
[As referred from the Planning Commission]

CHAPTER 32

ARTICLE X. - COMMERCIAL JUNKYARDS

Sec. 32-751. - Findings.

The County finds that Commercial junkyards:

- a) Provide a necessary service to County residents; and
- b) Contribute to the economy and tax base of the County; yet
- c) Pose a potential hazard to the health, safety, and general welfare of the citizens of the County;
- d) Can depreciate the value of surrounding property;
- e) Can attract and harbor mosquitoes or other insects, snakes, rats, and other pests and vermin;
- f) Pose a potential threat of injury to children and other individuals who may be attracted to the premises; and
- g) Can be a visual blight and depreciative to the aesthetic quality of the environment of the County.

Sec. 32-752. - Purpose.

- a) The purpose of this Article is to provide for the regulation of existing and proposed Commercial junkyards under the Unified Performance Standards contained in Chapter 32 of the Oconee County Code of Ordinances.
- b) S.C. Code Sections 4-9-25 and 4-9-30 give Oconee County the authority to enact regulations, resolutions, and ordinances relating to health and order within its boundaries and respecting any subject as appears to it necessary and proper for the security, general welfare, and convenience of the County or for preserving health, peace, order, and good government therein. In order to accomplish these purposes, the County Council enacts these regulations with respect to Commercial junkyards.
- c) It shall be unlawful for any person, corporation or other business entity to maintain a Commercial junkyard except pursuant to the provisions of this Article.

Sec. 32-573. - Definitions.

As used in this Article, the following terms shall have the meanings given below:

Commercial junkyard shall mean any land or area used, in whole or in part, as a business for storing, handling, or selling Junk. This definition does not include facilities which are an essential part of wrecker, towing, or impoundment services, or County-operated or approved and permitted sanitary landfills. Further excluded from this Article are temporary business operations such as garage or yard sales, which are related to a specific event of a limited time and limited duration.

Fence shall mean a substantial, continuous barrier constructed in a commercially appropriate and sound manner, and extending from the surface of the ground to a uniform height of not less than six feet. The finished side of the *Fence* shall face the public and be constructed of treated lumber, stockade, masonry, chain link or other approved material. Fabric *Fences* shall be not allowed.

Junk shall mean, by way of example and not limitation: abandoned barrels or drums; dismantled or inoperable industrial or commercial equipment or machinery being salvaged for parts; and the following old, scrap, or used items: metal; rope; rags; batteries; paper; cardboard; plastic; rubber; pallets; appliances; motors; industrial or commercial fixtures; rubbish and trash; debris; wrecked, dismantled, or disabled motor vehicles, watercraft, and aircraft, or parts thereof; and other old or scrap ferrous or nonferrous material.

Major local street shall mean a street that is designed and serves primarily to access abutting residential and commercial properties and other streets or roadways. *Major local streets* are further characterized as having two or more access points and receiving traffic from *Minor local streets* and other *Major local streets*.

Minor local street shall mean a street that is designed and serves primarily to access abutting residential properties. *Minor local streets* typically terminate in a cul-de-sac, loop, or other turnaround, and contain no more than two access points.

~~*Nonconforming* shall mean signs, structures, uses of land and characteristics of uses that are prohibited under the terms of this article, but which were lawful on the date of this article's enactment.~~

Public building shall mean any building owned, leased, held, or operated by the United States, the state, the County, a city, a special purpose district, or any local, state, or federal governmental agency or political subdivision, which building is used for a governmental or other public purpose.

Right-of-way shall denote the limits of public and private roads, including the full property interest or easement area thereof. On County roads, when there is no deeded *Right-of-way* or similar instrument governing road access and use, the *Right-of-way* shall include all portions of the road used for travel, maintenance, and support, and including all accessory structures and features.

Scenic highway/scenic byway shall mean a road or highway under federal, state, or County jurisdiction that has been so designated through legislation, ordinance, or other official declaration because of its scenic, historic, recreational, cultural, archeological, or natural qualities. An official declaration is an action taken by an individual, board, committee, or political subdivision acting with the granted authority on behalf of the federal, state or County government.

Setback shall refer to the required minimum distance, as established in this Article, between a *Fence* and the nearest property line, *Right-of-way*, body of water, *Scenic highway/scenic byway*, or heritage corridor.

Temporary storage service shall be defined as not exceeding 90 days from the date possession or custody of the vehicle is obtained, except when possession is pursuant to a court order.

Wrecker, towing and impoundment service shall mean an establishment or place of business that provides towing or *Temporary storage services* for currently licensed and currently registered

vehicles that have been wrecked or repossessed, or whose possession is by virtue of court order, a copy of which is in the possession of the proprietor of such service or affixed to the vehicle.

Sec. 32-754. - Regulation of Commercial Junkyards.

- a) Every *Commercial junkyard* must be enclosed on all sides by a *Fence* that is not less than six feet in height. Commercially reasonable efforts, made in good faith and appropriate to the nature of the operation as carried out in a customary and safe manner, must be employed so that the *Fence*, along with adjacent vegetation (either existing or planted for these purposes), conceals the view of all *Junk* from public roads and private property. Further, the *Fence* shall be constructed and maintained so that the *Commercial junkyard* is protected from access by children or other trespassers.
- b) Each *Commercial junkyard Fence* shall be *Setback* as follows:
 - (1) Subject to the provisions of S.C. Code Section 57-27-10, et seq. (the South Carolina “Junkyard Control Act”), two hundred and fifty feet from all *Rights-of-way* held by the federal or state government, including any agency thereof.
 - (2) One hundred and twenty-five feet from the *Rights-of-way* of all County roads.
 - (3) One hundred feet from all property lines.
 - (4) One hundred feet from the ordinary high-water mark of all bodies of water, including, by way of example and not limitation, lakes, bays, ponds, rivers, streams, creeks, and reservoirs.
 - (5) One thousand feet from all designated *Scenic highways*.
 - (6) One thousand feet from any federally designated heritage corridor.

If more than one *Setback* requirement applies, the greater distance shall be enforced.

- c) No *Commercial junkyard* shall be located within 1,000 feet of a church, school, daycare center, nursing home, health care facility, hospital, *Public building*, or public recreation facility.
- d) *Commercial junkyards* shall be located only on *Major local streets*. Locating a *Commercial junkyard* on a *Minor local street* is prohibited.
- e) All *Junk* shall be stored within the *Fenced* area of the *Commercial junkyard*. The *Setback* area, being the area between the required *Fence* and the roadway, waterway, property line, etc., shall be maintained in a clean manner and shall not be used for storing, loading, or unloading *Junk*.
- f) Each *Commercial junkyard* shall apply to the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) for an appropriate National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit, unless the applicant can show that an NPDES permit is not required by DHEC for the subject *Commercial junkyard*. The NPDES permit must be appropriately maintained during the course of operations.
- g) Each *Commercial junkyard* shall comply with all applicable chapters of the International Fire Code with South Carolina modifications, along with all applicable statutory and regulatory laws addressing the handling, storage, and disposal of hazardous waste, along with any applicable manufacturer’s instructions and industry standards.

Sec. 32-755. - Existing nonconforming Commercial Junkyards in existence prior to the enactment of these Commercial Junkyard regulations.

- (a) Any *Commercial junkyard* that can provide documentary proof of ongoing operations occurring prior to the date this Article is enacted shall be exempt from the requirements of this Article as a “*Nonconforming Commercial junkyard*,” unless one of the following conditions arise:
1. Operations are abandoned for a period of twelve (12) months or more.
 2. The storage or handling area reserved for *Junk* is expanded by ___ %.
 3. Operations are altered such that excessive light, noise, dust, or other negative impacts on neighboring uses arise from the altered operations.
 4. *There is a change in ownership.*
 5. *Safety violations.*
- (b) Once a *Nonconforming Commercial junkyard* loses its grandfathered status as a result of a condition noted in Section 32-755(a), then it must comply with the terms of this Article and the following provisions from Section 32-754 shall apply:

See Exhibit A for requirements triggered upon the occurrence of a safety violation (or perhaps a violation of item 3, above). Note Items 1, 2, and 4 would trigger enforcement of the entirety of this ordinance.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Additionally, the following requirements shall be imposed:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Sec. 32-756. - Provisions for administration.

- (a) No person shall maintain a *Commercial junkyard* except and unless the owner or operator has an approved *Commercial junkyard* Application from the County Planning Department.
1. A *Commercial junkyard* Application shall consist of:
 - i. An initial site plan showing all required items from Sec. 32-754 (a-e).
 - ii. All necessary permits from governing federal, state, or local authorities.
 - iii. A certificate of compliance [what is intent here?] prior to starting operations.
- (b) Fees for required permits shall be established and published by the County Council.
- (c) The enforcement of this Article shall be the responsibility of the County Planning Director or their designee.

-
- (d) Any applicant or other affected party shall have the right to appeal a decision of the Planning Director to the County Planning Commission.
 - (e) Penalties for noncompliance. Any violation of this Article shall be a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, is punishable to full extent of the jurisdictional limits of magistrate courts located in the County. Additionally, or alternatively, the County may pursue civil litigation to compel compliance, including the pursuit of injunctive relief, damages, and other available relief.

Sec. 32-757 through Sec. 32-800 - Reserved.

EXHIBIT A

Existing nonconforming Commercial Junkyards in existence prior to the enactment of these Commercial Junkyard regulations.

- (a) Any *Commercial Junkyard* that can provide documentary proof of ongoing operations occurring prior to the date this Article is enacted shall be permitted the following deviations from this Article:
 - (1) Beyond 150 feet from the *Right-of-way* of a road, any boundary line may be enclosed with vegetation only pursuant to the requirements of the definition of "vegetation" in section 3.
 - (2) Shall be exempt from access restrictions in section 4(d).
 - (3) The *Fence* and/or vegetation required herein shall be located not less than ___ feet from the *Right-of-way* of a public road, and not less than ___ feet from a waterway, as described above, and as near the boundary line as practical on all other boundaries.
 - (4) No operator shall place, store or maintain *Junk* less than 10 feet from the property line of a developed residential area, school, church, cemetery, or public property or within 20 feet of the *Right-of-way* of a public road, or within 50 feet of a waterway.
- (b) No existing *Commercial junkyard* may expand without a proper approved application. Any expansion shall conform to all provisions of this article and shall not be permitted the deviations listed above in section 4(a).
- (c) Notwithstanding the provisions for administration contained in section 4, this article is not intended to impose additional restrictions on the nonconforming portion of junkyards existing prior to **DATE**
- (d) All applicable requirements to pre-**DATE** junkyards must be met within 1 year of the effective date.

**STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF OCONEE
ORDINANCE 2023-__**

**AN ORDINANCE TO FOSTER THE IDENTIFICATION AND REPAIR
OR REMOVAL OF STRUCTURES THAT HAVE BECOME UNSAFE FOR
HUMAN OCCUPATION AS A RESULT OF FIRE DAMAGE OR
NATURAL DISASTER.**

1. Title.

This article shall be known as the “Oconee County Unsafe Building Ordinance.”

2. Definitions.

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

County means the unincorporated area comprising Oconee County.

Dwelling means any building or structure, or part thereof, used and occupied for human habitation, or which has been so used or intended to be so used and includes any outhouses, outbuildings, or other appurtenances belonging thereto or usually enjoyed therewith.

Owner means the holder of the title to real estate in fee simple and every mortgagee of record, and shall also include the record owner of a mobile home, as shown on the records of the South Carolina Department of Transportation, as well as every lienholder of record. In instances where the owner of a mobile home is not also the owner of the real estate upon which the mobile home is situated, the term “Owner” shall apply to both such parties.

Parties in interest means all individuals, associations, corporations, and others who have an interest in a dwelling and any person or persons in possession thereof. For the purposes of this article, the term "Parties in interest" also includes the owner of the real property upon which a mobile home is situated.

Public officer means the officer or officers who are designated by the County Administrator to exercise the powers prescribed by this article.

Reasonable cost means 50 percent or smaller of estimated cost of required repairs, alterations, and/or improvements in relation to the estimated value of a dwelling.

3. Public officer—Appointment.

The public officer designated to exercise the powers prescribed by this article shall be appointed by the County Administrator and shall serve at the pleasure of the County Administrator.

4. Same—Powers.

The public officer may exercise such powers as may be necessary or convenient to carry out and effectuate the purposes and provisions of this article, including, but not limited to the following powers, in addition to others herein granted:

- a. To investigate the dwelling conditions in the county in order to determine which dwellings therein are unfit for human habitation as a result of a fire or natural disaster.
- b. To administer oaths and affirmations, examine witnesses, and receive evidence.
- c. To enter upon premises for the purpose of making examinations, provided such entries be made in such manner as to cause the least possible inconvenience to the persons in possession, and are conducted in a manner consistent with state and federal law.
- d. To appoint and fix the duties of such officers, agents, and employees as he deems necessary to carry out the purposes of this article.
- e. To delegate any of his functions and powers under this article to such officers and agents as he may designate.

5. Standards for determining fitness of dwelling for human habitation.

The public officer may determine that a dwelling is unfit for human habitation if he finds that conditions exist in such dwelling that resulted from a fire or natural disaster which are dangerous or injurious to the health, safety, or morals of the occupants of such dwelling, the occupants of neighboring dwellings or other residents of the county. By way of example and not limitation, such conditions shall include the following, inasmuch as they resulted from a fire or natural disaster:

- a. Defects increasing the hazard of fire, accidents, or other calamities.
- b. Lack of adequate ventilation, light, or sanitary facilities.
- c. Dilapidation, disrepair, or structure defects.

6. Complaints and orders—Procedures for processing; failure to comply; liens.

- a. Whenever a petition is filed with the public officer by at least five residents of the county charging that any dwelling is unfit for human habitation as a result of fire or natural disaster, or whenever it appears to the public officer (on his own motion) that any dwelling is unfit for human habitation as a result of fire or natural disaster, the public officer shall, if his preliminary investigation discloses a basis for such charges, issue and cause to be served upon the owner of, and all parties in interest in, such dwelling a complaint stating the charges in that respect and containing a notice that a hearing will be held before the public officer or his designated agent at a place therein fixed not less than ten (10) days nor more than thirty (30) days after the service of such complaint. The owner and parties in interest shall be given the right to file an answer to the complaint and to appear in person or otherwise and give testimony at the place and time fixed in the complaint. The rules of evidence prevailing in courts of law or equity shall not be controlling in hearings before the public officer.
- b. If, after such notice and hearing, the public officer determines that the dwelling under consideration is unfit for human habitation as a result of fire or natural disaster, he shall state in writing his findings of fact in support of such determination and shall issue and cause to be served upon the owner thereof an order:
 - i. If the repair, alteration, or improvement of the dwelling can be made at a reasonable cost in relation to the value of the dwelling, requiring the owner, within the time specified in the order, to repair, alter or improve such dwelling to render it safe for human habitation or to vacate and close the dwelling as a human habitation; or
 - ii. If the repair, alteration, or improvement of the dwelling cannot be made at a reasonable cost, requiring the owner, within the time specified in the order, to remove or demolish such dwelling.
- c. If the owner fails to comply with an order to repair, alter, or improve or to vacate and close the dwelling, the public officer may cause such dwelling to be repaired, altered, or improved or to be vacated and closed. The public officer may cause to be posted on the main entrance of any dwelling so closed a placard with the following words: "This building is unfit for human habitation and occupancy is prohibited and unlawful."
- d. If the owner fails to comply with an order to remove or demolish the dwelling, the public officer may cause such dwelling to be removed or demolished.

- e. The amount of the cost of such repairs, alterations, or improvements, vacating and closing or removal or demolition by the public officer shall be a lien against the real property upon which such cost was incurred and shall be collectible in the same manner as county taxes.
- f. If a county in demolishing unfit dwellings as permitted by this section contracts with a third party not employed by the county to do the work, it must bid the work in conformity with the procurement code applicable to the county.

7. Same—Service; posting and filing copies.

Complaints or orders issued by the public officer pursuant to this article shall be served upon persons either personally or by registered mail, but if the whereabouts of such persons is unknown and cannot be ascertained by the public officer in the exercise of reasonable diligence and the public officer shall make an affidavit to that effect, the service of such complaint or order upon such persons may be made by publishing it once each week for two consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the county. A copy of such complaint or order shall be posted in a conspicuous place on the premises affected by the complaint or order. A copy of such complaint or order shall also be filed with the Clerk of Court for the county. Such filing of the complaint or order shall have the same force and effect as other lis pendens notices provided by law.

8. Rights of persons affected by orders.

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

9. Sale of material of removed or demolished dwelling.

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

10. Power of county to declare nuisances not impaired.

Nothing contained in this article shall be construed to impair or limit in any way the power of the county to define and declare nuisances and to cause their normal removal or abatement by summary proceedings or otherwise.

11. Provisions are cumulative.

The powers conferred by this article shall be in addition and supplemental to the powers conferred by any other law to the county in relation to the subject matter hereof.

12. Penalties:

Any violation of this article shall be a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, is punishable to full extent of the jurisdictional limits of magistrate courts located in the county. Additionally, or alternatively, the county may pursue civil litigation to compel compliance, including the pursuit of injunctive relief, damages, and other available relief.

PUBLISHER'S AFFIDAVIT

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF OCONEE

OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL

IN RE: Council Meetings

BEFORE ME the undersigned, a Notary Public for the State and County above named, This day personally came before me, Hal Welch, who being first duly sworn according to law, says that he is the General Manager of **THE JOURNAL**, a newspaper published Tuesday through Saturday in Seneca, SC and distributed in **Oconee County, Pickens County** and the Pendleton area of **Anderson County** and the notice (of which the annexed is a true copy) was inserted in said papers on 01/06/2023 and the rate charged therefore is not in excess of the regular rates charged private individuals for similar insertions.



Hal Welch
General Manager

Subscribed and sworn to before me this
01/06/2023



Jessica Wells
Notary Public
State of South Carolina
My Commission Expires November 13, 2030



Jessica Lee Wells
NOTARY PUBLIC
State of South Carolina
My Commission Expires
November 13, 2030

LEGAL S

The Oconee County Council will meet in 2023 on the first and third Tuesday of each month with the following exceptions:

• July & August meetings, which will be only on the third Tuesday of each of these months;

• December meeting, which will be only the first Tuesday of the month. All Council meetings, unless otherwise noted, are held in Council Chambers, Oconee County Administrative Offices, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, South Carolina.

Oconee County Council will also hold a Planning Retreat beginning at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, February 24, 2023 in Council Chambers to establish short and long term goals. Oconee County Council will also meet on Tuesday, January 2, 2024 in Council Chambers at which point they will establish their 2024 Council and Committee meeting schedules.

Oconee County Council will also hold a Budget workshop on Friday, March 24, 2023 in Council Chambers.

Additional Council meetings, workshops, and/or committee meetings may be added throughout the year as needed.

Oconee County Council Committees will meet in 2023 prior to County Council meetings on the following dates/times in Council Chambers located at 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, South Carolina unless otherwise advertised.

The Law Enforcement, Public Safety, Health, & Welfare Committee at 4:30 p.m. on the following



Find the home that's right for YOU!

THE JOURNAL

U-STOR-IT

Mini Warehouse

Inside • Outside • No Cameras
Fenced • Not Gated • Lighted

Old Clemson Hwy.

654-1000

HELP WANTED

ACCOUNTING MANAGER

Needed to Manage Accounting, Business Services & Administrative Duties

THE MASTER WOOD SHOP

CUSTOM MADE FURNITURE, CABINETS & REPAIR WORK

50 YRS. EXPERIENCE

864-965-81

HOME IMPROVEM

A Touch of F

Gas Logs & Fireplace Se



Fireplace Construct

Gas Lines & Logs Installation

Wood Stoves & Gas Appliances Inst

VETERAN'S DISCOUNT

"We Will Beat Any Competitors Price"

Insured & Certified

Call or Email Andre

864-888-732

Elwood8323@AOL

Got Some Spring Repair Projects?

Oconee County Council

Oconee County
Administrative Offices
415 South Pine Street
Walhalla, SC 29691

Phone: 864-718-1023
Fax: 864 718-1024

E-mail:
jennifercadams@oconeesc.com

John Elliott
District I

Matthew Durham
Chairman
District II

Don Mize
Vice Chairman
District III

Julian Davis, III
District IV

J. Glenn Hart
Chairman Pro Tem
District V



The Oconee County Council will meet in 2023 on the first and third Tuesday of each month with the following exceptions:

- July & August meetings, which will be **only** on the third Tuesday of each of these months;
- December meeting, which will be **only** the first Tuesday of the month.

All Council meetings, unless otherwise noted, are held in Council Chambers, Oconee County Administrative Offices, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, South Carolina.

Oconee County Council will also hold a Planning Retreat beginning at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, February 24, 2023 in Council Chambers to establish short and long term goals.

Oconee County Council will also meet on Tuesday, January 2, 2024 in Council Chambers at which point they will establish their 2024 Council and Committee meeting schedules.

Oconee County Council will also hold a Budget workshop on Friday, March 24, 2023 in Council Chambers.

Additional Council meetings, workshops, and/or committee meetings may be added throughout the year as needed.

Oconee County Council Committees will meet in 2023 prior to County Council meetings on the following dates/times in Council Chambers located at 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, South Carolina unless otherwise advertised.

The Law Enforcement, Public Safety, Health, & Welfare Committee at 4:30 p.m. on the following dates: February 21, May 16, July 18, & September 19, 2023.

The Transportation Committee at 4:30 p.m. on the following dates: February 21, May 16, July 18, & September 19, 2023.

The Real Estate, Facilities, & Land Management Committee at 4:30 p.m. on the following dates: March 21, June 6, August 15, & October 17, 2023.

The Planning & Economic Development Committee at 4:30 p.m. on the following dates: March 21, June 6, August 15, & October 17, 2023.

The Budget, Finance, & Administration Committee at 9:00 a.m. on the following dates: February 24 [Strategic Planning Retreat] & March 24 [Budget Workshop] and 4:30 p.m. on the following dates: March 7, April 18, & May 2, 2023.

OCONEE CODE OF ORDINANCES

Sec. 2-61. - Access to and conduct at county meetings, facilities and property.

(a) *Purpose.* The county council has determined that it is necessary to regulate access to county facilities, grounds and property in order to ensure the safety and security of the public who visit these areas or the county employees who serve them. The conduct of persons who visit county facilities and/or who have contact with county employees must also be regulated to preserve public order, peace and safety. The regulation of access and conduct must be balanced with the right of the public to have reasonable access to public facilities and to receive friendly, professional service from county employees. These regulations apply to all county facilities and meetings, as defined below, for and over which county council exercises control and regulation, and to the extent, only, not preempted by state or federal law.

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

Facility means any building, structure, or real property owned, leased, rented, operated or occupied by the county or one of its departments, offices or agencies.

Meeting means any assemblage of persons for the purpose of conducting county governmental business, operations or functions or any assemblage of persons within a county governmental facility. The term "meeting" includes, but is not limited to, county council meetings, county board and committee and staff meetings, trials, hearings and other proceedings conducted in the courts of general sessions and common pleas, family court, master-in-equity, probate court and magistrate's court; and other meetings by entities duly authorized by the county council.

(c) *Prohibited acts.* It shall be unlawful for any person to:

- (1) Utter loud, obscene, profane, threatening, disruptive or abusive language or to engage in any disorderly or disruptive conduct that impedes, disrupts or disturbs the orderly proceedings of any meeting, or operations of any department or function of the county government, including, without limitation, speaking when not explicitly recognized and authorized to do so by the presiding official in such meeting.
- (2) Bring, carry, or otherwise introduce any firearm, knife with blade longer than two inches or other dangerous weapon, concealed or not concealed, into any facility or meeting. This prohibition does not apply to law enforcement personnel or any other person whose official, governmental duties require them to carry such firearm, knife, or other weapon.
- (3) Engage in partisan political activity, including speech, in any meeting not authorized and called for the purpose of partisan political activity and explicitly authorized for such purpose in the facility in which such activity is to be conducted, or refusing to cease such activity when the presiding official of the meeting in question has ruled that the activity in question is partisan political activity and has directed that such activity stop.
- (4) Interfere with, impede, hinder or obstruct any county governmental official or employee in the performance of his duties, whether or not on county government property.
- (5) Enter any area of a county government facility, grounds or property when such entry is prohibited by signs, or obstructed or enclosed by gates, fencing or other physical barriers. Such areas include rooms if clearly marked with signs to prohibit unauthorized entry.
- (6) Enter by vehicle any area of a county governmental facility, grounds or property when such area is prohibited by signs or markings or are obstructed by physical barriers; or park a vehicle in such restricted areas; or park in a manner to block, partially block or impede the passage of traffic in driveways; or park within 15 feet of a fire hydrant or in a fire zone; or park in any area not designated as a parking space; or park in a handicapped parking space without proper placarding or license plate; or park in a reserved parking space without authorization.

- (7) Use any county governmental facility, grounds or other property for any purpose not authorized by law or expressly permitted by officials responsible for the premises.
 - (8) Enter without authorization or permission or refuse to leave any county governmental facility, grounds or other property after hours of operation.
 - (9) Obstruct or impede passage within a building, grounds or other property of any county governmental facility.
 - (10) Enter, without legal cause or good excuse, a county governmental facility, grounds or property after having been warned not to do so; or, having entered such property, fail and refuse without legal cause or good excuse to leave immediately upon being ordered or requested to do so by an official, employee, agent or representative responsible for premises.
 - (11) Damage, deface, injure or attempt to damage, deface or injure a county governmental property, whether real property or otherwise.
 - (12) Enter or attempt to enter any restricted or nonpublic ingress point or any restricted access area, or bypass or attempt to bypass the designated public entrance or security checkpoint of a facility without authorization or permission.
 - (13) Perform any act which circumvents, disables or interferes with or attempts to circumvent, disable or interfere with a facility's security system, alarm system, camera system, door lock or other intrusion prevention or detection device. This includes, without limitation, opening, blocking open, or otherwise disabling an alarmed or locked door or other opening that would allow the entry of an unauthorized person into a facility or restricted access area of the facility.
 - (14) Exit or attempt to exit a facility through an unauthorized egress point or alarmed door.
- (d) *Penalty for violation of section.* Any person violating the provisions of this section shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be punished in accordance with section 1-7. In addition, vehicles that are improperly parked on any county property, facility, or other premises may be towed at the owner's expense.

(Ord. No. 2003-04, §§ 1—4, 4-15-2003; Ord. No. 2012-06, § 1, 4-3-2012)