administrative search warrants, the requesting official must  
 19 affirm that:

20 a. The relevant codes, regulations or statutes are in place pertaining to the property;

21 b. The requesting official has attempted peaceful entry or has sought permission to  
 22 enter for the limited purpose of code inspection;

23 c. Permission has been denied or property owner could not be located.

24 d. There exist facts and circumstances that lead the affiant to believe, based upon his  
 25 education, training or experience, that code violations exist that could impact fire  
 26 laws, or could pose imminent danger to the occupant;

27 e. The stated object and purpose of the search must be adequately specific so that  
 28 the reasonableness of the scope of the search is not expanded past regulatory  
 29 purposes; and

30 f. The search warrant shall not be used as a pretext for a criminal search.

31 (e) The municipal court judge for the town is hereby authorized to issue administrative search  
 32 warrants to allow the code enforcement officer, town health officer, or any other appropriate town  
 33 official to enter any premises within the town under the terms and conditions as deemed by the  
 34 municipal court judge.

35 (f) A law enforcement officer must accompany the official to the premises to assist in the safer  
 36 execution of the administrative search warrant under the provisions of this section.

37 (g) It shall be unlawful for any person having control of any premises for which an administrative  
 38 search warrant has been issued to prohibit the entry onto the premises by the person as  
 39 authorized.

40  
 41 **Sec. 10-3. - Vacant and boarded up structures.**

42 (a) The building official may order a property owner to board up a vacant or uninhabited structure  
 43 upon finding that the unsecured structure poses a threat to public health, safety or welfare. The  
 44 order may be appealed the decision to Deputy Administrator.

45 (b) Whether by administrative order or voluntary action, an owner shall ensure that the building is  
 46 boarded in compliance with the standards for boarding a vacant building, as enforced by the  
 47 building inspector using the standards set forth in the International Property Maintenance Code.

48 (c) *Trespass notice.* The code official may require the owner of the vacant building and boarded  
 49 up structures to post "No Trespassing" signs on the property, police department authorized the to  
 50 enforce no trespassing on the premises.

51 (d) *Violations.*

52 (1) It shall be unlawful for any person to fail in performing owner responsibilities in  
 53 maintaining vacant structures.

1 (2) It shall be unlawful for a person to board up a vacant building in any manner except as  
2 required by the building official, according to standards of code.

3 (3) It shall be unlawful for any person to fail to post "No Trespassing" signs on vacant and  
4 boarded up property and fail to participate in the trespass program, as required herein.  
5

6 **Sec. 7-41. - Definitions.**

7 As used in this article, the following terms shall have the following meanings, unless the context  
8 clearly indicates that a different meaning is intended:

9 *Abate* means repair, replace, remove, destroy or otherwise remedy the condition in question by such  
10 means, in such time, in such a manner and to such an extent as the enforcement officer or hearing  
11 committee shall determine to be in the best interest of the public, taking into account all facts and  
12 circumstances.

13 *Business days* means Monday through Friday.

14 *Enforcement officer* means a law enforcement officer, code enforcement official or Town employee  
15 or official as may be designated in writing by the Town Administrator or chief of police to enforce the  
16 provisions of this division.

17 *Graffiti* means any unauthorized inscription, word, figure, painting or other defacement that is written,  
18 marked, etched, scratched, sprayed, drawn, painted, or engraved on or otherwise affixed to any surface  
19 of public or private property by any graffiti implement, to the extent that the graffiti was not authorized in  
20 advance by the owner or occupant of the property, or, despite advance authorization.

21 *Hearing officer:* Appointed by the Administrator, deemed to have the requisite training, education,  
22 experience or civic activity to justly and fairly hear and decide on matters of public nuisance.

23 *Industrial wastes* means all liquid and water-borne solid, liquid or gaseous wastes resulting from  
24 industrial manufacturing, food processing operation, processing any natural resource or mixture of such  
25 wastes with water or domestic sewage.

26 *Person* means any landlord, property owner, manager, lessee, tenant, or individual, group,  
27 association, corporation, partnership, trust, estate or receiver having the capacity to sue or be sued.

28 *Premises* means any building, lot parcel, real estate, or land or portion of land whether improved or  
29 unimproved, occupied or unoccupied, including adjacent parking.

30 *Public nuisance* means as determined by an enforcement officer based upon the facts and  
31 circumstances found after reasonable inquiry, investigation or upon citizen report, those conditions or  
32 events which constitute an unreasonable interference with rights of the public in general, and where, in a  
33 public place, or where the public congregates, or where the public is likely to come within the range of  
34 influence through the senses, a person unlawfully does an act or omits to perform a duty, which act or  
35 omission does any one or more of the following:

36 (1) Annoys, injures, subverts or endangers the public's order, economy, resources, safety, health,  
37 welfare, comfort, repose or offends public decency;

38 (2) Unlawfully interferes with, obstructs or tends to obstruct, or renders dangerous for passage any  
39 waters or public places or way;

40 *Structure* means anything constructed, built or planted upon, any edifice or building of any kind, or  
41 any piece of work artificially built up or composed of parts joined together in some definite manner, which  
42 structure requires location on the ground or is attached to something having a location on the ground.

43 **Sec. 7-42. - Nuisances.**

44 (a) *Nuisances affecting public health.* The following are hereby declared to be nuisances affecting public  
45 health:

46 (1) All decayed or unwholesome food products or food waste not properly contained either inside or  
47 outside for more than 24 hours before pickup;

48 (2) All pools of stagnant water or vessels holding stagnant water in which mosquitoes can breed,  
49 excluding required retention ponds;

50 (3) Swimming pools which either (i) are empty, excluding such pools that are completely and  
51 effectively covered, or (ii) contain liquids and/or debris which are not bacteriologically,  
52 chemically or physically safe for swimming or other intended uses;

53 (4) Animal carcasses not buried or disposed of in a lawful and sanitary manner within 24 hours  
54 after its death;

55 (5) Leaking septic tanks or sewer lines or other sewage existing in an unsanitary manner;

- 1 (6) Deliberate placement or discharge of into any part of a stormwater drainage system of:  
2 untreated sewage, sewage solids, process wastewater, refuse, explosive or combustible liquid,  
3 solid or gas, oils, greases, industrial water or other polluted water except where a federal, state  
4 or local permit for connections, discharge or disposal has been obtained prior to the event; or  
5 waters or wastes containing toxic or poisonous wastes to constitute a hazard to humans, plants  
6 or animals or to cause corrosion, discoloration or deposition on real or personal property; or any  
7 solid or viscous substances in such quantities or of such size capable of causing obstruction to  
8 the flow in the stormwater drainage system or other interference with the proper operation of the  
9 drainage system of the Town.
- 10 (7) Motorcycle rallies, regardless of the intervals, the passage of time, or the length of time between  
11 the events, that result in the pervasive and continual clamor and noise, litter, and congestion of  
12 large number of persons and vehicles resulting from a promotion, for individuals to attend rallies  
13 by event promoter identifying or claiming Surfside Beach as the gathering or focal location and  
14 the event requires a heightened law enforcement response or a heightened intensity of law  
15 enforcement response, or a public resource response of such disproportionate expenditure  
16 when compared to normal tourism. Those event promoters that sponsor such public nuisances  
17 shall be responsible for the public costs arising therefrom, as set forth in this article.
- 18 (b) Nuisances offending public decency, peace and order. The following are hereby declared to be  
19 public nuisances affecting public decency, peace and order, whether such violations are of an  
20 intermittent, cyclical, continual, reoccurring or constant nature; and when the responsible party  
21 generates, enables, or contributes to the occurrence of the unlawful behavior by an absence or  
22 failure of property management policy or practice, absence or failure of control over the property,  
23 absence or failure of supervision of guests or invitees, absence or failure of security measures.
- 24 (1) Any structure, whether commercial or residential, where gambling devices, slot machines,  
25 punch boards and other such contrivances of similar character involving any elements of  
26 chance as a consideration or any type of gambling, bookmaking, wagering or betting is carried  
27 on, and all gambling equipment, except where such specific form of gambling is permitted by  
28 applicable law;
- 29 (2) Any structure, whether commercial or residential, operated as a bawdy house, house of  
30 assignation, place of prostitution or used and maintained for the commercial or criminal  
31 purposes of unlawful sexual activity in violation of federal, state or local law;
- 32 (4) Any structure, whether commercial or residential, where acts of sale, possession or distribution  
33 of controlled substances occur in violation of federal, state and local law;
- 34 (5) Any structure, whether a commercial operation or a residential use, where violations against the  
35 Town code or state laws occur with disproportionate frequency or intensity that they require an  
36 excessive public safety response cost. Excessive public safety response means either the  
37 reasonable deployment of four or more law enforcement officers to the scene at any one time,  
38 or the reoccurring need for public safety or code personnel or emergency at the location when  
39 compared to the frequency or intensity of law or regulation enforcement required at other  
40 similarly situated structures.
- 41 (6) Any overgrown, uninhabited, undeveloped or vacant land, lot or property not licensed or zoned  
42 for camping that has been identified by law enforcement as an area used by persons other than  
43 the owner as a area to inhabit or camp, or any overgrown, uninhabited, undeveloped or vacant  
44 land, lot or property used by persons as an area to flee or evade police upon approach, or used  
45 to avoid detection or investigation by law enforcement without regard to the time of day or night  
46 regarding such conduct, as identified by a citizen or police reported incident level of more than  
47 two times in a 60-day period.
- 48 (c) *Nuisances affecting public welfare and safety.* The following are hereby declared to be public  
49 nuisances affecting public welfare and safety:
- 50 (1) All trees, hedges, signs or other obstructions, or any portion of the same, so located on private  
51 property which prevent persons driving vehicles approaching an intersection of streets from  
52 having a clear safe view of traffic approaching such intersection, pursuant to Code of  
53 Ordinances,
- 54 (2) All trees, hedges, signs or other obstructions, or any portion of the same so located on private  
55 property which prevents the clear and unobstructed view of a fire hydrant, fire department



- 1 connection or other fire protection device, or directional or identification signage pertaining to  
 2 the above, from a public way;
- 3 (3) Any obstruction, erosion or depression which poses a potential hazard to vehicles or  
 4 pedestrians using a right-of-way on private property where the public is invited or permitted to  
 5 traverse for commercial purposes;
- 6 (4) All wires, strings, ropes or lighting contrivances over streets, alley or public grounds which are  
 7 not authorized or permitted by the Town or which are strung so that the lowest portion is less  
 8 than 13½ feet above the surface of the ground;
- 9 (5) All explosives, flammable liquids and other dangerous substances stored in any manner, in any  
 10 amount other than that manner or amount permitted by law;
- 11 (6) All hanging signs, awnings, canopies and other similar structures over the streets or sidewalks  
 12 so situated or constructed as to endanger public safety or to be contrary to ordinance;
- 13 (7) Any motor vehicle that is unregistered, inoperable, derelict or abandoned on any highway or  
 14 right-of-way, or other public or private property, unless such vehicle is stored inside of a building  
 15 or protected from the elements by way of a complete covering;
- 16 (8) Any abandoned or discarded icebox, refrigerator, ice chest or other type of air-tight container  
 17 whose door, lid or other closing device has not been removed.
- 18 (9) Any tents, trailers, structures, cooking devices, appliance, chairs, tables, coolers or other  
 19 objects used in impromptu, unpermitted or unmanaged outdoor events or gatherings in a  
 20 required parking area or landscaped area of a business license holder, or the site of any short-  
 21 term residential rental, unless that such outdoor events that are specifically permitted through  
 22 legislative or administrative action, or sponsored by the business license holder in compliance  
 23 with regulations governing such outdoor events.
- 24 (d) *Nuisances affecting public economy.* The following are hereby declared to be public nuisances  
 25 affecting the public economy:
- 26 (1) All structures bearing graffiti, to be abated by applicable law;
- 27 (2) All structures in violation of the International Property Maintenance Code, as adopted and all  
 28 structures, for a period of one month, which remain unoccupied and boarded up, and whose  
 29 exterior finish is destroyed, decayed, dilapidated or deteriorated in violation of the International  
 30 Property Maintenance Code, as adopted, provided however, unoccupied structures shall not be  
 31 considered a public nuisance affecting public economy if the building exterior is weather tight  
 32 and maintained for purposes of appearance and security according to the International Property  
 33 Maintenance Code, and the material which secures the building is compatible with the exterior  
 34 in appearance, color, texture and design, and the premises are kept in compliance with all  
 35 applicable building, property maintenance, zoning, and land use laws;
- 36 (3) All businesses or commercial enterprises operating without a valid, current and displayed  
 37 business license;
- 38 (4) All premises providing habitation that are found not in compliance with applicable licensing,  
 39 zoning, land use laws and adopted codes;
- 40 (5) All business with an outstanding arrearage of applicable Town liens, taxes, fees, charges or  
 41 assessments;
- 42 (6) All premises which originate false fire or burglar alarms, as defined by applicable law.
- 43 (7) Regardless of the intervals, the passage of time, or the length of time between events,  
 44 unpermitted special events or rallies of any nature or sort, promoting, inviting or claiming the  
 45 Town of Surfside Beach as the gathering or focal location, and promoting, inviting and  
 46 encouraging participants and vehicles to congregate in such numbers and such length of time,  
 47 that it results to the detriment of the public health, safety and welfare of the citizens in terms of  
 48 clamor and noise, traffic congestion and unsafety, and litter, or requires a law enforcement  
 49 response and a heightened intensity of law enforcement response, or a public resource  
 50 response of such disproportionate expenditure when compared to normal tourism; those  
 51 persons or legal entities of any status that enable, sponsor or advertise such unpermitted  
 52 special events and rallies to be held within the Town limits shall be responsible for the costs, as  
 53 set forth in this article, arising therefrom for holding an unpermitted special event in the Town  
 54 limits.

55 **Sec. 7-43. - Other nuisances.**

11-20-2017 Workshop consensus bring forward discussion at next meeting.

11-22-2017 Town Attorney review

1 The enumeration of specific nuisances in this division shall not be deemed to make lawful any other  
 2 act or condition declared to be a nuisance by any other Town ordinance, state law, federal law, or court  
 3 decision.

4 **Sec. 7-44. - Reporting emergencies and emergency action.**

5 Any person who directly observes a nuisance posing an emergency threat to the public health or  
 6 safety or to the environment shall immediately report the incident to the Surfside Beach Police  
 7 Communications Center and shall provide any information requested by the law enforcement officer  
 8 needed to investigate or abate the potential emergency. If any nuisance exists in such a condition so  
 9 menacing to the public health, peace or safety that it is necessary that it be summarily abated, the Town  
 10 enforcement officer, after consultation with and concurrence from the Town administrator may proceed to  
 11 abate the nuisance without a hearing.

12 **Sec. 7-45. - Nuisances prohibited and unlawful.**

13 No person shall create any public nuisance in the Town, and no person shall by inaction permit a  
 14 public nuisance to occur or continue on any real property under such person's control, whether by  
 15 recorded or unrecorded instrument or permission. Nor shall any person permit a public nuisance to occur  
 16 involving any personal property under such person's control.

17 **Sec. 7-46. - Institution of criminal process and penalty.**

18 The public nature of a public nuisance must be made by an enforcement officer or other appropriate  
 19 governmental official. Enforcement of this chapter's provisions may be accomplished upon the institution  
 20 of criminal process by way of uniform traffic ticket, municipal ordinance summons or warrant made only  
 21 by a law enforcement officer or appropriate government official. Each day of violation constitutes a  
 22 separate misdemeanor offense, subject to a fine up to \$500.00 fine and/or up to 30 days' imprisonment  
 23 for each offense. In its discretion, the Town may elect to use other applicable Code sections pertaining to  
 24 remediation, abatement or offenses.

25 **Sec. 7-47. - Public abatement; notice, service.**

- 26 (a) If a person fails or refuses to discharge the duty imposed by section 7-25, the Town may  
 27 concurrently serve an administrative notice to abate a public nuisance upon the owner or occupant  
 28 and demand that compliance must be achieved within the time specified in the notice.
- 29 (b) The Town shall determine the individual, firm or corporation or lien holder who, from the records in  
 30 the county tax assessor's office, appears to be the titled owner or lien holder of the property and  
 31 cause a written notice of public nuisance to be served on such individual, firm or corporation or lien  
 32 holder by:
- 33 (1) Personal service as attested to by affidavit of service; or by  
 34 (2) Copy mailed to such owner or lien holder at such place or address by United States certified  
 35 mail return receipt requested; or  
 36 (3) The Town shall cause a copy of the aforesaid notice to be posted at such structure, location or  
 37 premises, which shall serve as notice to the public.
- 38 (c) The notice to abate the nuisance shall inform the person of the specific nuisance with citation to this  
 39 section, provide names, numbers and addresses for contact with the Town; inform them of their  
 40 rights to appeal and that, upon the day after the time specified in the notice, the Town may abate the  
 41 condition and assess an administrative fee and all public costs, including attorneys fees and costs as  
 42 a lien against the property.

43 **Sec. 7-48. - Appeal procedures; hearing.**

- 44 (a) *Appeal of finding of nuisance:* The responsible person, owner or occupant, or the lien holder of the  
 45 property, may make a written demand to the administrator for a hearing on the question of whether a  
 46 public nuisance in fact exists. The administrator shall appoint a hearing officer to hear the appeal.  
 47 This appeal stays the public abatement until such time as the matter is heard and decided by the  
 48 hearing officer unless an emergency abatement as authorized by the administrator is necessary to  
 49 preserve public health, safety or welfare. The appeal must be received by the administrator before  
 50 the time specified in the notice. The appeal may be faxed or emailed to the administrator. The written  
 51 demand shall include a contact number, either phone or facsimile in order for the person to be  
 52 informed of the hearing location, date and time. It shall not be a defense to the determination that a  
 53 public nuisance exists that the property is boarded up or otherwise enclosed. The hearing officer  
 54 may amend or modify the notice to abate the public nuisance, or when appropriate under the facts  
 55 presented, extend the time for compliance by the owner to such date as the hearing officer may

11-20-2017 Workshop consensus bring forward discussion at next meeting.

11-22-2017 Town Attorney review

1 determine. The decision of the hearing officer is final, and shall be delivered orally to the appellant on  
 2 the date of the hearing, and then, if requested, written and mailed to the address provided.

3 (b) *Failure to appeal:* Failure to timely appeal constitutes a waiver of the right to appeal the existence of  
 4 a public nuisance.

5 (c) *Appeal of assessment:* Further, in those instances where the nuisance has been abated by the Town  
 6 after the required notice of subsection 7-47(b), the owner or occupant of the property who has been  
 7 served with a notice of assessment pursuant to section 7-49 of this article may make a written  
 8 demand to the administrator for a hearing to review the cost of the abatement. This appeal stays the  
 9 attachment of the lien until such time as the matter is heard and decided by the hearing officer. The  
 10 appeal of the assessment must be received by the administrator within five business days of the  
 11 appellant's receipt of the notice of assessment. The written demand shall include a contact number,  
 12 either phone or facsimile in order for the person to be informed of the hearing location, date and  
 13 time. In an appeal of the assessment of costs, no testimony shall be permitted on the issue of the  
 14 existence of the public nuisance. The decision of the hearing officer is final, and shall be delivered  
 15 orally to the appellant on the date of the hearing, and then, if requested, written and mailed to the  
 16 address provided.

17 (d) *Failure to appeal assessment:* Failure to timely appeal constitutes a waiver of the right to appeal the  
 18 assessment of costs.

19 (e) *Notice of the hearing:* By way of the contact numbers provided in the written demand, the  
 20 administrator shall orally advise the owner of the location, date and time of the hearing. Notice of the  
 21 hearing must be provided at least two business days prior to the hearing, excluding Town recognized  
 22 holidays and weekends.

23 (f) *Time and manner of hearings:* The hearings as allowed under this section shall be held as soon as  
 24 practical but in any event no later than five business days after receipt of the appeal, excluding Town  
 25 recognized holidays and weekends. The hearing shall not be conducted under the strict rules of  
 26 evidence. The hearing shall be informally conducted by the hearing officer. The enforcement officer  
 27 shall present the facts and circumstances that resulted in a conclusion that a public nuisance  
 28 existed. The owner, occupant or lien holder, or their agents, representatives or attorneys shall be  
 29 given the opportunity to present evidence to the hearing officer in the course of the hearing, and  
 30 shall have the right of cross examination of the enforcement officer. When the nuisance has been  
 31 abated by the Town and the person has appealed the assessment of the administrative fee and  
 32 actual costs, the hearing officer shall have discretion to waive the administrative fee or the public  
 33 cost of abating a nuisance, in whole or in part, if, in the course of the hearing reviewing the decision,  
 34 the hearing officer finds that justice and equity require such waiver or that any of the following did not  
 35 conform to the provisions of this article:

- 36 (1) The notice to remove the nuisance;
- 37 (2) The work performed in abating the nuisance;
- 38 (3) The computation of charges.

39 **Sec. 7-49. - Liability for costs.**

40 In the event of refusal or neglect of a person to cause such nuisance to be abated in the manner and  
 41 within the time provided herein, it shall be reported to the administrator. The administrator may, in a  
 42 reasonable and prudent manner, direct the expenditure of public resources to abate the nuisance  
 43 condition. Fee and costs shall be established by ordinance. The cost of abatement shall include an  
 44 administrative assessment, title search costs, lien filing costs and any attorney's fees and costs made  
 45 necessary when the public is compelled to collect through legal process, in addition to the actual cost of  
 46 labor and materials expended in public abatement. The person shall be served with a notice of  
 47 assessment within seven days of the completion of the abatement. The notice of assessment shall  
 48 include the administrative fee and a statement of public cost, attested to by affidavit, and shall be issued  
 49 and served, as provided for in section 7-47(b), upon the person responsible for payment who shall make  
 50 payment within 30 days of the date of service. Upon the expiration of the 30-day period, if the amount has  
 51 not been paid in full or contested before the administrator, the administrator may cause a lien in that  
 52 amount to be filed with the county clerk of court and with the finance director of the Town. The lien shall  
 53 be of record in the county courthouse and the office of the finance director in the book of liens, until paid  
 54 or recovered, or otherwise released. Collection of the lien by way of foreclosure may be instituted by the  
 55 Town attorney on behalf of the Town.

56 **Sec. 7-50. - Reserved.**

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11-22-2017 Town Attorney review

1 **DIVISION 2. - RANK GROWTH, YARD WASTE, DEBRIS AS PUBLIC NUISANCE; ABATEMENT**

2 **Sec. 7-51. - Definitions.**

3 The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this article, shall have the meanings ascribed  
4 to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

5 *Any and all other objectionable, unsightly or unsanitary matter of whatever nature* shall apply to  
6 objects and matters not included within the meanings of the other terms used in this article, which are  
7 liable to produce or tend to produce an unhealthy, unwholesome or unsanitary condition to the premises  
8 within the general locality where the same are situated.

9 *Blight* means the physical deterioration of property that results in the reduction in value of that  
10 property, thus affecting the value of nearby property.

11 *Debris* includes material and objects that are placed outside of the house, barn or shed that is  
12 composed of litter, rubbish, trash, and any putrid, unhealthy or unwholesome part of any dead animal, or  
13 waste parts of plants, vegetables or animal matter in any quantity, and the accumulations of plant cuttings  
14 or trimmings, the remains of fallen trees, any construction materials that are unstacked and exposed to  
15 the elements, parts of vehicles or other machinery, broken furniture, furniture that is not designed to be  
16 weather proof and is exposed to the elements, large house hold appliances such as refrigerators,  
17 freezers, trash compactors, washing machines, dryers, commodes, and the like even if intended as art of  
18 some other use, accumulations of bottles, cans, glass, ashes, paper or paper products, small pieces of  
19 scrap iron, wire, metal articles, small household appliances, bric-a-brac or cement, broken concrete,  
20 broken glass, broken plaster and all such trash or abandoned material unless it is kept in approved  
21 covered bins or appropriate containers as a means of temporary retention until appropriate disposal.

22 *Lot or parcel of real estate* means, in addition to those grounds within their respective boundaries, all  
23 lots or parcels of ground lying and being adjacent thereto and extending beyond the property line of any  
24 such lot or parcel of real estate to the curblin of adjacent streets where a curblin has been, and 14 feet  
25 beyond the property line where no curblin has been established.

26 *Rank growth/weeds* means grass which has grown to more than 12 inches in height, and all other  
27 vegetation at any stage of height or maturity which is uncultivated, and has the potential to harbor,  
28 conceal or invites rodent, pests or vermin, debris, or to emit noxious odors; or constitute a fire or traffic  
29 safety hazard; or produce an unhealthy, unsightly, unwholesome, or unsanitary condition contributing to  
30 neighborhood blight.

31 *Responsible person* means record fee title owners, beneficiaries of any trust holding title to any real  
32 estate, trustees, conservators, guardians, executors, administrators, individual(s), partnership(s), firm(s)  
33 or corporation(s) having a legal or equitable interest in, owning, leasing, occupying, controlling, or  
34 possessing in any manner any lot or parcel of real property as reflected in the public records of Horry  
35 County, specifically including rights acquired by note, mortgage, lien or other publicly recorded document  
36 that provides for the right of entry to preserve an asset.

37 *Yard waste* means all trees, all shrubbery, hedge trimmings, tree limbs, branches and trimmings,  
38 plant and shrub trimmings, leaves and limbs, yard cleanings, and other similar items which are not  
39 cultivated nor cared for by persons owning or controlling the premises.

40 **Sec. 7-52. - Imposition of civic duties.**

41 (a) To comply with the provisions of this article to preserve property values, prevent blight and enhance  
42 the quality of life for all citizens, all responsible persons are under an affirmative civic duty to cut or  
43 remove as often as may be necessary all rank growth, yard waste, debris and any and all other  
44 objectionable, unsightly or unsanitary matter of whatever nature from his lot or parcel of real estate  
45 and the abutting public way so no public nuisance shall exist or continue, and so that the public  
46 health, safety and welfare will not be harmed.

47 (b) As to plant growth, the prohibitions set forth shall not apply to living trees, cultivated bushes, shrubs  
48 or flowers; any intentionally cultivated agricultural vegetation; any vegetation intentionally cultivated  
49 or maintained in a clearly defined and physically discrete area for landscaping, ornamental or other  
50 aesthetic purposes as a representative within a diverse planting plan, or land subject to or zoned as  
51 farming, forestry practices, timbering or wildlife management.

52 (c) All responsible persons and commercial maintenance firms and landscapers are under an affirmative  
53 civic duty to place bag yard waste into containers, and to cut tree trunks and limbs to four feet or  
54 less, when yard waste removal is done by the Town. Commercial [establishments] are required to  
55 remove and/or haul from such premises promptly and dispose of in an appropriate manner.

**Sec. 7-53. - Prohibited conditions and/or acts.**

- (a) It shall be unlawful for any responsible person to permit or maintain rank growth, the accumulation of yard waste, debris or any and all other objectionable, unsightly or unsanitary matter of whatever nature on the lot or parcel of real estate property and the abutting public way for which they are responsible within the Town.
- (b) It shall be unlawful for any responsible person to allow or permit the existence of any tree on such lot or parcel of real estate premises when such tree is dead or damaged to such a degree that the condition poses a serious threat to that lot, or to any abutting lot or adjacent public right-of-way, and such condition is hereby declared to be a nuisance in the Town.
- (c) It is unlawful for any responsible person, owner, agent, or person in possession of any premises to refuse to allow the Town employees or contracting agents to enter upon the premises for the purpose of abating the nuisance prohibited in this article.
- (d) Each day of violations shall be a separate violation.

**Sec. 7-54. - General published notice.**

A general notice in January of each year shall be accomplished by publication in a newspaper of general circulation within the Town, stating substantially the following: A civic duty to remove yard waste, rank growth and debris, and maintaining one's yard is property maintenance, which is required under law, and shall be done year round as needed, and that upon the first complaint, the maintenance shall be done within seven days of the complaint. Any failure to perform the duty, or upon any second violation shall result in the matter recurrent violations being declared recurrent by the Town administrator, who shall order that:

- (1) The general public notice and the initial complaint are sufficient notice to any person to keep their grounds free from rank growth, the accumulation of yard waste, debris or any and all other objectionable, unsightly or unsanitary matter of whatever nature;
- (2) The current and subsequent violations be addressed expeditiously without need of further notice except for the posting of the property by hang tag on the premises or posting the complaint on the premises; and
- (3) The work will be done at public expense, and the enhanced costs of same shall be set forth, and if incurred by the public, the costs shall be assessed against the property in the manner provided by law, and shall be as lien upon the property to be collected in the same manner as taxes.

**Sec. 7-55. - Initial individual complaint; method of service; contents of complaint.**

- (a) Upon finding an initial violation, the enforcement officer shall determine the responsible persons, and shall serve notice of the violation in the form of an administrative complaint on the responsible persons. The initial individual complaint shall be served by any one of the three following described methods:
- (1) By a written notice sent by United States regular mail, postage prepaid, to the last known person owning, leasing, occupying or controlling the real estate as determined by the name on the water bill or business license, and as to the owner, the notice may be addressed to the address shown on the most recent tax bill for the real estate; or
  - (2) By a written notice personally delivered by the code officer or such other authorized Town representative to the person owning, leasing, occupying, or controlling the real estate, to be attested to by affidavit of service; or
  - (3) By posting or door tagging a written notice on the property of the person owning, leasing, occupying, or controlling the real estate upon which the violation exists.
- (b) The complaint shall state the property address, property tax map number from the county's public records, date of the inspection and shall require the responsible person to perform the abatement of the nuisance condition of rank growth, the accumulation of yard waste, debris or any and all other objectionable, unsightly or unsanitary matter of whatever nature within seven days after the notice has been mailed, served or posted on the property. The initial complaint shall provide that, upon failure to perform the duty imposed herein, the Town, or its agent, may enter the property to abate the nuisance at public expense as set forth in the ordinance. A copy of any complaint or order shall also be filed with the Clerk of Horry County and such filing of the complaint or order shall have the same force and effect as other lis pendens notices provided by law. The initial complaint shall inform that the failure to act upon the initial complaint or any subsequent violations after acting on the initial

1 complaint shall result in the enforcement officer's completion of a title search, and petition to the  
 2 manager to declare that the passage of the ordinance, the published notice and service of the first  
 3 complaint are sufficient notice of the imposed civic duties and prohibited conduct, and the penalties,  
 4 fees and assessments pertaining thereto, and that public abatement henceforth shall occur  
 5 expeditiously, and be subject to the assessment requirements as set forth herein.

6 **Sec. 7-56. - Unaddressed or recurrent violations; administrator's declaration.**

7 If the initial complaint is unanswered or when a second violation should occur after the initial  
 8 complaint, the public officer shall petition the administrator to act as authorized by the Town council, and  
 9 declare that the general public notice and the first complaint notice were sufficient, that persistent or  
 10 recurring violations are likely to continue, that the current unanswered violation and any subsequent  
 11 violations are subject to public abatement without need of further individual notice to the responsible  
 12 person to abate other than hanging a door tag or posting the property, and that assessment of enhanced  
 13 costs are appropriate. The declaration shall inform that the amount of the cost of such abatement, if borne  
 14 by the public, shall be a lien against the real property upon which such cost was incurred and shall be  
 15 collectible in the same manner as municipal taxes. The administrator's declaration shall be served upon  
 16 the responsible person as provided in section 7-53(b). The administrator shall make a report to Town  
 17 council of every declaration of persistent or recurring violations.

18 **Sec. 7-57. - Public abatement; appeal of assessment.**

- 19 (a) When the responsible person fails or neglects to abate the public nuisance as ordered, the Town  
 20 may abate the nuisance condition, and any subsequent violations as the recurring violations occur.
- 21 (b) The Town will bid the work in conformity with the procurement code applicable to the municipality.  
 22 The cost of abatement of recurring violations shall include an administrative assessment and any  
 23 attorney's fees and costs incurred, in addition to the actual cost of labor and materials expended in  
 24 public abatement.
- 25 (c) In the event of the refusal or failure by a responsible person to abate as ordered, the Town  
 26 employees, contracting agents, or other representatives, shall enter upon the private property during  
 27 daylight hours on any day except Sunday for the sole purpose of abating the nuisance. The  
 28 abatement shall be done by spraying, disking and mowing, clearing and removal unless it is  
 29 determined by the building official or law enforcement that that such a procedure is impractical or will  
 30 cause a breach of the peace.
- 31 (d) After the first and any subsequent abatement, the person shall be served with a notice of  
 32 assessment within seven days of the completion of the abatement. The notice of assessment shall  
 33 include the administrative fee and a statement of public cost, attested to by affidavit, and shall be  
 34 issued and served in the same manner as the original complaint, on the person responsible who  
 35 shall make payment within 30 days of the date of service. Upon the expiration of the 30-day period, if  
 36 the amount has not been paid in full or contested before the administrator as provided herein, the  
 37 administrator may cause a lien in that amount to be filed with the county clerk of court and with the  
 38 finance director of the Town. The lien shall be of record in the county courthouse and the office of the  
 39 finance director in the book of liens, until paid or recovered, or otherwise released. The administrator  
 40 may refer the matter to the Town attorney for disposition, by way of foreclosure.
- 41 (e) In those instances where the nuisance has been abated by the Town, the responsible party who has  
 42 been served with a notice of assessment may make a written demand to the administrator for a  
 43 hearing to review the cost of the abatement. The appeal of the assessment must be received by the  
 44 administrator within 15 days of the mailing of the notice of assessment. The written demand shall  
 45 include a contact number, either phone or facsimile in order for the person to be informed of the  
 46 hearing location, date and time. In an appeal of the assessment of costs, no testimony shall be  
 47 permitted on the issue of the existence of the public nuisance. The decision of the administrator is  
 48 final, and shall be delivered orally and in writing to the appellant on the date of the hearing. Failure to  
 49 timely appeal the assessment constitutes a waiver of the right to appeal the assessment of costs.
- 50 (f) The administrator shall have discretion to waive the administrative fee or the public cost of abating a  
 51 nuisance, in whole or in part, if, in the course of the hearing reviewing the decision, the administrator  
 52 finds that justice and equity require such waiver or that any of the following did not conform to the  
 53 provisions of this article:
- 54 (1) The notice to remove the nuisance;
  - 55 (2) The work performed in abating the nuisance;
  - 56 (3) The computation of charges.

11-20-2017 Workshop consensus bring forward discussion at next meeting.

11-22-2017 Town Attorney review

**Sec. 7-58. - Costs.**

- (a) All costs, charges and fees shall be established by ordinance. All costs, charges, and expenses resulting from such action shall be a lien, debt and obligation payable to the Town by the person responsible for the premises, and may be collected by the Town attorney by way of foreclosure.
- (b) Mowing/cutting/clearing charge:  
 Non-tractor cutting: Deployment  
 Tractor equipment cutting: Deployment
- (c) Any use of heavy equipment: Re: Brush/debris/tree pickup: Deployment.
- (d) Administrative fee for public abatement, personnel, oversight, records:  
 (1) Initial public abatement;  
 (2) Second abatement;  
 (3) Third abatement;  
 (4) Fourth and thereafter abatement.
- (e) Title search cost.  
 (f) Lien filing cost.  
 (g) All attorney fees and cost in collection, made necessary when the public is compelled to collect through legal process.

**Secs. 7-59, 7-60. - Reserved.****DIVISION 3. - UNFIT DWELLINGS****Sec. 7-61. - Definitions.**

The following terms, whenever used or referred to in this article, shall have the following respective meanings for the purposes of this article, unless a different meaning clearly appears from the context:

*Close and secure* or *closing and securing* means compliance with the provisions of this chapter regarding minimum standards for uninhabited or vacant buildings.

*Dwelling* means any residential or commercial building or structure, or part thereof, having been used or currently being used and occupied, or intended to be used or occupied for human habitation, however slight or transitory, and includes any other structures, outbuilding appurtenances belonging thereto or usually attached to or enjoyed as part of human habitation of the primary premises.

*Habitation* means the act of inhabiting by a human for any length of time, unrelated to the owners or parties in interest acting to preserve, maintain, repair or inspect the property.

*Owner* means record fee title owners having a legal or equitable interest in, owning, leasing, occupying, controlling, or possessing in any manner any lot or parcel of real property as reflected in the public records of Horry County.

*Parties in interest* means record fee title owners, beneficiaries of any trust holding title to any real estate, trustees, conservators, guardians, executors, administrators, individual(s), partnership(s), firm(s) or corporation(s) having a legal or equitable interest in, owning, leasing, occupying, controlling, or possessing in any manner any lot or parcel of real property as reflected in the public records of Horry County, specifically including rights acquired by note, mortgage, lien or other publicly recorded document that provides for the right of entry to preserve an asset.

*Public officer* means the building official, fire marshal, code officials or other officers who are authorized by ordinances adopted hereunder to exercise the powers prescribed by such ordinances and by this article, or any housing authority or any officer who is in charge of any department or branch of the government of the municipality or state relating to health, fire or building regulations or to other activities concerning dwellings in the municipality.

**Sec. 7-62. - Responsibilities relating to occupied or unoccupied property.**

The owner, occupants or parties in interest shall maintain the dwelling's interior and exterior in compliance with the requirements of the International Property Maintenance Code and other applicable codes, as adopted in their most current editions, and shall be responsible for maintaining all vacant dwellings in a clean, safe, secure and sanitary condition as provided herein so as not to cause a blighting problem or adversely affect the public health or safety.

**Sec. 7-63. - Council's determination of existence of unfit dwellings.**

The Town council has determined that there exist in the Town dwellings which are unfit for human habitation due to (a) dilapidation, (b) defects increasing the hazards of fire, accidents or other calamities, (c) lack of ventilation, light or sanitary facilities, or (d) other conditions rendering such dwellings unsafe or insanitary, dangerous or detrimental to the health, safety or morals or otherwise inimical to the welfare of

11-20-2017 Workshop consensus bring forward discussion at next meeting.

11-22-2017 Town Attorney review

1 the residents of such municipality, and that the Town should exercise its police powers to cause the  
 2 owner or parties in interest of record to repair, close or demolish any such dwelling that should not be  
 3 inhabited in the manner herein provided, and upon failure of the owner to act, to either close and secure,  
 4 or demolish the dwelling.

5 **Sec. 7-64. - Public officer authority.**

6 A public officer is authorized to determine that a dwelling is unfit for human habitation if he finds that  
 7 conditions exist in such dwelling that are dangerous or injurious to the health, safety or morals of the  
 8 occupants of such dwelling or the occupants of neighboring dwellings or other residents of such  
 9 municipality. Such conditions may include, but are not limited to defects therein increasing the hazards of  
 10 fire, accident or other calamities; lack of adequate ventilation, light or sanitary facilities; dilapidation;  
 11 disrepair; structural defects; uncleanness; failure to comply with the maintenance and upkeep  
 12 requirements of the most current adopted version of the International Property Maintenance Code, or  
 13 other such state required locally adopted code that shall provide additional standards to guide the public  
 14 officer, public authority or his agents in determining the fitness of a dwelling for human habitation.

15 **Sec. 7-65. - Public officer powers.**

16 In order to carry out the duties contained within this chapter, the public officer shall have the power:

- 17 (1) To investigate the dwelling conditions in the municipality in order to determine which dwellings  
 18 therein are unfit for human habitation;
- 19 (2) To administer oaths and affirmations, examine witnesses and receive evidence;
- 20 (3) To enter upon premises for the purpose of making examinations, provided such entries be  
 21 made in such manner as to cause the least possible inconvenience to the persons in  
 22 possession; further to enter any dwelling, store or other building and premises to inspect them,  
 23 without molestation from anyone; provided however, that a private residential dwelling or  
 24 premise may not be entered without permission or without an administrative warrant, unless  
 25 there exists immediately ascertainable probable cause to believe that a violation of provisions  
 26 respecting fire laws exists creating an imminent danger to persons or property, or there exists  
 27 imminent danger to the occupant thereof;
- 28 (4) To appoint and fix the duties of such officers, agents and employees as he deems necessary to  
 29 carry out the purposes of the ordinances;
- 30 (5) To delegate any of his functions and powers under the ordinances to such officers and agents  
 31 as he may designate under authority of the Administrator; and
- 32 (6) To cause such dwelling to be vacated and closed in its order; and the public safety and housing  
 33 officer may cause to be posted on the main entrance of any dwelling so closed, a placard with  
 34 the following words: "This building is unfit for human habitation; the use or occupation of this  
 35 building for human habitation is prohibited and unlawful," should the safety of the public be in  
 36 immediate jeopardy.

37 **Sec. 7-66. - Public officer's investigation, complaint, public hearing and order.**

- 38 (a) *Investigation.* Acting on his inspection and own motion, or whenever a petition is filed with the public  
 39 officer by at least five residents of the municipality charging that any dwelling is unfit for human  
 40 habitation, the public officer shall investigate the existence an unfit dwelling.
- 41 (b) *Complaint and hearing.* If his preliminary investigation discloses a basis for such charges, he shall  
 42 issue and cause to be served upon the owner of and all parties in interest in such dwelling a  
 43 complaint stating the charges in that respect, and containing a notice that a public hearing will be  
 44 held before the public officer or his designated agent at a time and place therein fixed, to be held not  
 45 less than ten days nor more than thirty days after the date of the complaint, excluding Saturday,  
 46 Sunday and legal holidays. The public hearing will be conducted at the time and place therein fixed,  
 47 unless the owner or parties in interest request a continuance, provided however, only one  
 48 continuance may be extended upon good cause shown, and the extension may not exceed five  
 49 days, excluding Saturday, Sunday and legal holidays. A copy of the public officer's complaint shall  
 50 be filed in the Horry County Register of Deeds by the Town attorney. Such filing of the complaint or  
 51 order shall have the same force and effect as other lis pendens or lien notices provided by law.
- 52 (c) *Answer and public hearing before public officer.* The owner and parties in interest have the right to  
 53 file an answer to the complaint with the public officer and in like manner in Horry County as the  
 54 complaint, and to appear in person at the public hearing and give testimony at the place and time



1 fixed. The rules of evidence prevailing in courts of law or equity shall not be controlling in hearings  
2 before the public officer.

3 (d) *Official's order.* After the hearing, if the public officer determines that no just cause has been shown  
4 as to why dwelling should remain unfit and in disrepair, and further that the dwelling under  
5 consideration is unfit for human habitation due to its unfitness and disrepair, within two days after the  
6 hearing, he shall state in writing his findings of fact in support of such determination, including the  
7 time allowed for compliance.

8 (1) If the repair, alteration or improvement of the dwelling can be made at a reasonable cost in  
9 relation to the value of the dwelling, requiring the owner, within the time specified in the order, to  
10 repair, alter, or improve such dwelling to render it fit for human habitation or to vacate and close  
11 the dwelling as a human habitation; or

12 (2) If the repair, alteration or improvement of such dwelling cannot be made at a reasonable cost in  
13 relation to the value of the dwelling, requiring the owner, within the time specified in the order, to  
14 remove or demolish such dwelling.

15 He shall issue and cause to be served upon the owner thereof an order regarding the property. A  
16 copy of the public officer's order shall be filed in the Horry County Register of Deeds by the Town  
17 attorney.

18 (e) *Owner's response to the order.* If the owner complies with the order to repair, alter or improve, or to  
19 vacate and close and secure the dwelling with the time established, the complaint and order are  
20 satisfied, and the complaint and order filed in the Horry County land records shall be nullified by the  
21 Town attorney. If the owner fails to comply with an order to repair, alter or improve or to vacate and  
22 close the dwelling within the time set forth in the order, the public officer may act close and secure  
23 the property if unsecured, and may post the structure as unfit for human habitation, if the violations  
24 rise to the level that human habitation is would be injurious, or the public officer may provide notice  
25 to the manager of the failure of the owner or parties in interest to comply with the order.

26 **Sec. 7-67. - Council sets show cause hearing; council order.**

27 (a) *To set show cause hearing date.* If the public officer's order is not obeyed within the time in the  
28 order, the public officer shall provide notice of failure to the parties and the administrator that the  
29 matter will be the subject of a rule to show cause hearing before Town council at the second Town  
30 council meeting date that occurs after the notice of failure. Upon notice by the public officer to the  
31 administrator of the failure of the person to either repair or demolish as ordered, the administrator  
32 shall place the matter on the agenda for Town council for a show cause hearing. Notice of failure  
33 shall be provided in the same manner as the complaint.

34 (b) *Show cause hearing.* At the show cause hearing, the public officer shall present his case to Town  
35 council to issue its order to cause such unrepaired dwelling to be removed or demolished; and the  
36 owner or parties in interest shall be given the right to present evidence and testimony to show cause  
37 why the property should not be demolished or repaired, or other such facts for council's  
38 consideration. Parties have the right to be provided written notice of this hearing, the right to be  
39 represented by counsel, the right to present testimony and evidence and the right to cross-examine  
40 witnesses. The proceedings will be recorded. These proceedings will not be conducted under the  
41 strict application of the rules of evidence. Council may allow a brief introductory statement by both  
42 parties. The person seeking the closing and securing, repair or demolition may then present  
43 testimony, exhibits or witnesses, who shall then be subject to cross-examination. The person  
44 opposing the closing and securing, repair or demolition may then present testimony, exhibits or  
45 witnesses, who shall then be subject to cross-examination. All witnesses are to be sworn by the  
46 Town clerk. Any exhibits for this body to consider must be marked by the clerk. Objections to  
47 testimony and evidence may be made to preserve the record. Testimony and exhibits may be  
48 accepted either with no objection or over objection. The council may direct questions to any sworn  
49 witness. Council may permit the parties to make brief closing remarks.

50 **Sec. 7-68. - Council's standard of review in show cause hearing; order.**

51 (a) *Decision, no interior work, administrator to act.* Acting in discretion, the council shall make such  
52 decision as it deems fair and just for public health safety and welfare, and of the owner of the  
53 property. In a rule to show cause hearing, the Town council will act in a quasi-judicial capacity to  
54 determine if the owner should vacate, close and secure, repair to current code standards or demolish  
55 the structure. In light of the legal complications, risks and liabilities arising acting as a contractor, the  
56 Town shall not refurbish, repair, remodel any interior of a structure. The council will express its

11-20-2017 Workshop consensus bring forward discussion at next meeting.

11-22-2017 Town Attorney review

1 decision after public deliberation and through majority vote at the show cause hearing. The council  
 2 may authorize the administrator to execute a written order within ten days of the public hearing. The  
 3 order shall be served as prescribed in this division.

4 (b) *Council's finding of unfit, but structurally sound, reasonable repair cost in relation to structure value.*

5 (1) If the dwelling is occupied, and the council should find the dwelling unfit for human habitation,  
 6 but structurally sound, the council may order the owner or parties in interest to cause the  
 7 dwelling to be vacated, and then closed and secured, if the potential repairs can be made at a  
 8 reasonable cost in relation to the structures assessed value as shown by Horry County public  
 9 records.

10 (2) If the dwelling is unoccupied, and the council should find the dwelling unfit for human habitation,  
 11 but structurally sound, the council may order the owner or parties in interest to cause the  
 12 dwelling to be closed and secured if the potential repairs can be made at a reasonable cost in  
 13 relation to the structure's assessed value as shown by Horry County public records.

14 (c) *Council's finding of unfit, unreasonable repair cost in relation to structure value.* Whether occupied or  
 15 unoccupied, and the council find the dwelling is unfit for human habitation, and the cost of potential  
 16 repairs cannot be made at a reasonable cost in relationship to the structure's assessed value as  
 17 shown by Horry County public records, the council may order the owners or parties in interest to  
 18 cause the dwelling to be vacated if occupied, and the owner or parties in interest to demolish the  
 19 dwelling within the time set forth in the order.

20 **Sec. 7-69. - Owner or parties in interest failure to comply with council's order.**

21 (a) Should the owner or parties in interest fail to comply with council order for vacating, closing and  
 22 securing or repair, or demolition, the order shall provide that the administrator may proceed to abate  
 23 the nuisance. The cost of closing and securing in abatement shall include an administrative  
 24 assessment, in addition to any attorney's fees and costs incurred, in addition to the actual cost of  
 25 labor and materials expended in public abatement. The Town will bid the work in conformity with the  
 26 procurement code applicable to the Town.

27 (b) The amount of the cost of securing property, vacating and closing, or removal or demolition by the  
 28 Town shall be a lien against the real property upon which such cost was incurred and shall be  
 29 collectible in the same manner as municipal taxes, by way of foreclosure.

30 (c) Fees, costs and assessments shall be established by ordinance.

31 **Sec. 7-70. - Assessment; appeal of assessment.**

32 (a) *Assessment, lien, foreclosure.* Within 15 days of public expenditure to abate the unfit dwelling, the  
 33 person shall be served with a notice of assessment, in the manner that is prescribed in this division.  
 34 The notice of assessment shall include the administrative fee and a statement of public cost, attested  
 35 to by affidavit, and shall be issued and served in the same manner as the original complaint, on the  
 36 person responsible who shall make payment within 30 days of the date of service. Upon the  
 37 expiration of the 30-day period, if the amount has not been paid in full or contested before the  
 38 administrator as provided herein, the administrator may shall refer the matter to the Town attorney. A  
 39 lien resulting from public expenditures to abate an unfit dwelling, may be collected in like manner as  
 40 tax lien, by way of foreclosure instituted by the Town attorney on behalf of the Town.

41 (b) *Appeal of assessment.* When served with the notice of assessment, the owner or parties in interest  
 42 may make a written demand to the administrator for a hearing to review the cost of the abatement.  
 43 This appeal stays the action for foreclosure of the lien until such time as the matter is heard and  
 44 decided by the administrator, or his designee. The appeal of the assessment must be received by  
 45 the administrator within 15 business days of the date of the notice. The written demand shall include  
 46 a contact number, either phone or facsimile in order for the person to be informed of the hearing  
 47 location, date and time. The decision of the administrator is final, and shall be delivered orally and in  
 48 writing to the appellant on the date of the hearing. Failure to timely appeal the assessment  
 49 constitutes a waiver of the right to appeal the assessment of costs. The administrator shall have  
 50 discretion to waive the administrative fee or the public cost of abating a nuisance, in whole or in part,  
 51 if, in the course of the hearing reviewing the decision, the manager finds that justice and equity  
 52 require such waiver or that any of the following did not conform to the provisions of this article:

53 (1) The complaint to repair or demolish;

54 (2) The order to repair or demolish;

55 (3) The cost or computation of the work done in abatement.

1 **Sec. 7-71. - Power of Town to declare nuisances or unkempt properties not impaired.**

2 Nothing in this division shall be construed to impair or limit in any way the power of the Town council  
3 to require property to be kept clean and free of rubbish, debris and other unhealthy and unsightly material  
4 or conditions which constitute a public nuisance define, or to declare nuisances and to cause their  
5 removal or abatement by summary proceedings or otherwise.

6 **Sec. 7-72. - Service of complaints, orders and assessments; posting and filing copies.**

7 Complaints or orders issued by the Town pursuant to this division shall be served upon persons  
8 either personally or by registered mail to the address in the Horry County public records, but if the return  
9 is not made and the whereabouts of such persons is unknown and cannot be ascertained by the public  
10 officer in the exercise of reasonable diligence, the public officer shall make an affidavit to that effect and  
11 then serve the complaint or order by publishing it once each week for two consecutive weeks in a  
12 newspaper printed and published in the municipality or, in the absence of such newspaper, in one printed  
13 and published in the county and circulating in the municipality in which the dwellings are located, and by  
14 posting a copy of such complaint or order in a conspicuous place on the premises affected by the  
15 complaint or order. A copy of such complaint, order or assessment shall also be filed with the Clerk of  
16 Horry County and such filing of the complaint or order shall have the same force and effect as other lis  
17 pendens or lien notices provided by law.

18 **Sec. 7-73. - Rights of persons affected by orders.**

19 As set forth in state law, any person affected by an order issued by a public officer may within 60  
20 days after the posting and service of the order, petition the circuit court for an injunction restraining the  
21 public officer from carrying out the provisions of the order and the court may, upon such petition, issue a  
22 temporary injunction restraining the public officer pending the final disposition of the cause. Hearings shall  
23 be had by the court on such petitions within 20 days or as soon thereafter as possible and shall be given  
24 preference over other matters on the court's calendar. The court shall hear and determine the issues  
25 raised and shall enter such final order or decree as law and justice may require. In all such proceedings,  
26 the findings of the public officer as to facts, if supported by evidence, shall be conclusive. Costs shall be  
27 in the discretion of the court. The remedies herein provided shall be exclusive remedies and no person  
28 affected by an order of the public officer shall be entitled to recover any damages for action taken  
29 pursuant to any order of the public officer or because of compliance by such person with any order of the  
30 public officer.

31 **Sec. 7-74. - Sale of materials of removed or demolished dwelling.**

32 If a dwelling is removed or demolished by a public officer, he shall sell the materials of such dwelling  
33 and shall credit the proceeds of such sale against the cost of the removal or demolition and any balance  
34 remaining shall be deposited in the circuit court by the public officer, shall be secured in such manner as  
35 may be directed by such court, and shall be disbursed by such court to the persons found to be entitled  
36 thereto by final order or decree of such court.

37 **Sec. 7-75. - Immunity of enforcement personnel from liability.**

38 Except as may otherwise be provided by statute or local law or ordinance, no officer, agent or  
39 employee of the municipality charged with the enforcement of this article shall render himself personally  
40 liable for any damage that may accrue to persons or property as a result of any act required or permitted  
41 in the discharge of his duties under this article. No person who institutes, or assists in the prosecution of,  
42 a criminal proceeding under this article shall be liable to damages hereunder unless he acted with actual  
43 malice and without reasonable grounds for believing that the person accused or prosecuted was guilty of  
44 an unlawful act or omission. Any suit brought against any officer, agent, or employee of the municipality,  
45 as a result of any act required or permitted in the discharge of his duties under this article, shall be  
46 defended by the legal representative of the municipality until the final determination of proceedings  
47 therein.

48 **Sec. 7-76. - Renting, etc., unfit dwellings to others.**

49 It shall be unlawful for any owner, agent, servant or person having possession or control of property  
50 to rent or lease to any other person or allow any other person to use any property unfit for human  
51 habitation.

52 **Sec. 7-77. - Living in unfit dwellings prohibited.**

53 It shall be unlawful for any person to enter into and live in any dwelling within the Town after the  
54 building has been declared to be unfit for human habitation and a notice to that effect has been posted  
55 thereon.

11-20-2017 Workshop consensus bring forward discussion at next meeting.

11-22-2017 Town Attorney review

1 **Sec. 7-78. - Article provisions are cumulative.**

2 Nothing in this article shall be construed to abrogate or impair the powers of the courts or of any  
3 department of any municipality to enforce any provisions of its charter or its ordinances or regulations, or  
4 to prevent or punish violations thereof and the powers conferred by this article shall be in addition and  
5 supplemental to the powers conferred by any other law.

6 Sec. 7-79. - Reserved.

7 **DIVISION 4. - GRAFFITI**

8 **Sec. 7-80. - Purpose and intent.**

9 The Town council of the Town of Surfside Beach, South Carolina, is enacting this article to help  
10 prevent the spread of graffiti vandalism and to establish a program for the expeditious removal of graffiti  
11 from public and private property.

12 The council finds that mere existence of graffiti is a public nuisance, and its appearance is  
13 immediately destructive of the rights and values of property owners, creates a sense of disorder and  
14 unease among visitors and citizens, and in some cases, marks the beginning of an effort to establish  
15 territorial boundaries for those who would harm the entire community. While innocuous graffiti poses an  
16 aesthetic public nuisance, gang-related graffiti presents a public safety concern that merits expeditious  
17 response to preserve the public health, safety and welfare. Unless the property owner or the Town acts to  
18 remove graffiti from public and private property, the graffiti tends to remain, and then proliferate. Other  
19 properties then become the target of graffiti, and entire neighborhoods are affected and become less  
20 desirable places in which to be, all to the detriment of the citizens and tourists.

21 The Town council intends, through the adoption of this article, to provide an immediate and effective  
22 procedure for the expeditious removal of all graffiti, in order to preserve public safety, health and welfare.

23 **Sec. 7-81. - Definitions.**

24 For the purposes of this article, the following words shall have the meanings respectively ascribed to  
25 them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

26 *Graffiti* means any unauthorized inscription, word, figure, painting or other defacement that is written,  
27 marked, etched, scratched, sprayed, drawn, painted, glued or engraved on or otherwise affixed to any  
28 surface of public or private property by any means whatsoever to the extent that the graffiti was not  
29 authorized in advance by the owner or occupant of the property, or, despite advance authorization, is  
30 otherwise deemed a public nuisance by the Town council.

31 *Responsible party* means an owner, legal occupant or an entity or person acting as an agent for an  
32 owner by agreement, which has authority over the real property or is responsible for the property's  
33 maintenance or management. Irrespective of any arrangement to the contrary with any other party, each  
34 property owner shall always be a responsible party for the purposes of this section. There may be more  
35 than one responsible party for a particular property.

36 **Sec. 7-82. - Graffiti as public nuisance.**

37 (a) The existence of graffiti on public or private property in violation of this article is expressly declared to  
38 be a public nuisance and, therefore, is subject to the removal and abatement provisions specified in  
39 this chapter.

40 (b) It is the civic duty of the responsible party of the property to which the graffiti has been applied to  
41 keep the property clear of graffiti at all times, and to remove graffiti expeditiously, upon discovery or  
42 notice.

43 **Sec. 7-83. - Graffiti prohibited to be applied, or to be allowed to remain.**

44 (a) *Graffiti prohibited.* It shall be unlawful for any person to write, paint, inscribe, scratch, scrawl, spray,  
45 place or draw graffiti of any type on any public or private building, structure or any other real or  
46 personal property, or allow graffiti to remain after courtesy notice or notice of declaration of public  
47 nuisance.

48 (b) *Exemption.* Subsection (a) of this section shall not be construed to prohibit temporary, easily  
49 removable chalk or other water-soluble markings on public or private sidewalks, streets or other  
50 paved surfaces which are used in connection with permitted buskers or traditional children's  
51 activities, such as drawings or bases for stickball, kickball, handball, hopscotch or similar activities,  
52 nor shall it be construed to prohibit temporary, easily removable chalk or other water soluble  
53 markings used in connection with any lawful business or public purpose or activity.

54 (c) *Removal of graffiti.*

1 (1) Every responsible person shall have a civic duty to remove or effectively obscure any graffiti  
 2 upon such property within 48 hours, upon discovery or courtesy notice. It shall be unlawful for  
 3 any responsible person to fail to remove or effectively obscure any graffiti upon such property  
 4 within 48 hours after receipt of a courtesy notice.

5 (2) It shall be unlawful for any responsible person to fail to remove or effectively obscure any graffiti  
 6 upon such property after notice of a declaration of a public nuisance.

7 (d) *Restitution.* In addition to any other punishment imposed, the court shall order the person convicted  
 8 of a violation of this section to make restitution to the victim for the damage or loss suffered by the  
 9 victim as a result of the offense. The court may determine the amount, terms, and conditions of the  
 10 restitution.

11 **Sec. 7-84. - Removal of graffiti by Town.**

12 (a) *Courtesy notice.* Whenever the Town becomes aware of the existence of graffiti on any property, the  
 13 Town officers and employees are authorized to provide courtesy notice for the immediate removal of  
 14 the graffiti. The courtesy notice shall be accomplished in the most efficient and expeditious manner  
 15 possible to include personal contact, electronic contact, telephonic contact or the posting of the  
 16 property. In addition to the name of the person making contact and to whom the contact is made, the  
 17 courtesy notice time and date shall be contemporaneously documented to the case file. After 48  
 18 hours, the Town or its agents are authorized enter the property to remove or effectively obscure such  
 19 graffiti. The public cost of such action shall be billed to the property owner, and may be collected by  
 20 legal actions in accordance with law. The Town may sue in a court of competent jurisdiction to  
 21 recover all such expenses, which shall include, but not be limited to, all administrative personnel  
 22 costs, attorney's fees and costs related to enforcing this section; and/or to the extent permitted by  
 23 law, the Town may record a lien in the public records of the county, which lien shall be for all such  
 24 expenses, and the amount of the lien shall bear interest from the date of recording.

25 (b) *Declaration of public nuisance.* If the Town elects not to abate the graffiti under section 7-214(a), the  
 26 notice of a declaration of public nuisance, appeal proceedings and liability for costs shall be provided  
 27 for in sections 7-27 through 7-29 of this chapter.

28 (c) *Emergency removal.* If the Town determines that any graffiti is a danger to the health, safety, or  
 29 welfare of the public and is unable to provide courtesy notice by after an attempt to do so, then at  
 30 any time after the posting of the property, the Town may enter and remove or cause the graffiti to be  
 31 removed at its expense.

32 (d) *Repair/restoration.* In no case shall the Town paint or repair any area obscured by graffiti more  
 33 extensively than where the graffiti itself is located. The Town shall not be required to restore the  
 34 obscured area to its original condition (i.e., color, texture, etc.).

35 **DIVISION – 5 TESPASS WARNINGS ON PUBLIC PROPERTY AND OTHER PROPERTY GENERALLY**  
 36 **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

37 (a) Officer of the Town police department and other code enforcement personnel are  
 38 authorized to issue a trespass warning to any individual who violates any town  
 39 ordinance, rule or regulation promulgated by the body governing the property, or  
 40 state law which violation was committed while on or within any facility, building, or  
 41 outdoor area that is open to the general public, whether owned by the town, by  
 42 another governmental body, or subdivision thereof, or private property owner,  
 43 including public parks and including public sidewalks adjacent to public parks where  
 44 there is also a public sidewalk on the opposite side of the street (but excluding other  
 45 public right-of-way). The trespass warning shall be limited to the specific property  
 46 parcel where the violation occurred. The specific property parcel consists of the  
 47 boundaries set forth on the official property tax maps for the Town. These warnings  
 48 may be issued by persons authorized at the recreation department to insure the  
 49 effective operation, maintenance and security of the location.

- 1 (b) Trespass warnings shall be in writing and issued for a period not to exceed one (1)  
2 year.
- 3 (c) A copy of the trespass warning shall also be provided by mail or hand delivery to the  
4 individual given the warning. The written trespass warning shall advise the recipient  
5 of the right to appeal the location at which to file the form to initiate the appeal.
- 6 (d) A written trespass warning shall also be issued when officers of the town police  
7 department are acting on behalf of another governmental agency or private  
8 property owner and issuing a trespass warning to an individual located on public  
9 property not owned by the town or on private property subject to a public access  
10 easement. For purposes of this section, the term public access easement shall mean  
11 an easement in favor of the town granting general public access to private property  
12 or limited public access to patrons and invitees of a particular business  
13 establishment or establishments.
- 14 (e) Any person found on or within any city facility, building, or outdoor area, including  
15 public parks, or in any facility, building, outdoor area or park of another  
16 governmental agency or private property owner in violation of a trespass warning  
17 issued in accordance with this section may be arrested for trespassing after notice,  
18 except as otherwise provided in this section, and punished as set forth in section 1-  
19 16 of Town of Surfside Beach Code of Ordinance.
- 20 (f) Any person found on or within any public property belonging to another  
21 governmental agency other than the town or found on or within any private  
22 property subject to a public access easement in violation of a trespass warning issued  
23 in accordance with this section may be arrested for trespassing.
- 24 (g) The Administrator, or designee, may upon request, authorize an individual who has  
25 received a trespass warning to enter the property or premises to exercise his or her  
26 right to free speech, as provided for in the Constitution of the United States of  
27 America and the State of South Carolina, if there is no other reasonable alternative  
28 location to exercise such right or to conduct necessary municipal business. Such  
29 authorization must be in writing, shall specify the duration of the authorization and  
30 any conditions thereof, and shall not be unreasonably denied.
- 31 (h) This section shall not be construed to limit the authority of any town employee or  
32 official with arrest powers to issue a trespass warning to any person for any lawful  
33 reason for any town property, including rights-of-way when closed to general  
34 vehicular or pedestrian use, when necessary or appropriate in the sole discretion of  
35 the town employee or official.
- 36 (i) This section shall not be construed to limit any authority of officers of the town  
37 police department to arrest or cite individuals for violation any section of the town  
38 code or the statutes of this state.

- 1 (j) Appeal of trespass warning. A person whom a trespass warning is issued under this  
2 section shall have the right to appeal the issuance of the trespass warning as follows:
- 3 1. An appeal of the trespass warning must be filed, in writing, within twenty  
4 (20) days of the issuance of the warning, and shall include the appellant's  
5 name, address and phone number, if any. No fee shall be charged for filing  
6 the appeal. "Issuance" for purposes of starting the time to appeal means  
7 either by personal delivery or when notice of the warning is placed in the  
8 mail, whichever occurs first.
  - 9 2. Appeals shall be heard by the municipal court.
  - 10 3. Within fourteen business days following the filing of the appeal, the  
11 municipal court shall schedule a hearing. Notice of the hearing shall be  
12 provided to the appellant in one of three ways: a. By providing the appellant  
13 a copy of the notice of hearing in person at the time he or she files the  
14 appeal. When it is not reasonably practical or possible to provide notice in  
15 this manner, the appellant shall be informed that notice of the hearing will  
16 be provided in accordance with either paragraph i. or ii. below;
    - 17 i. By leaving or posit the notice at the front desk of the town police  
18 department or leaving the notice with the clerk of court; or
    - 19 ii. By telephone if a telephone number has been provided or mailing  
20 when an address has been provided.
  - 21 4. The municipal judge shall hold the hearing as soon as possible. In no event  
22 shall the hearing be held later than forty (40) days from the filing of the  
23 appeal period.
  - 24 5. Copies of the documents in the town's control which are intended to be used  
25 at the hearing, and which directly relate to the issuance of the trespass  
26 warning to the appellant, shall be made available upon request to the  
27 appellant at no cost.
  - 28 6. The appellant shall have the right to testify and to call witnesses and present  
29 evidence and the right to engage an attorney to represent him or her. The  
30 appellant shall have the right to bring a court reporter, at his or her own  
31 expense.
  - 32 7. The municipal court judge shall consider the testimony, reports or other  
33 documentary evidence, and any other evidence presented at the hearing.  
34 Formal rules of evidence shall not apply, but fundamental due process shall  
35 govern the proceedings.
  - 36 8. The town shall bear the burden of proving by clear and convincing evidence  
37 that the trespass warning was properly issued pursuant to the criteria of this  
38 section.

- 1                   9. If the appellant fails to attend a scheduled hearing, the municipal judge shall  
2                   review the evidence presented and determine if the trespass warning was  
3                   properly issued pursuant to the criteria of this section.
- 4                   10. Within seven (7) business days of the hearing, the municipal judge shall issue  
5                   a written decision on the appeal which shall be mailed to the appellant at the  
6                   address provided.
- 7                   11. The decision of the municipal judge shall be final and the appellant shall be  
8                   deemed to have exhausted all administrative remedies. Such decision may  
9                   be subject to judicial review in the manner provided by law.
- 10                  12. The trespass warning shall remain in effect during the appeal and review  
11                  process, including any judicial review.

12 DIVISION 2. - JUNKED OR ABANDONED PROPERTY

13 ~~Sec. 7-61. - Junk on property.~~

14       ~~It shall be unlawful for any person to accumulate or place or deposit or cause to be placed or~~  
15 ~~deposited on any street, alleyway, sidewalk or anywhere within the corporate limits of the town other than~~  
16 ~~within an enclosed building or area any junk, old automobiles or old vehicles or parts of old automobiles~~  
17 ~~or vehicles.~~

18 Sec. 7-62. - Motor vehicles abandoned on public property.

19 (a) *Definitions.* The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this section, shall have the  
20 meanings ascribed to them herein, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

21       *Abandoned motor vehicle* means a motor vehicle that is left on any right-of-way or any road or  
22 highway in this town for a period of over forty-eight (48) hours.

23       *Demolisher* means any person whose business is to convert a motor vehicle into processed scrap or  
24 scrap metal for recycling purposes or otherwise to wreck or dismantle motor vehicles.

25       *Police officer* means any law enforcement officer of the town.

26 (b) It shall be the duty of every police officer having knowledge of an abandoned motor vehicle as  
27 defined herein to seize it and have it removed for safekeeping to such place as may be designated  
28 by the police chief who shall be charged with its custody and disposition as provide in SC Code  
29 1976, § 56-5-5620 et seq.

30 DIVISION 3. - NOISE

31 Sec. 7-91. - Loud, disturbing, unnecessary noise prohibited.

32 (a) *General prohibition.* It shall be unlawful for any person to make, continue or cause to be continued  
33 any excessive, unnecessary or unusually loud noise or any noise which either annoys, disturbs,  
34 injures or endangers the comfort, repose, health, peace or safety of others, within the limits of the  
35 town.

36 (b) *Specific prohibition.* It shall be unlawful for any person in the town to maintain and operate in any  
37 building, motor vehicle or on any premises in the town, any radio or television device or, mechanical  
38 musical instrument, phonograph, jukebox, loudspeaker, or sound-creating or transmitting device of  
39 any kind, whereby the sound therefrom, is cast directly upon the public streets, strand, beach or  
40 alleyway in such a manner as to create unreasonably loud, excessive or disturbing noise, or where  
41 such noise annoys or disturbs the quiet, comfort or repose of persons in any dwelling, hotel or other  
42 type of occupancy, or where any such device is maintained or operated for advertising purposes or  
43 for the purpose of attracting the attention of the passing public, or which is so placed and operated  
44 that the sound coming therefrom, can be heard to the annoyance or inconvenience of travelers upon  
45 any street or public place, or of persons in neighboring premises.

46 (1) Except as required by law, no person shall activate or cause to be activated within the town,  
47 any horns or other sound producing device, except as alarm signals in case of fire, collision or  
48 other emergency.



- 1 (2) No person shall use or display a band or any noise-making device in such a manner as to be  
 2 heard or seen from any public street, strand, beach or alleyway in the town. It shall be unlawful  
 3 for any person, group, organization or association to use any noise-making devices in any  
 4 public street, beach or alleyway in the town unless permitted.
- 5 (3) It shall be unlawful for any person in the operation of a motor vehicle to cause or allow any  
 6 loud, excessive, or unusual noise in the operation or use of such motor vehicle upon any of the  
 7 streets of the town, or for any person to race the engine of any motor vehicle, while such vehicle  
 8 is not in motion, except when necessary to do so in the course of repairing, adjusting or testing  
 9 the same.
- 10 (4) It shall be unlawful for any person to own, possess or harbor any animal that frequently, or for  
 11 continued duration howls, barks, or makes other sounds that create excessive or unnecessary  
 12 noise across a residential area. For the purpose of this section, "barking dog" shall mean a dog  
 13 that barks, bays, cries, howls, or makes any other noise continuously or incessantly for a period  
 14 of five (5) minutes, or barks intermittently for ten (10) minutes or more to the disturbance of any  
 15 person, particularly between 11:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m., and regardless of whether the dog is  
 16 physically situated in or upon private property, provided however, that a dog shall not be  
 17 deemed a "barking dog" if, at the time the dog is barking or making any other noise, a person is  
 18 trespassing or threatening to trespass upon property in or upon which the dog is situated.
- 19 (5) It shall be unlawful to operate or permit the operation of tools or equipment used in  
 20 construction, drilling or any demolition work before 6:00 a.m. or after 10:00 p.m. Monday  
 21 through Saturday, except for emergency work of public service utilities.
- 22 (6) It shall be unlawful for any person to play any radio, phonograph or musical instrument in such  
 23 a manner or with such volume, particularly between 11:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m., as to annoy or  
 24 disturb the quiet, comfort or repose of persons in any dwelling, hotel, condo or other type of  
 25 residence.
- 26 (7) It shall be unlawful for any person to operate, cause or permit to be operated any instrument of  
 27 sound producing or sound amplifying device so loudly as to unreasonably disturb persons in  
 28 any dwelling, hotel, condo, or other type of residence, particularly between 11:00 p.m. and 7:00  
 29 a.m.
- 30 (8) The operation of pile driving equipment is prohibited at any time on Sundays, and before the  
 31 hour of 8:00 a.m. or after the hour of 6:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday.
- 32 (c) *Exemptions.* The following uses and activities shall be exempt from noise control regulation:
- 33 (1) Lawnmowers and agricultural equipment, when operated between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and  
 34 10:00 p.m.
- 35 (2) Noises of safety signals, warning devices and emergency pressure relief valves.
- 36 (3) Noises resulting from any authorized emergency vehicles, when responding to an emergency  
 37 call, or acting in time of emergency.
- 38 (4) Noises resulting from emergency work.
- 39 (5) Noise from school bells, church bells or chimes.
- 40 (6) Sounds generated by natural phenomena.
- 41 (7) Town sanitation collection vehicles that empty solid waste from dumpsters or compactors.
- 42 (8) Any other noise resulting from activities of a temporary duration permitted by law, and for which  
 43 a license or permit has been granted by the Town of Surfside Beach, or activities sponsored or  
 44 co-sponsored by the town.
- 45 (d) *Undue hardship.* Application for permission to hold a public event that may violate the provisions of  
 46 this article, shall be made to the town administrator. Such permission, if granted, shall be valid only  
 47 at the specific location, times, dates, and upon the conditions as specified by the town administrator.
- 48 (e) *Enforcement standards.*
- 49 (1) An excessive, unnecessary or unusually loud noise is defined as any sound which is plainly  
 50 audible at a distance of fifty (50) feet from its source or from a public road, alleyway, beach,  
 51 motel or other public place, particularly between 11:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m.
- 52 (2) The complaints of one (1) or more persons and/or the complaints of one (1) or more police  
 53 officers are prima facie evidence that a sound annoys, disturbs, injures or endangers the  
 54 comfort, repose, health, peace or safety of others in violation of this section.
- 55 (f) *Enforcement factors.* In the enforcement of standards established in this section, an enforcement  
 56 officer may be required to exercise judgement in determining if a particular noise is sufficiently loud

11-20-2017 Workshop consensus bring forward discussion at next meeting.

11-22-2017 Town Attorney review

1 or otherwise, so offensive that it would unreasonably disturb other persons in the vicinity. When  
 2 making such determinations, the enforcement officer shall consider the following factors:

- 3 (1) The volume of the noise.  
 4 (2) The intensity of the noise.  
 5 (3) Whether the nature of the noise is usual or unusual.  
 6 (4) Whether the origin of the noise is natural or unnatural.  
 7 (5) The volume and intensity of the background noise, if any.  
 8 (6) The proximity of the noise to residential sleeping facilities.  
 9 (7) The nature and zoning of the area within which the noise emanates.  
 10 (8) The time of the day or night the noise occurs.  
 11 (9) The duration of the noise.  
 12 (10) Whether the noise is recurrent, intermittent or constant.

13 In addition to the standards established above, it shall be presumed that the above has been  
 14 violated whenever any noise or sound is projected from one property in the town onto another, or onto  
 15 any public right-of-way if such sound, measured at the closest boundary of the property from which the  
 16 complaint originates, exceeds the following decibel standards:

(1)	In any R-1, R-2 or R-3 Zoning District: 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.	55 db
	10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.	50 db
(2)	In any C-1 and C-2 Districts: 7:00 a.m. to Midnight	65 db
	Midnight to 7:00 a.m.	60 db
(3)	In any C-3 District: 7:00 a.m. to Midnight	70 db
	Midnight to 7:00 a.m.	65 db

17  
 18 (g) *Penalties.* Violation of this section is a misdemeanor, and is punishable by up to thirty (30) days in  
 19 jail, and/or a five hundred dollar (\$500.00) fine.

20 Sec. 7-92. - Horns.

21 Blowing horns, the sounding or blowing of any horn or signal device on any automobile, motorcycle,  
 22 motor bus or other vehicle, except as a danger signal if another vehicle is approaching apparently out of  
 23 control, or if in motion only as a danger signal is declared to be a nuisance. The creation by any signal  
 24 device of such loud or harsh noise and the sounding of such device for any unnecessary period of time is  
 25 prohibited.

26 Sec. 7-93. - Radios, phonographs, television, etc.

27 The playing of any radio, phonograph, television or any musical instrument in such a manner or with  
 28 such volume as to annoy or disturb any person or the playing of such instrument in such manner as to  
 29 annoy or disturb the quiet, comfort or repose of any person in any dwelling, hotel or other residences is  
 30 prohibited.

31 Sec. 7-94. - Pets.

32 It is unlawful to permit any animal to make long, frequent or continued noise which disturbs the  
 33 comfort or repose of any person in the vicinity.

34 **Cross reference**— Animals generally, Ch. 3.

35 Sec. 7-95. - Improper use of vehicle.

11-20-2017 Workshop consensus bring forward discussion at next meeting.

11-22-2017 Town Attorney review

- 1 (1) The use of any automobile, motorcycle or vehicle so out of repair, loaded or used or repaired in  
 2 such manner, as to create loud or unnecessary noises, particularly grading, grinding, rattling, riveting  
 3 or other disturbing noises is prohibited.
- 4 (2) The use of any automobile, motorcycle, or vehicle that creates any loud or unnecessary noise that  
 5 results from any one or more of the following actions by the operator is prohibited:
- 6 (a) Misuse of acceleration or braking power that exceeds tire traction limits, sometimes known as  
 7 "burn-outs," "burning rubber," "laying down rubber," or "peeling rubber."
- 8 (b) Excessive acceleration or deceleration while in motion where there is no emergency need.
- 9 (c) Rapid acceleration by means of quick up-shifting of transmission gears with either a clutch or  
 10 manual transmission or an automatic transmission.
- 11 (d) Rapid deceleration by means of quick down-shifting of transmission gears with either a clutch  
 12 or manual transmission or an automatic transmission.
- 13 (e) Racing or revving of engines by manipulation of the accelerator, gas pedal, or carburetor in  
 14 applying fuel to the engine in a greater amount than is necessary whether the vehicle is either in  
 15 motion or standing still.
- 16 (f) Operation of the vehicle by applying unnecessary, deliberate or intentional acceleration from a  
 17 stationary position, or unnecessary, deliberate or intentional bursts of acceleration while moving  
 18 in a nonemergency situation.

19 Sec. 7-96. - Blowing whistles.

20 The blowing of any steam whistle attached to any stationary boiler except to give notice of the time to  
 21 begin or stop work or as a warning of danger is prohibited.

22 Sec. 7-97. - Exhaust discharge.

23 It is unlawful to discharge into the open air the exhaust from any steam engine, stationary internal-  
 24 combustion engine, motor boat engine or motor vehicle except through a muffler or other device which  
 25 will effectively prevent loud or explosive noises therefrom.

26 Sec. 7-98. - Devices using compressed air.

27 The use of any mechanical device operated by compressed air, unless the noise created thereby is  
 28 effectively muffled and reduced is prohibited.

29 Sec. 7-99. - Building operations.

30 The erection, excavation, demolition, alteration or repair of any building in a residential or  
 31 commercial district other than between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday,  
 32 except in cases of urgent necessity in the interest of public safety, and then only with a permit from the  
 33 police chief is prohibited.

34 Activities include, but are not limited to, operation of jackhammers, manual hammers, excavation  
 35 machinery, concrete machinery, landscaping equipment, pool maintenance equipment, roofing, framing,  
 36 any building related activity causing workmen to be outdoors, construction related supply deliveries,  
 37 including appliances and furnishings.

38 Exceptions: Sheet rock installation, wall paper installation, counter top installation, spackling, taping,  
 39 interior painting, carpet or tile installation, activities done indoors that do not resonate sound outside the  
 40 physical building shall be permitted from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday.

41 Sec. 7-100. - Noises near schools, churches, etc.

42 The creation of any excessive noise on any street adjacent to any school, institution of learning,  
 43 library or court while the same is in session or adjacent to any church during church services which  
 44 interfere with the work or worship in any such place or institution is prohibited provided, that signs must  
 45 be displayed in such streets indicating that there is a school, church, library, or court.

46 Sec. 7-101. - Loading and unloading operations.

47 The creation of loud and excessive noises in connection with loading or unloading any vehicle or  
 48 opening and destroying bales, boxes, crates and containers is prohibited.

49 Sec. 7-102. - Bells or gongs.

50 The sounding of any bell or gong attached to any building or premises which disturbs the quiet or  
 51 repose of any person in the vicinity is prohibited. Churches and religious institutions operating chimes or  
 52 bells for the purpose of attracting attention to a worship service or special religious activity are exempt  
 53 from this provision.

11-20-2017 Workshop consensus bring forward discussion at next meeting.

11-22-2017 Town Attorney review

1 Sec. 7-103. - Hawking, peddling, or soliciting.

2 Shouting, loud talking, crying or soliciting by peddlers, hawkers, solicitors and vendors which disturbs  
3 the quiet and peace of the neighborhood or any person therein is prohibited.

4 Sec. 7-104. - Noises to attract attention.

5 The use of any drum, loudspeaker or other instrument or device for the purpose of attracting  
6 attention to any performance or event, show, sale or the display or advertisement of merchandise, by the  
7 creation of noise is prohibited. Churches and religious institutions operating chimes or bells for the  
8 purpose of attracting attention to a worship service or special religious activity are exempt from this  
9 provision.

10 Sec. 7-105. - Loudspeakers or amplifiers on vehicles.

11 The use of any mechanical loudspeakers or amplifiers on trucks, airplanes or other vehicles for  
12 advertising or other purposes is prohibited except by special permission of mayor.

13 Sec. 7-106. - Business noises at night near residence.

14 The operation of any garage, filling station, auto repair, business, taxicab business, plant, store,  
15 factory or other place of business, between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m., in such manner as to  
16 create loud and disturbing noises, of such frequency or such volume as to annoy or disturb the quiet and  
17 comfort of any citizen and particularly the creating of disturbing noises of such frequency and volume as  
18 to annoy or disturb the quiet, comfort, peace or repose of any person in any dwelling, hotel,  
19 boardinghouse or other type of residence is prohibited.

20

#### 21 DIVISION 4. - SMOKING IN PUBLIC PLACES AND PLACES OF EMPLOYMENT

22 Sec. 7-131. - Findings and determinations.

23 The town council (the "council") of the Town of Surfside Beach, South Carolina, hereby finds and  
24 determines:

25 (1) The Town of Surfside Beach, South Carolina (the "town"), is an incorporated municipality  
26 located in Horry County, South Carolina, and as such possesses all powers granted to  
27 municipalities by the Constitution and the laws of the State of South Carolina, including the  
28 powers enumerated in S.C. Code § 5-7-30 (2005 Supp) relating to regulating streets, markets,  
29 and public health.

30 (2) Numerous studies have found that tobacco smoke is a major contributor to indoor air pollution,  
31 and that breathing secondhand smoke (also known as environmental tobacco smoke) is a  
32 cause of disease in healthy nonsmokers, including heart disease, stroke, respiratory disease,  
33 and lung cancer. The National Cancer Institute has determined that secondhand smoke is  
34 responsible for the early deaths of up to 65,000 Americans annually. (National Cancer Institute  
35 (NCI), "Health effects of exposure to environmental tobacco smoke: the report of the California  
36 Environmental Protection Agency. Smoking and Tobacco Control Monograph 10, "Bethesda,  
37 MD: National Institutes of Health, National Cancer Institute (NCI), August 1999.) The Surgeon  
38 General has declared that:

39 a. Secondhand smoke causes disease and premature death in nonsmokers exposed to  
40 smoke;

41 b. Children exposed to secondhand smoke have an increased risk for sudden death  
42 syndrome, acute respiratory infections, ear problems, and more severe asthma;

43 c. Adults exposed to secondary smoke have a higher risk of coronary heart disease and lung  
44 cancer;

45 d. There is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke; and

46 e. Separating smoking and nonsmoking sections of indoor areas does not sufficiently remove  
47 the threats of secondhand smoke in enclosed areas.

48 (3) A significant amount of secondhand smoke exposure occurs in the workplace. Employees who  
49 work in smoke-filled businesses suffer a twenty-five to fifty (25—50) percent higher risk of heart  
50 attack and higher rates of death from cardiovascular disease and cancer, as well as increased  
51 acute respiratory disease and measurable decrease in lung function. (Pitsavos, C.;  
52 Panagiotakos, D.B.; Chrysohoou, C.; Skoumas, J.; Tzioumis, K.; Stefanadis, C.; Toutouzas, P.,  
53 "Association between exposure to environmental tobacco smoke and the development of acute

11-20-2017 Workshop consensus bring forward discussion at next meeting.

11-22-2017 Town Attorney review

1 coronary syndromes: the CARDIO2000 case-control study," Tobacco Control 11(3): 220-225,  
2 September 2002.)

- 3 (4) Smoke-filled workplaces result in higher worker absenteeism due to respiratory disease, lower  
4 productivity, higher cleaning and maintenance costs, increased health insurance rates, and  
5 increased liability claims for diseases related to exposure to secondhand smoke. ("The high  
6 price of cigarette smoking," Business & Health 15(8), Supplement A: 6-9, August 1997.)
- 7 (5) Certain outdoor events, such as parades, festivals, and other public gatherings, result in  
8 nonsmokers finding themselves in close proximity to persons who are smoking which can be  
9 reasonably seen to have the same effects of exposure as when nonsmokers are exposed to  
10 smoke in the same enclosed space. Lighted cigarettes, cigars, and pipes of people standing or  
11 sitting in close proximity have the potential of burning those with whom they inadvertently come  
12 into direct contact and making the air quality and peaceful enjoyment of outdoor events  
13 unreasonably restricted for nonsmokers.
- 14 (6) When there is a presence of secondhand smoke in enclosed spaces or in outside areas where  
15 there is a public gathering resulting in people being in close proximity in places that are  
16 otherwise open to the public at large inevitably results in persons who do not smoke being  
17 forced to bear unwarranted health risks and inappropriate deprivation of peaceful enjoyment of  
18 the premises to which they have been invited or permitted to enter, even when steps have been  
19 taken to separate "smoking" and "nonsmoking" areas within the confined space.
- 20 (7) The town recognizes that smoke creates a danger to the health and safety of the public at large  
21 and that, in order to protect the health and welfare of the public, it is necessary to restrict  
22 smoking in the manner provided for in this article (the "article").

23 Sec. 7-132. - Definitions.

24 Unless the context shall clearly indicate some other meaning, the terms defined in this section shall,  
25 for all purposes of this article and other documents herein referenced, have the meanings herein  
26 specified. Definitions shall be equally applicable to both the singular and plural forms of any of the terms  
27 herein defined.

28 *Bar* shall mean an establishment that is devoted to the serving of alcoholic beverages for  
29 consumption by guests on the premises and in which the serving of food is only incidental to the  
30 consumption of those beverages including, but not limited to, taverns, nightclubs, cocktail lounges, and  
31 cabarets.

32 *Beach* shall mean, any area of public land between the Atlantic Ocean waters edge at the then  
33 current ocean tide line, including the mean high water mark on the Atlantic Ocean, and the established  
34 private property line.

35 *Business* shall mean a sole proprietorship, partnership, joint venture, corporation, or other business  
36 entity, either for-profit or not-for-profit, including retail establishments where goods or services are offered  
37 for sale; professional corporations and other entities where legal, medical, dental, engineering,  
38 architectural, or other professional services are delivered; and private clubs.

39 *Employee* shall mean a person who is employed by an employer in consideration for direct or  
40 indirect monetary wages, commission, goods or services in kind or like compensation, and it shall also  
41 mean a person who volunteers his or her services for a nonprofit entity.

42 *Employer* means a person, business, partnership, association, corporation, including a municipal  
43 corporation, trust, or nonprofit entity that employs the services of one or more individual persons.

44 *Enclosed area* means all space between a floor and ceiling that is enclosed on all sides by walls or  
45 windows (exclusive of doorways), which extend from the floor to the ceiling, including stationary structures  
46 and mobile public conveyances; parking structures and other facilities having only partial exterior walls  
47 but otherwise enclosed by ceilings and floors shall also be included in this definition.

48 *Health care facility* means an office or institution providing care or treatment of persons having  
49 diseases, whether physical, mental, or emotional, or other medical, physiological, or psychological  
50 conditions including, but not limited to, hospitals, rehabilitation hospitals or other clinics, including weight  
51 control clinics, nursing homes (except as otherwise permitted herein), homes for the aging or chronically  
52 ill, laboratories, and offices of surgeons, chiropractors, physical therapists, physicians, dentists, and all  
53 specialists within these professions. This definition shall include all waiting rooms, hallways, private  
54 rooms, semiprivate rooms, and wards within health care facilities.

55 *Place of employment* means an area under the control of a public or private employer that  
56 employees normally frequent during the course of employment, including, but not limited to, work areas,

11-20-2017 Workshop consensus bring forward discussion at next meeting.

11-22-2017 Town Attorney review

1 employee lounges, restrooms, conference rooms, meeting rooms, classrooms, employee cafeterias,  
2 hallways, and vehicles. A private residence is not a "place of employment" for purposes of this article  
3 unless it is used as a childcare, adult day care, or health care facility. Nor is a private passenger motor  
4 vehicle a "place of employment" when used in the performance of employment responsibilities, provided it  
5 is not being used as public conveyance.

6 *Private club* means an organization, whether incorporated or not, which is the owner, lessee, or  
7 occupant of a building or portion thereof used exclusively for club purposes, or for purposes of benefiting  
8 particular club members and their guests, which is operated solely for a recreational, fraternal, social,  
9 patriotic, political, benevolent, or athletic purpose, but not for pecuniary gain, and which only sells  
10 alcoholic beverages incidental to its operation. The affairs and management of the organization are  
11 conducted by a board of directors, executive committee, or similar body chosen by the members at an  
12 annual meeting. The organization has established written bylaws and/or a written constitution to govern  
13 its activities. The organization has been granted an exemption from the payment of federal income tax as  
14 a club under 26 U.S.C. section 501. Establishments which are in fact operating as bars, restaurants, or  
15 entertainment venues primarily for the pecuniary benefit of the owner, or chief operating officer, or other  
16 person having substantial control shall not be treated as private clubs under this article.

17 *Public place* means an area to which the public is invited or to which the public is permitted to have  
18 access, including, but not limited to, banks, bars, educational facilities, health care facilities, hotel and  
19 motel lobbies, laundromats, public transportation facilities, reception areas, restaurants, retail food  
20 production and marketing establishments, retail service establishments, retail stores, shopping malls,  
21 theaters, waiting rooms, sports arena, stadiums, parks including ball parks, athletic fields and soccer  
22 fields. A private club is a "public place" when being used for a function to which the general public is  
23 allowed entry. A private residence is not a "public place" unless it is used as a childcare, adult day care,  
24 or health care facility.

25 *Restaurant* means an eating establishment including, but not limited to, coffee shops, cafeterias,  
26 sandwich stands, ice cream parlors, and private and public school cafeterias, which gives or offers for  
27 sale food to the public, guests, or employees, as well as kitchens and catering facilities in which food is  
28 prepared on the premises for serving elsewhere. The term "restaurant" shall include a bar area within the  
29 restaurant.

30 *Retail tobacco store* means a retail store utilized primarily for the sale of tobacco products and  
31 accessories and in which the sale of other products is merely incidental. The term specifically includes  
32 cigar bars, which are establishments licensed for the on-premises sale of beer, wine, and alcoholic  
33 beverages as well as some food service, but the term does not include any establishment which is  
34 primarily a bar or restaurant and which undertakes to make retail offerings of tobacco products as a  
35 means of circumventing the purposes of this article.

36 *Service line* means an indoor line in which one or more persons are waiting for or receiving service  
37 of any kind, whether or not the service involves the exchange of money.

38 *Shopping mall* means an enclosed public plaza, promenade, walkway, or hall area that serves to  
39 connect retail or professional establishments.

40 *Smoking* means inhaling, exhaling, burning, or carrying any lighted cigar, cigarette, pipe, or other  
41 lighted tobacco product in any manner or in any form.

42 *Sports arena* means indoor or outdoor sports pavilions, stadiums, gymnasiums, health spas, boxing  
43 arenas, swimming pools, roller and ice rinks, bowling alleys, and other similar places where members of  
44 the general public assemble to engage in physical exercise, participate in athletic competition, or witness  
45 sports or other events.

46 Sec. 7-133. - Application to town-owned facilities and vehicles.

47 All enclosed facilities, buildings, and vehicles owned, leased, or operated by the town shall be  
48 subject to the provisions of this article.

49 Sec. 7-134. - Prohibition of smoking in enclosed public places.

50 Smoking shall be prohibited in all enclosed public places within the town including, but not limited to,  
51 the following places:

52 (1) Galleries, libraries, and museums.

53 (2) Areas available to and customarily used by the general public in businesses and nonprofit  
54 entities patronized by the public including, but not limited to, professional offices, banks,  
55 laundromats, hotels, and motels.

11-20-2017 Workshop consensus bring forward discussion at next meeting.

11-22-2017 Town Attorney review

- 1 (3) Bars.
- 2 (4) Bingo facilities.
- 3 (5) Convention facilities, conference centers, and exhibition halls.
- 4 (6) Educational facilities, both public and private.
- 5 (7) Elevators.
- 6 (8) Health care facilities.
- 7 (9) Hotel and motel lobbies.
- 8 (10) Licensed childcare and adult day care facilities.
- 9 (11) Lobbies, hallways, and other common areas in apartment buildings, condominiums, trailer
- 10 parks, retirement facilities, nursing homes, and other multiple-unit residential facilities.
- 11 (12) Polling places.
- 12 (13) Private clubs when being used for a function to which the general public is invited.
- 13 (14) Public transportation facilities, including buses and taxicabs, and ticket, boarding, and waiting
- 14 areas of public transit depots.
- 15 (15) Restaurants.
- 16 (16) Restrooms, lobbies, reception areas, hallways, and other common-use areas.
- 17 (17) Retail stores.
- 18 (18) Rooms, chambers, places of meeting or public assembly, including school buildings.
- 19 (19) Service lines.
- 20 (20) Shopping malls.
- 21 (21) Sports arenas.
- 22 (22) Theaters, performance halls, lecture halls, and similar facilities, inclusive of lobbies, audience
- 23 seating areas, dressing rooms, projections booths, back stage areas, and the stage, but
- 24 excluding smoking on stage when it is an integral part of a theatrical performance.

25 Sec. 7-135. - Prohibition of smoking in places of employment.

- 26 (a) Smoking shall be prohibited in all enclosed areas within places of employment without exception
- 27 including, but not limited to common work areas, auditoriums, classrooms, conference and meeting
- 28 rooms, private offices, elevators, hallways, medical facilities, cafeterias, employee lounges, stairs,
- 29 restrooms, vehicles used for the conveyance of the public, but not including vehicles used in
- 30 performing employment responsibilities when the sole occupants and users are persons who smoke.
- 31 (b) This prohibition on smoking shall be communicated by employers to all existing employees by the
- 32 effective date of this article and to all prospective employees upon their application for employment.

33 Sec. 7-136. - Prohibition of smoking in certain outdoor areas.

34 Smoking shall also be prohibited in certain outdoor areas when the use involves a gathering of the

35 public, regardless of the number actually assembled. This prohibition shall apply to:

- 36 (1) Amphitheaters.
- 37 (2) Parks.
- 38 (3) Ball parks, athletic fields and soccer fields, when in use for athletic competitions or public
- 39 performances.
- 40 (4) Parades and special events on public streets and town property, although the town
- 41 administrator has the discretion, but not the obligation, to establish designated smoking areas in
- 42 or in proximity to the parade or event area.
- 43 (5) Dining areas in encroachment areas on public sidewalks, plazas, and parks.
- 44 (6) Zoos and animal sanctuaries.
- 45 (7) Beaches and public beach accesses.

46 Sec. 7-137. - Reasonable distance of entry and outdoor area.

47 Smoking is prohibited within a distance of ten (10) feet from any entry into an enclosed area where

48 smoking is prohibited, so as to insure that tobacco smoke does not enter the area through entrances,

49 windows, ventilation systems, or other means. Smoking is also prohibited within ten (10) feet of the

50 boundary of the outdoor areas where smoking is prohibited. Persons who have begun smoking after

51 leaving an enclosed area where smoking is prohibited prior to approaching a ten-foot distance away from

52 such enclosed area may continue doing so, provided they do not stop, stand, sit, or linger within the ten-

53 foot distance, but continue to distance themselves from the enclosed area.

54 Sec. 7-138. - Where smoking not regulated.

1 Notwithstanding any other provision of this article to the contrary, the following areas shall be exempt  
 2 from the provisions of sections 7-134, 7-135, and 7-136 of this article:

- 3 (1) Private residences, except when used as a licensed childcare, adult day care, or health care  
 4 facility.
- 5 (2) Hotel and motel rooms that are rented to guests and are designated as smoking rooms;  
 6 provided, however, that not more than twenty (20) percent of rooms rented to guests in a hotel  
 7 or motel may be so designated. All smoking rooms on the same floor must be contiguous and  
 8 smoke from these rooms must not infiltrate into areas where smoking is prohibited under the  
 9 provisions of this article. The status of rooms as smoking or nonsmoking may not be changed,  
 10 except to add additional nonsmoking rooms.
- 11 (3) Retail tobacco stores, provided that smoke from these places does not infiltrate into areas  
 12 where smoking is prohibited under the provisions of this article.
- 13 (4) Private and semiprivate rooms in nursing homes and long-term care facilities that are occupied  
 14 by one or more persons, all of whom are smokers and have requested in writing to be placed in  
 15 a room where smoking is permitted; provided that smoke from these places does not infiltrate  
 16 into areas where smoking is prohibited under the provisions of this article.
- 17 (5) Private clubs that have no employees, except when being used for a function to which the  
 18 general public is admitted.
- 19 (6) Outdoor areas of places of employment except those covered by the provisions of sections 7-  
 20 136 and 7-137 of this article.
- 21 (7) Sidewalks, unless the sidewalk area has been specifically designated with signage as a  
 22 nonsmoking area by the town or is being generally used for any purpose under section 7-136  
 23 with or without signage, including, but not limited to parades.

24 Sec. 7-139. - Declaration of establishment as nonsmoking.

25 Notwithstanding any other provision of this article, an owner, operator, manager, or other person in  
 26 control of an establishment, facility, or outdoor area may declare that entire establishment, facility, or  
 27 outdoor area as a nonsmoking place. Smoking shall be prohibited in any place in which a sign conforming  
 28 to the requirements of subsection 7-140(a) is posted.

29 Sec. 7-140. - Posting of signs.

- 30 (a) "No Smoking" signs or the international "No Smoking" symbol (consisting of a pictorial  
 31 representation of a burning cigarette enclosed in a red circle with a red bar across it) shall be clearly  
 32 and conspicuously posted in every public place and place of employment where smoking is  
 33 prohibited by this article, by the owner, operator, manager, or other person in control of that place.
- 34 (b) Every public place and place of employment where smoking is prohibited by this article shall have  
 35 posted at every entrance a conspicuous sign clearly stating that smoking is prohibited.
- 36 (c) All ashtrays shall be removed from any area where smoking is prohibited by this article by the  
 37 owner, operator, manager, or other person having control of the area.

38 Sec. 7-141. - Nonretaliation; nonwaiver of rights.

- 39 (a) No person or employer shall discharge, refuse to hire, or in any manner retaliate against an  
 40 employee, applicant for employment, or customer because that employee, applicant, or customer  
 41 exercises any rights afforded by this article or reports or attempts to prosecute a violation of this  
 42 article.
- 43 (b) An employee who works in a setting where an employer allows smoking does not waive or  
 44 otherwise surrender any legal rights the employee may have against the employer or any other  
 45 party.

46 Sec. 7-142. - Enforcement.

- 47 (a) This article shall be enforced by the town police or office of the town administrator through an  
 48 appointed code enforcement official.
- 49 (b) Notice of the provisions of this article shall be given to all applicants for a business license in the  
 50 town.
- 51 (c) Any citizen who desires to register a complaint under this article may initiate enforcement with the  
 52 office of the town administrator or town police.
- 53 (d) The building codes division, fire department, or their designees shall, while an establishment is  
 54 undergoing otherwise mandated inspections, inspect for compliance with this article.

11-20-2017 Workshop consensus bring forward discussion at next meeting.

11-22-2017 Town Attorney review



- 1 (e) An owner, manager, operator, or employee of an establishment regulated by this article shall inform  
 2 persons violating this article of the appropriate provisions thereof.
- 3 (f) Notwithstanding any other provision of this article, an employee or member of the public may request  
 4 legal action against a person, business, or organization in violation of this article to enforce this  
 5 article.
- 6 (g) In addition to the remedies provided by the provisions of this section, the town or any person  
 7 aggrieved by the failure of the owner, operator, manager, or other person in control of a public place  
 8 or a place of employment to comply with the provisions of this article may apply for injunctive relief to  
 9 enforce those provisions in any court of competent jurisdiction.

10 Sec. 7-143. - Violations and penalties.

- 11 (a) A person who smokes in an area where smoking is prohibited by the provisions of this article shall  
 12 be guilty of a civil infraction, punishable by a fine of not less than ten dollars (\$10.00) nor more than  
 13 twenty-five dollars (\$25.00).
- 14 (b) Violations shall be issued on a uniform ordinance summons.
- 15 (c) Violators shall only be cited by police officers or authorized code enforcement officials.
- 16 (d) Violators shall appear and be subject to the jurisdiction of the town's municipal court.
- 17 (e) Violators shall have a right to a jury trial upon proper request.
- 18 (f) Violators shall be subject to set-off debt process and failure to pay or appear may result in a non-  
 19 resident violator compact (NRVC) notice for South Carolina licensed drivers.
- 20 (g) Violators shall not be subject to incarceration.
- 21 (h) A person who owns, manages, operates, or otherwise controls a public place or place of  
 22 employment and who fails to comply with the provisions of this article shall be guilty of a civil  
 23 infraction, punishable by a fine of not less than ten dollars (\$10.00) nor more than twenty-five dollars  
 24 (\$25.00) and may be subject to provisions contained in subsections 7-143 (b)—(g).
- 25 (i) In addition to the fines established by this section, repeated violations of this article by a person who  
 26 owns, manages, operates, or otherwise controls a public place or place of employment may result in  
 27 the suspension or revocation of any occupancy permit or business license issued to the person for  
 28 the premises on which the violation occurred.
- 29 (j) Violation of this article is hereby declared to be a public nuisance, which may be abated by the town  
 30 by restraining order, preliminary and permanent injunction, or other means provided for by law, and  
 31 the town may take action to recover the costs of the nuisance abatement.
- 32 (k) Each day of a continuing violation of this article shall be considered a separate and distinct offense  
 33 and may result in cumulative fines and business license suspension, if applicable.

34 Sec. 7-144. - Public education.

35 The town shall engage in a continuing program to explain and clarify the purposes and requirements  
 36 of this article to citizens affected by it, and to guide owners/operators, and managers in their compliance  
 37 with it. The program may include publication of a brochure for affected businesses and individuals  
 38 explaining the provisions of this article.

39 Sec. 7-145. - Governmental agency cooperation.

40 The town shall annually request other governmental and educational agencies having facilities within  
 41 the town to establish local operating procedures in cooperation and compliance with this article. This  
 42 includes urging all federal, state, county, town, and school district agencies to update their existing  
 43 smoking control regulations to be consistent with the current health findings regarding secondhand  
 44 smoke.

45 Sec. 7-146. - Other applicable laws.

46 This article shall not be interpreted or construed to permit smoking where it is otherwise restricted by  
 47 other applicable laws.

48 Sec. 7-147. - Interpretation for intent.

49 It is the intent of council to prohibit smoking whenever the private choice of smoking intrudes or has  
 50 the capacity to intrude upon the right of persons concerned about protecting their own rights to be free  
 51 from the hazards and inconvenience of secondhand smoke in places where they work, stand, sit, walk,  
 52 dine, drink, read, study, or engage in entertainment and recreation. All provisions shall be construed to  
 53 achieve these purposes in compliance with the "Memorandum in Re: Smoking Ordinance Violations,"  
 54 issued by the S.C. Supreme Court dated April 24, 2009.

11-20-2017 Workshop consensus bring forward discussion at next meeting.

11-22-2017 Town Attorney review

Success will be achieved by ensuring that the property owners are keeping up on the maintenance of their properties.

Failure to adopt the recommendation will result in blighted properties, and reduce the value of property.

6. RECOMMENDATION: Motion to adopt first reading of Ordinance #17-0859

7. RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION:

Approving the recommended amendment would better protect town residence from dereliction of property maintenance, dilapidated structures that create public safety concerns.