

## Chapter 12 ENVIRONMENT<sup>1</sup>

### ARTICLE I. IN GENERAL

**Secs. 12-1—12-30. Reserved.**

### ARTICLE II. NOISE<sup>2</sup>

#### Sec. 12-31. 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. Except as otherwise provided, all words in this article shall be given their ordinary and customary meaning.

*Ambient noise* means the generally prevailing sound or combination of sounds at the location where a listener receives the sound of the noise about which a complaint is being made. It is the sound or combination of sounds which a person of ordinary sensibilities would reasonably expect to encounter at the location in the ordinary and customary use of the premises.

*County* means Oconee County, South Carolina.

*County administrator* means the county administrator for Oconee County, South Carolina.

(Ord. No. 2016-20, § 1(Att. A), 5-16-2017)

#### Sec. 12-32. Prohibited noise generally.

Any noise of such character, intensity, or duration which substantially interferes with the comfortable enjoyment of persons of ordinary sensibilities occupying, owning, or controlling nearby properties or of persons

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<sup>1</sup>Cross reference(s)—Animals, ch. 4; dangerous animals, § 4-7; buildings and building regulations, ch. 6; fire hazards and hazardous materials, chemicals and substances, § 14-71 et seq.; floods, ch. 16; parks and recreation, ch. 22; planning and development, ch. 24; roads and bridges, ch. 26; solid waste management, ch. 28; unified performance standards, ch. 32; utilities, ch. 34.

State law reference(s)—Environmental protection and conservation generally, S.C. Code 1976, title 48.

<sup>2</sup>Editor's note(s)—Ord. No. 2016-20, § 1(Att. A), adopted May 16, 2017, amended Art. II in its entirety to read as herein set out. Former Art. II, §§ 12-31—12-36, pertained to similar subject matter, and derived from Ord. No. 1998-02, §§ 1—6, adopted Apr. 28, 1998; Ord. No. 2009-28, §§ 1—4, adopted Feb. 3, 2010; and Ord. No. 2015-09, § 1(Att. A), adopted Mar. 17, 2015.

State law reference(s)—Authority to abate nuisances created by the operation of business establishments in an excessively noisy manner, S.C. Code 1976, § 4-9-30(16.2).

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making use of public properties for their intended purposes, is hereby declared to be unlawful and to be a nuisance, and is prohibited.

(Ord. No. 2016-20, § 1(Att. A), 5-16-2017)

### **Sec. 12-33. Standard of reasonableness and use of technology.**

It is the intent of the county in regulating noise to take into account the latest scientific advances in noise measurement and control while at the same time preserving common sense and common law determinations of what constitutes a disturbance or public nuisance. Therefore, technological sound level measurements, while desirable, shall not be required to demonstrate a violation of this article or any other ordinance or statute which establishes the creation of disturbance or public nuisance. Additionally, decibel level measurements less than those specified in this article may nonetheless establish a violation of this article when due regard is made for the time, place, and circumstances of the noise. In order for measurement requirements to be omitted, however, there must be three or more independent and individual complaints registered or one or more independent and individual complaint when combined with the complaint of the law enforcement officer.

(Ord. No. 2016-20, § 1(Att. A), 5-16-2017)

### **Sec. 12-34. Specific noises prohibited.**

- (a) *Operation of certain instruments, devices and equipment.* Nuisance noises shall include, but not be limited to, the use or operation of the following instruments, devices, or pieces of equipment when operated in the manner prohibited by section 12-32:
- (1) Musical instruments.
  - (2) Radios, receivers, stereos, televisions, disc players, tape players, and comparable mechanical and electronic devices which produce sound.
  - (3) Loudspeakers, amplifiers, or other devices which enhance or influence the level of sound in any way.
  - (4) Mechanical devices operating by compressed air, such as pneumatic drills and jackhammers.
  - (5) Horns, sirens, and signal devices using loud, brash, or harassing noises, whether on vehicles or otherwise.
  - (6) Motorized vehicles in operation, regardless of location, without mufflers or with ineffective mufflers or when there is rapid throttle advancing ("revving").
  - (7) The human voice when used to yell, shout, scream or the like.
  - (8) When operated between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 6:59 a.m., construction machinery, heavy duty equipment, used in street repair and maintenance, domestic and commercial power tools, and the like, unless a permit is obtained.
  - (9) Fireworks which are detonated within the exterior property line and in close proximity to a dwelling or occupied structure without consent of the person in control of the premises; detonation of carbide cannons, black powder or smokeless powder devices, or any explosive device or compound which when detonated causes a report which exceeds that caused by lawfully acquired fireworks and which disturbs the public peace. This subsection shall not apply to lawfully acquired fireworks which are detonated on the Fourth of July, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve or New Year's Day.
- (b) *Continuous or repeated noises.* Regardless of the level of sound, the following, by way of example and not limitation, shall be deemed a nuisance and shall be prohibited under section 12-32:

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- (1) To keep any animal, including a bird, causing a frequent or long continued noise, such as barking, howling, or screeching, disturbing the comfort and repose of any person of ordinary sensibilities in the immediate vicinity.
  - (2) To install or operate a burglar alarm system which uses an audible warning or bell without a functioning device that will shut off the warning or bell within 20 minutes after application of the system when the alarm cannot be readily or conveniently silenced manually by persons who are disturbed by its activation. Each activation of such an alarm that continues beyond 20 minutes shall be deemed a separate offense.

(Ord. No. 2016-20, § 1(Att. A), 5-16-2017)

### **Sec. 12-35. Exemptions.**

The following noises shall be exempt from the prohibitions of section 12-32:

- (1) This article does not apply to noise emanating from industrial, warehouse, distribution, and manufacturing activities and facilities and operations related thereto, governmental activities, emergency signal devices, firearms discharges as a result of lawful game hunting or lawfully operating shooting ranges, agricultural activities (including livestock), parades, carnivals, school band practice or performances, and school or government sponsored athletic events.
- (2) Other code provisions notwithstanding, the sound produced by construction machinery, heavy duty equipment, and machines and equipment used for construction, repair, cleaning and maintenance of buildings, streets, or public or private premises when operated between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 9:59 p.m. Such devices shall nevertheless be subject to the administrative stop order provisions of section 12-38.
- (3) The sound produced by horns, sirens, and alarms used with authorized emergency vehicles or otherwise used as safety devices to alert persons to danger or attempted crime; however, this exemption shall not apply to improperly operating burglar alarms as identified in section 12-34.2.b.
- (4) The sound produced by emergency repair measures necessary to restore public utilities, or to restore property to a safe condition, or to protect persons or property from imminent danger following an emergency, accident, or natural disaster.
- (5) The sound produced by bells or chimes or other carillon instruments when used to signify the passage of hour, half-hour, or quarter hour components, or to commemorate a wedding, funeral, or similar event, including regular religious services, provided the sounds do not exceed five continuous minutes in duration in any one hour period.
- (6) The sound produced by the following, provided there is compliance with all federal laws applicable to the noise:
  - a. Aircraft in flight or in operation at an airport;
  - b. Railroad equipment in operation on railroad rights-of-way; or
  - c. Motor vehicles, otherwise in lawful operation, on all public streets and highways.
- (7) The sound of water splashing produced by any waterfall, stream, decorative water fountain, or irrigation device when established or operated in an ordinary and customary manner.
- (8) Additionally, this article does not apply to noise between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 9:59 p.m. which emanates from lawn and yard maintenance activities, tree harvesting or clearing, or explosives for construction and land clearing.

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- (9) The unamplified sound emanating from a ballpark, playing field, stadium, or comparable outdoor facility designed and intended for recreational or sports activity when used for organized exhibitions or participatory sports or recreational activities.
  - (10) Any lawful business operating as of the date of this article that is not in compliance with this article and does not fall under exceptions set out in this article shall have six months from the date of the ordinance from which this article derives to come into compliance with this article.

(Ord. No. 2016-20, § 1(Att. A), 5-16-2017)

### **Sec. 12-36. Enforcement factors.**

In the enforcement of this article, an enforcement officer may be required to exercise judgment in determining if a particular noise is sufficiently loud or otherwise so offensive that it would substantially interfere with persons occupying nearby public or private property. When making such determinations, the enforcement officer may consider the following and other relevant factors:

- (1) The volume of the noise.
- (2) The intensity of the noise.
- (3) Whether the nature of the noise is usual or unusual.
- (4) Whether the origin of the noise is natural or unnatural.
- (5) The type and intensity of ambient noise, if any.
- (6) The nature and zoning of the area in which the noise is heard.

(Ord. No. 2016-20, § 1(Att. A), 5-16-2017)

### **Sec. 12-37. Special permits.**

- (a) Entertainment or recreational events. Whenever the county administrator or his designee issues, on a temporary basis, special permits for events of an entertainment or recreational nature, then those events shall be exempt from the prohibitions of this article, provided noise is otherwise regulated in the supervision of the activity and provided that the permit shall be subject to revocation at the discretion of the county administrator or his designee on the basis of violation of permit conditions or excessive or inappropriate noise. Whenever such revocation occurs, the activities of the event shall then become subject to the prohibitions of this article.
- (b) Construction or maintenance operations. The county administrator or his designee may issue a permit exempting specific construction, solid waste pickup arrangements, and maintenance of public streets and rights-of-way from the prohibitions of this article otherwise applicable to nighttime (10:00 p.m. to 6:59 a.m.) activity, provided the person seeking such permit can make a showing that no reasonable alternatives exist to creating the noise at night and the activity involved is compatible with the public interest.
- (c) Specific and limited permits may be issued and allowed, upon request for the purposes of public enjoyment, celebrations, concerts, performances, and holidays and to promote interest and tourism in the county. Noise ordinance standards for such events shall be allowed, measured, and enforced at the furthestmost boundary line of the event grounds and shall be regulated to a maximum of 85 decibels A weighted, averaged per minute.

(Ord. No. 2016-20, § 1(Att. A), 5-16-2017)

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### **Sec. 12-38. Administrative stop orders.**

The county administrator or his designee may issue administrative stop orders to prohibit temporarily or to reschedule activities otherwise exempt under this article, when the continuation of the activity imposes a great hardship or substantial and aggravating inconvenience upon persons reasonably occupying or utilizing nearby premises, provided such administrative stop order is not used to prohibit completely an otherwise lawful activity and the county administrator or his designee gives due consideration to balancing the hardships involved.

(Ord. No. 2016-20, § 1(Att. A), 5-16-2017)

### **Sec. 12-39. Measurement of noise level; establishment of prima facie violation.**

- (a) A prima facie violation of section 12-32 shall be established whenever a measurement of the offending noise shall be taken in accordance with this article and shown to produce a level of noise in excess of 70 decibels ("dB(A)") between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 9:59 p.m. or in excess of 60 ("dB(A)") between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 6:59 a.m. Any sound exceeding such levels is hereby declared a nuisance and is prohibited.
- (b) The inference established by subsection 12-39(a) shall be subject to rebuttal based on the time, place, and circumstances of the occurrence.
- (c) Noise levels identified shall be measured in decibels and A-weighted, with the unit of measurement being designated as dB(A). For the purpose of determining dB(A)s, the noise shall be measured on the A-weighting scale and the slow meter response on a sound level meter of standard design and quality having characteristics established by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI).
- (d) Measurements shall be taken so as to provide a reasonable representation of the sound being measured with due regard to the location where the noise is heard by any person making a complaint. If no complaint has been made, enforcement officers shall measure the noise from a point approximately 100 feet from the point from which the noise is emanating. Precise positioning of the meter, however, is not required.

(Ord. No. 2016-20, § 1(Att. A), 5-16-2017)

### **Sec. 12-40. Enforcement procedures; penalty; additional remedies.**

- (a) With respect to suspected ordinance violations resulting from vehicle noise, law enforcement officers shall have the authority to charge persons under the provisions of this article without having received a complaint from a member of the public.
- (b) Law enforcement officers in the ordinary course of their duties shall have the authority to request compliance with the provisions of this article without having received a complaint from a member of the public.
- (c) Law enforcement officers may take any one of the following actions in accordance with this article:
  - (1) Warn the offender, who will then have the opportunity to immediately abate the offending noise without penalty. If the violation continues or reoccurs, the officer may cite or arrest the violator. A warning and opportunity to abate the offending noise is not required, however, if the officer deems citation or arrest immediately necessary under the circumstances then present.
  - (2) Issue a courtesy summons or other properly authorized citation device for the offender to appear in a magistrate court.
  - (3) Make a custodial arrest.

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(Ord. No. 2016-20, § 1(Att. A), 5-16-2017)

**Sec. 12-41. Owner responsibility.**

No property owner shall allow a violation of this article to be created or maintained on or at his property. A property owner shall be responsible and liable for any violation(s) of this article by tenants, guests, licensees, or other occupants in, on, or at the owner's property if the owner is present at the time of the violation(s) or has actual or constructive knowledge of a potential violation.

(Ord. No. 2016-20, § 1(Att. A), 5-16-2017)

**Sec. 12-42. Penalties.**

Any person violating any provision of this article shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and shall for every offense be punished in accordance with section 1-7. Each day on which there is a violation, or every separate and distinct event constituting a violation, of this article shall constitute a separate and distinct violation and offense under this article. The county may also seek injunctive or other relief, as appropriate.

(Ord. No. 2016-20, § 1(Att. A), 5-16-2017)

**Secs. 12-43—12-70. Reserved.**

***ARTICLE III. SMOKING<sup>3</sup>***

**Sec. 12-71. Findings and purpose.**

- (a) The county council does hereby find that:
- (1) Numerous studies have shown that tobacco smoke is a major contributor to indoor air pollution.
  - (2) Reliable studies have shown that breathing secondhand smoke is a cause of disease, including lung cancer, in healthy nonsmokers. At special risk are elderly people, individuals with cardiovascular disease, and individuals with impaired respiratory function, including asthmatics and those with airway disease.
  - (3) Health hazards induced by breathing secondhand smoke include lung cancer, respiratory infection, decreased respiratory function, bronchoconstriction and bronchospasm.
- (b) Accordingly, the county council finds and declares that the purpose of this article is to protect the public health and welfare by prohibiting smoking and the possession of lighted smoking materials in county government buildings and county vehicles. The term "government buildings" shall mean buildings or portions thereof which are owned, leased or operated under the control of the county except those buildings or portions thereof which are leased to other organizations or corporations.

(Ord. No. 1990-08, § II, 7-17-1990)

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<sup>3</sup>State law reference(s)—Clean Indoor Air Act of 1990, S.C. Code 1976, § 44-95-10 et seq.

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**Sec. 12-72. Application of article to government buildings and vehicles.**

All enclosed facilities and vehicles owned by the county shall be subject to the provisions of this article.  
(Ord. No. 1990-08, § III, 7-17-1990)

Cross reference(s)—Buildings and building regulations, ch. 6.

State law reference(s)—Smoking prohibited in government buildings, S.C. Code 1976, § 44-95-20(4).

**Sec. 12-73. Prohibition of smoking in government buildings and vehicles.**

Smoking shall be prohibited in all enclosed buildings and government vehicles with the following exceptions:

- (1) Vehicles occupied only by smokers;
- (2) Exceptions made by the county council on an individual basis upon written request after the requester has demonstrated to the satisfaction of the county council that the passive smoke generated thereby will not affect nonsmokers.

(Ord. No. 1990-08, § IV, 7-17-1990)

State law reference(s)—Places where smoking prohibited, S.C. Code 1976, § 44-95-20.

**Sec. 12-74. Prohibition of the use of smokeless tobacco in county buildings or enclosed vehicles.**

The use of smokeless tobacco in all enclosed government buildings and government vehicles is hereby prohibited.

(Ord. No. 1990-08, § V, 7-17-1990)

**Sec. 12-75. Violations by county employees.**

A violation of this article by county employees shall be an act of insubordination and shall subject the employee to disciplinary action in accordance with the personnel policy of the county. Any disciplinary action taken shall be in addition to the monetary penalties provided in section 12-76 that are applicable to any and all persons found violating this article.

(Ord. No. 1990-08, § VI, 7-17-1990)

**Sec. 12-76. Penalties for violation of this article.**

Any person found violating this article shall be fined not less than \$10.00 nor more than \$25.00 for each violation.

(Ord. No. 1990-08, § VII, 7-17-1990)

State law reference(s)—Similar provisions, S.C. Code 1976, § 44-95-50.

**Secs. 12-77—12-171. Reserved.**

## **ARTICLE IV. LITTER CONTROL<sup>4</sup>**

### **Sec. 12-172. Name.**

This article shall be known as the "Litter Control Ordinance of Oconee County, South Carolina."  
(Ord. No. 2018-17, § 1(Att. A), 7-17-2018; Ord. No. 2021-09, § 1(Att. A), 5-18-2021)

### **Sec. 12-173. Purpose.**

It is the purpose of this article to establish standards for the control of litter in the unincorporated areas of Oconee County ("county"), to establish penalties as are necessary to discourage violations of these standards, and to provide for the recovery of costs incurred by the county in enforcing the provisions contained herein.  
(Ord. No. 2018-17, § 1(Att. A), 7-17-2018; Ord. No. 2021-09, § 1(Att. A), 5-18-2021)

### **Sec. 12-174. Authority.**

This article is adopted pursuant to the provisions of S.C. Code §§ 4-9-25 and 4-9-30 and as authorized by any other applicable local, state, and federal law.  
(Ord. No. 2018-17, § 1(Att. A), 7-17-2018; Ord. No. 2021-09, § 1(Att. A), 5-18-2021)

### **Sec. 12-175. Definitions.**

For purposes of this article the following definitions apply:

*Enforcement officer* means a duly authorized law enforcement officer of Oconee County, including, but not limited to, all law enforcement officers and deputies employed by the Oconee County Sheriff's Department and designated code enforcement officers employed by the county.

*Litter* means all solid waste material including but not limited to disposable packages or containers, trash, garbage or refuse, but not including the wastes of the primary processes of mining, logging, sawmilling or farming, which is not stored in secure solid waste receptacles or which is otherwise not held or disposed of in a manner consistent with local, state, or federal law.

*Littering* means the act of dumping, throwing, dropping, depositing, discarding, placing, or in any way disposing of litter upon public or private property within the jurisdictional boundaries of Oconee County. Lawful recycling is excluded from this definition of litter.

*Open dump* means a land disposal site for solid waste which does not qualify as a sanitary landfill.

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<sup>4</sup>Editor's note(s)—Sec. 1(Att. A) of Ord. No. 2018-17, adopted July 17, 2018, amended art. IV in its entirety to read as herein set out. Former art. IV pertained to the same subject matter, consisted of §§ 12-172—12-179, and derived from Ord. No. 2006-10, adopted May 1, 2006.

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*Person* means an individual, corporation, company, association, partnership, unit of local government, state agency, federal agency, or other legal entity.

*Recyclable materials* means those materials which are capable of being recycled, which would otherwise be processed or disposed of as solid waste.

*Recycling* means any process by which recyclable materials are collected, separated, processed, and reused or returned to use in the form of raw materials or products.

*Solid waste* means any garbage, refuse, sludge, and other discarded material, including solid, liquid, semi-solid, or contained gaseous material, resulting from industrial, commercial, residential, mining, and agricultural operations and from community activities.

*Solid waste receptacle* means all containers, boxes, barrels, and other devices that allow for the sanitary, safe, secure, and orderly temporary storage of solid waste.

*State* means the State of South Carolina.

(Ord. No. 2018-17, § 1(Att. A), 7-17-2018; Ord. No. 2021-09, § 1(Att. A), 5-18-2021)

### **Sec. 12-176. Application—Prohibition of litter.**

- (1) Littering, as defined in this article, is strictly prohibited within the geographic boundaries of the county.
- (2) The provisions and prohibitions of this article apply to depositing solid waste or recyclable materials at or around any county solid waste facility ("facility") in an area not specified for the deposited materials, including, but not limited to, leaving materials outside the fence of a facility, tossing materials over the fence of a facility, dumping materials not suitable for mulch at the county mulching yard, or dumping materials suitable for the mulching yard at another facility.
- (4) The provisions of this article do not apply to the dumping on private property with the owner's permission of sand, dirt, broken bricks, concrete blocks or broken concrete, pavement, or other suitable materials which do not create a nuisance or health hazard, provided such dumping is otherwise consistent with local, state, and federal laws, and further provided that such materials are not mixed with any other type of material. Open dumping is, however, prohibited.
- (5) The responsibility for the removal of litter from a property shall be upon the person responsible for littering the property. If, however, the person responsible for littering the property is unknown or there is no conviction of a person for the violation in question, then the owner of the property shall be responsible for removing the litter.
- (6) In the event litter is moved by wind or other force of nature from one property onto another property, the owner of the property of origin shall be held responsible for clean-up and removal.
- (7) If any litter can be identified as having last belonged to, or been in the possession of, any person prior to its being disposed of as prohibited herein, such identification shall be prima facie evidence that such person littered in violation of this article.
- (8) Whenever litter is thrown, placed, deposited, dropped, dumped, or cast from any motor vehicle, boat, or other conveyance, the operator of the conveyance shall be presumed to have violated this article.
- (9) Persons placing solid waste in solid waste receptacles shall do so in such manner as to prevent it from being carried or deposited by the elements or by animals upon any public or private property. Solid waste receptacles shall not be placed or positioned in a manner which may constitute a public nuisance or obstruction.

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- (10) No person shall drive or move any vehicle, including a trailer, within the county that has been loaded with solid waste unless such solid waste is covered or otherwise securely loaded in such a manner as to prevent littering, including leakage or spillage.
  - (11) Property owners determined by the magistrate's court, or court of competent jurisdiction, to be liable for removal of litter may request the court's referral to the county litter mitigation committee for financial assistance from the county "litter mitigation fund," created in section 12-177 of this article.

(Ord. No. 2018-17, § 1(Att. A), 7-17-2018; Ord. No. 2021-09, § 1(Att. A), 5-18-2021)

### **Sec. 12-177. Reserved.**

Editor's note(s)—Ord. No. 2018-17, adopted July 17, 2018, reserved § 12-177, which pertained to the litter mitigation fund.

### **Sec. 12-178. Enforcement, penalties, and fines.**

#### **(1) Enforcement.**

- (a) Enforcement of the provisions of this article shall be carried out by duly authorized code enforcement or law enforcement officers, including, but not limited to, all law enforcement officers and deputies employed by the Oconee County Sheriff's Office and designated code enforcement officers employed by the county. In addition to the powers of law enforcement officers to enforce this ordinance, Oconee County Code Enforcement Officers are authorized to:
  - (i) Cause the inspection of any public or private property within the unincorporated limits of the county whenever it shall be necessary to enforce the provisions of this article, such inspection to be done in a manner consistent with the Code Enforcement Officer's authority under South Carolina State Law.
  - (ii) Issue a uniform summons to any person violating the provisions of this article in their presence.
  - (iii) Serve written notice on the owner of a property containing litter, requiring abatement or removal of the litter within 15 calendar days.
- (b) Any property owner refusing or neglecting to abate or remove litter from property within 15 calendar days of receiving a written notice from a Code Enforcement Officer shall be served with a uniform summons and shall be subject to prosecution in accordance with subsection (2), below. In addition, the Code Enforcement Officer may cause the removal or abatement of such litter, with all expenses, including administrative expenses, incurred in abating or removing such litter recoverable from the owner of the property from which the litter is removed or abated, or from any person causing or maintaining the same, in the manner as debts or like amounts are now recoverable by law.

#### **(2) Penalties and fines.**

- (a) Any person violating the provisions of this article shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be fined not less than \$100.00 nor more than \$500.00 for each offense plus court costs (or up to 30 days in jail, or both).
- (b) In addition to the fine and/or term of imprisonment, the court must also impose, at a minimum, eight hours of litter-gathering labor or other form of community service. If a person violates the provisions of this article in an amount exceeding 15 pounds, the court must impose, at a minimum, 16 hours of litter-gathering labor or other form of community service in addition to the fine or term of imprisonment. The court may waive the community service portion of this penalty only in cases of incapacity, infirmity, or as otherwise determined by the court to be appropriate under the

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circumstances. If the community service portion of the penalty is waived, each hour of community service shall be replaced by an additional \$15.00 fine.

- (c) Further, the court may order any person violating the provisions of this article to pay restitution to the county or to the victims for the costs of removing or abating such litter.
- (d) One hundred percent of the fines collected by the county pursuant to this article shall be remitted to the Oconee County Sheriff's Office to help defray the cost of enforcing this article.
- (e) The magistrate's court shall have jurisdiction to enforce this article.

(Ord. No. 2018-17, § 1(Att. A), 7-17-2018; Ord. No. 2020-10, § 1, 8-18-2020; Ord. No. 2021-09, § 1(Att. A), 5-18-2021)

Sec. 16-91. - Definitions.

The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this division, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning. Except as otherwise provided, all words in this division shall be given their ordinary and customary meaning.

*Ambient noise* means the generally prevailing sound or combination of sounds at the location where a listener receives the sound of the noise about which a complaint is being made. It is the sound or combination of sounds which a person of ordinary sensibilities would reasonably expect to encounter at the location in the ordinary and customary use of the premises.

*Central business district (CBD)* means the downtown area, more particularly identified as zoning district C-4, as may from time to time be amended or adjusted under the city's zoning ordinances.

(Code 1985, § 7-2-12; Code 1997, § 16-91; Ord. No. 96-26, § 2(7-2-12(k)), 4-22-1996; Ord. No. 2004-11, 2-9-2004)

Sec. 16-92. - Prohibited noise generally.

Any noise of such character, intensity or duration which substantially interferes with the comfortable enjoyment of persons of ordinary sensibilities occupying, owning or controlling nearby properties, or persons making use of public properties for their intended purposes, is hereby declared to be unlawful and to be a nuisance, and is prohibited.

(Code 1985, § 7-2-12; Code 1997, § 16-92; Ord. No. 96-26, § 2(7-2-12(a)), 4-22-1996; Ord. No. 2004-11, 2-9-2004)

Sec. 16-93. - Standard of reasonableness and use of technology.

It is the intent of the city council in regulating noise to take into account the latest scientific advances in noise measurement and control while at the same time preserving the common sense and common law determination of what constitutes a disturbance or public nuisance. Therefore, technological sound level measurements, while desirable, shall not be required to demonstrate a violation of this division or any other ordinance or statute which establishes the creation of disturbance or public nuisance. Decibel level measurements less than those specified in this division may still establish a violation of this division when due regard is made for the time, place and circumstances of the noise.

(Code 1985, § 7-2-12; Code 1997, § 16-93; Ord. No. 96-26, § 2(7-2-12(b)), 4-22-1996; Ord. No. 2004-11, 2-9-2004)

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Sec. 16-94. - Specific noises prohibited.

- (a) *Operation of certain instruments, devices and equipment.* Nuisance noises shall include, but not be limited to, the use or operation of the following instruments, devices or pieces of equipment when operated in the manner prohibited by section 16-92:
- (1) Musical instruments.
  - (2) Radios, receivers, stereos, televisions, disc players, tape players and comparable mechanical and electronic devices which produce sound.
  - (3) Loudspeakers, amplifiers or other devices which enhance or influence the level of sound in any way.
  - (4) Mechanical devices operating by compressed air, such as pneumatic drills and jackhammers.
  - (5) Horns, sirens and signal devices using loud, brash or harassing noises, whether on vehicles or otherwise.
  - (6) Motorized vehicles in operation, regardless of location, without mufflers or with ineffective mufflers or when there is rapid throttle advancing ("revving").
  - (7) The human voice when used to yell, shout, scream or the like.
  - (8) When operated at night, construction machinery, heavy duty equipment used in street repair and maintenance, and domestic and commercial power tools, unless a permit is obtained.
- (b) *Continuous or repeated noises.* Regardless of the level of sound, the following shall be deemed a nuisance and shall be prohibited under section 16-92:
- (1) To keep any animal, including a bird, causing a frequent or long continued noise, such as barking, howling or screeching, disturbing the comfort and repose of any person of ordinary sensibilities in the immediate vicinity.
  - (2) To install or operate a burglar alarm system which uses an audible warning or bell without a functioning device that will shut off the warning or bell within 20 minutes after application of the system when the alarm cannot be readily or conveniently silenced manually by persons who are disturbed by its activation. Each activation of such an alarm that continues beyond 20 minutes shall be deemed a separate offense.

(Code 1985, § 7-2-12; Code 1997, § 16-94; Ord. No. 96-26, § 2(7-2-12(c), (d)), 4-22-1996; Ord. No. 2004-11, 2-9-2004)

Sec. 16-95. - Exemptions.

The following noises shall be exempt from the prohibitions of section 16-92, even when they cause a disturbance:

- (1) Other code provisions notwithstanding, the sound produced by construction machinery, heavy duty equipment, and machines and equipment used for construction, repair, cleaning, and maintenance of buildings, streets, or public or private premises when operated between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. Monday through Friday and between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. on Saturdays and 9:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. on Sundays. Such devices shall nevertheless be subject to the administrative stop order provisions of section 16-98.
- (2) The sound produced by horns, sirens and alarms used with authorized emergency vehicles or otherwise used as safety devices to alert persons to danger or attempted crime; however, this exemption shall not apply to improperly operating burglar alarms as identified in section 16-94(b) (2).
- (3) The sound produced by emergency repair measures necessary to restore public utilities, or to restore property to a safe condition, or to protect persons or property from imminent danger, following a fire, accident or natural disaster.
- (4) The sound produced by bells or chimes or other carillon instruments when used to signify the passage of hour, half-hour or quarter-hour components, or to commemorate a wedding, funeral or similar event, including regular religious services, provided the sounds do not exceed five continuous minutes in duration in any one-hour period.
- (5) The sound produced by the following, provided there is compliance with any federal regulations applicable to the noise:
  - a. Aircraft in flight or in operation at an airport;
  - b. Railroad equipment in operation on railroad rights-of-way; or
  - c. Motor vehicles, otherwise in lawful operation, on all public streets and highways.
- (6) The sound of water splashing produced by any waterfall, stream, decorative water fountain or irrigation device when established or operated in an ordinary and customary manner.
- (7) The unamplified sound emanating from a ballpark, playing field, stadium or comparable outdoor facility designed and intended for recreational or sports activity when used for organized exhibitions or participatory sports or recreational activities.

(Code 1985, § 7-2-12; Code 1997, § 16-95; Ord. No. 96-26, § 2(7-2-12(e)), 4-22-1996; Ord. No. 2004-11, 2-9-2004; Ord. No. 2014-80, 9-8-2014; Ord. No. 2021-21, § 1, 4-12-2021)

Sec. 16-96. - Enforcement factors.

In the enforcement of this division, an enforcement officer may be required to exercise judgment in determining if a particular noise is sufficiently loud or otherwise so offensive that it would substantially interfere with persons occupying nearby public or private property. When making such determinations, the enforcement officer may consider the following and other relevant factors:

- (1) The volume of the noise.
- (2) The intensity of the noise.
- (3) Whether the nature of the noise is usual or unusual.
- (4) Whether the origin of the noise is natural or unnatural.
- (5) The type and intensity of ambient noise, if any.
- (6) The nature and zoning of the area in which the noise is heard.

(Code 1985, § 7-2-12; Code 1997, § 16-96; Ord. No. 96-26, § 2(7-2-12(f)), 4-22-1996; Ord. No. 2004-11, 2-9-2004)

Sec. 16-97. - Special permits.

- (a) *Entertainment or recreational events.* Whenever the city manager or his designee issues, on a temporary basis, special permits for events of an entertainment or recreational nature, which are held in the central business district, parks, public buildings or elsewhere, then those events shall be exempt from the prohibitions of this division, provided noise is otherwise regulated in the supervision of the activity and provided that the permit shall be subject to revocation at the discretion of the city manager or his designee on the basis of excessive or inappropriate noise. Whenever such revocation occurs, the activities of the event shall then become subject to the prohibitions of this division.
- (b) *Construction or maintenance operations.* The city manager or his designee may issue a permit exempting specific construction, solid waste pickup arrangements and maintenance of public streets and rights-of-way from the prohibitions of this division otherwise applicable to nighttime activity, provided the person seeking such permit can make a showing that no reasonable alternatives exist to creating the noise at night and the activity involved is compatible with the public interest.

(Code 1985, § 7-2-12; Code 1997, § 16-97; Ord. No. 96-26, § 2(7-2-12(g)(1)), 4-22-1996; Ord. No. 2004-11, 2-9-2004)

Sec. 16-98. - Administrative stop orders.

The city manager or his designee may issue administrative stop orders to prohibit temporarily or to reschedule activities otherwise exempt under section 16-95 from the prohibitions of this division, when the continuation of the activity imposes a great hardship or substantial and aggravating inconvenience upon persons reasonably

occupying or utilizing nearby premises, provided such administrative stop order is not used to prohibit completely an otherwise lawful activity and the city manager or his designee gives due consideration to balancing the hardships involved.

(Code 1985, § 7-2-12; Code 1997, § 16-98; Ord. No. 96-26, § 2(7-2-12(g)(2)), 4-22-1996; Ord. No. 2004-11, 2-9-2004)

Sec. 16-99. - Special provisions for central business district.

Recognizing that the central business district is a place of mixed uses and close proximity, the intent of this division is that recognition be made of the fact that people occupying premises in the central business district must reasonably expect a greater likelihood of audible sounds from nearby locations than people residing in other districts. However, no person providing or permitting musical performances or other entertainment activities in the central business district should do so in a manner which causes undue hardship or disturbance of persons making lawful use of nearby premises, and the standards set forth in this division are a reasonable measure for determining undue hardship or disturbance in the central business district.

(Code 1985, § 7-2-12; Code 1997, § 16-99; Ord. No. 96-26, § 2(7-2-12(h)), 4-22-1996; Ord. No. 2004-11, 2-9-2004)

Sec. 16-100. - Measurement of noise level; establishment of prima facie violation.

- (a) A prima facie violation of section 16-92 shall be established whenever a measurement of the offending noise shall be taken in accordance with this division and shown to produce a level of noise in excess of the guidelines of the chart contained in this section. The inference established by the chart shall be subject to rebuttal based on the time, place and circumstances of the occurrence.
- (b) Noise levels identified in the chart of guidelines shall be measured in decibels and A-weighted, with the unit of measurement being designated as dB(A). For the purpose of determining dB(A)s, the noise shall be measured on the A-weighting scale and the slow meter response on a sound level meter of standard design and quality having characteristics established by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI).
- (c) Measurements recorded shall be taken so as to provide a reasonable representation of the sound being measured with due regard to the location on the premises where the noise is heard by any person making a complaint. Precise positioning of the meter is not required.
- (d) Guideline measurements establishing a prima facie violation are as follows:

Noise Limit	General, City-Wide	Central Business District
Day-time definition	7:00 a.m.— 10:00 p.m.	7:00 a.m.— 10:00 p.m.
Day-time noise limit	60	80
Night-time noise limit	55	75

NOTES:

(1) dB(A) readings on streets, sidewalks and public property in the central business district will be made at least 3 feet away from the privately owned premises from which the noise is generated, or 3 feet from the source if generated on public property.

(2) dB(A)\* readings in parks and recreational areas outside the central business district will be made at least 10 feet away from the location from which the noise is generated.

(Code 1985, § 7-2-12; Code 1997, § 16-100; Ord. No. 96-26, § 2(7-2-12(i)), 4-22-1996; Ord. No. 2004-11, 2-9-2004; Ord. No. 2023-65, § 1, 9-25-2023)

Sec. 16-101. - Enforcement procedures; penalty; additional remedies.

(a) With respect to suspected ordinance violations resulting from vehicle noise under section 16-94(a)(6), law enforcement officers shall have the authority to charge persons under the provisions of this division without having received a complaint from a member of the public or first requesting compliance with those divisions of this section. Persons violating that section shall be guilty of a violation of this division and shall be subject to a fine of not less than \$100.00 and not more than the maximum fine allowed by state law for violations of municipal ordinances, or imprisonment for not more than 30 days. The minimum fine may not be suspended. The city attorney may also seek injunctive relief, or any other appropriate remedy available at law or in equity, in a court of competent jurisdiction, to ensure compliance.

(b) With respect to all other violations resulting from violations of this division, law enforcement officers in the ordinary course of their duties shall have the discretion but are not required to request compliance with all requirements of this division, prior to initiating enforcement of the division. Persons violating sections other than section 16-94(a)(6) of the division shall be guilty of a violation of this division and shall be subject to a fine of not less than \$100.00 and not more than the maximum fine allowed by state law for violations of municipal ordinances, or imprisonment for not more than 30 days. The minimum fine may not be suspended. The city attorney may also seek injunctive relief, or any other appropriate remedy available at law or in equity, in a court of competent jurisdiction, to ensure compliance.

(Code 1985, § 7-2-12; Code 1997, § 16-101; Ord. No. 96-26, § 2(7-2-12(j)), 4-22-1996; Ord. No. 2004-11, 2-9-2004; Ord. No. 2023-65, § 1, 9-25-2023)

Secs. 16-102—16-130. - Reserved.

## ARTICLE IV: NOISE

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### Section

15-101 Noise measurement procedures and definitions

15-102 Prohibition

15-103 Citation of violators

15-104 Construction of article

15-104.1 Bass vibratory sounds prohibited

15-105 Penalties

15-106 Penalties and forfeiture, confiscation and disposition of sound equipment in motor vehicles

15-107—15-110 Reserved

### **§ 15-101 NOISE MEASUREMENT PROCEDURES AND DEFINITIONS.**

(a) It is the intent of the county council to incorporate into this article those standards of measurement hereinafter set forth, which will take into account the latest scientific advances in noise measurement and control while at the same time, preserving the common sense and common law determination of what constitutes a disturbance or public nuisance. Therefore, sound level measurements, while universally desirable, shall not be required to demonstrate violation of any other ordinance or statute which establishes the creation of a disturbance or public nuisance.

(b) Sound measurements shall utilize the peak intensity of sound, measured in decibels, the “A” frequency weighting and the “slow” response characteristic of a sound level meter conforming in all respects to the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) standard S 1.4-1071, as revised, for Type 1 or Type 2 instruments.

(c) The microphone used to measure the intensity of a noise may be placed at any point on the exterior property line of the complaining party and shall be at least 5 feet from any wall and not less than 3 feet above the ground. If it is not possible to measure 5 feet from a wall, a 5 dB variance will be allowed. In the case of multifamily dwellings, condominiums or other closely confined living areas, the exterior property line shall be considered the walls separating individual family units and the microphone shall be placed at least 5 feet from any wall and not less than 3 feet above the floor. In the case of vehicles or persons in common areas, public areas, roads, streets or highways, the exterior property line shall be considered the wall of any nearby dwelling unit or school and the microphone shall be placed at least 5 feet, but no more than 10 feet from the exterior side of the wall and not less than 3 feet above the ground.

(1976 Code, § 15-101) (Ord. 2110, § 1, passed 5-1-1990)

### **§ 15-102 PROHIBITION.**

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, association, partnership, joint venture, corporation or entity within any area of the county to use or operate any radio, receiving set, musical instrument, phonograph set, television set or other machine or device for producing or reproducing of sound or to create, assist in creating, permit, continue or permit the continuance of any noise to emanate beyond the exterior of property line of the complaining party, in excess of 70 decibels (dB) between the hours

## Greenville County Noise Ordinance

of 7:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. of 1 day or in excess of 60 decibels (dB) between the hours of 10:00 p.m. of 1 day and 7:00 a.m. of the following day. Notwithstanding the above, it shall further be unlawful for any person to play, use, operate or permit to be played, used or operated, any radio, cassette or CD player or any other sound producing device if the sound producing device is in any motor vehicle and the sound generated is audible at a distance of 50 feet from the device producing the sound.

(b) This article shall not apply to noise on construction sites, emergency signal devices, material handling by sanitation crews, licensed game hunting on property where it is allowed, refuse compacting vehicles, airport and airplane noise, and sounds emanating from governmental activities. This article shall also not apply to the conduct of agricultural or farming activities, tree harvesting or clearing, lawn and yard maintenance activities, parades, carnivals, and public social events which occur between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. of 1 day. Furthermore, this article is specifically not applicable to any lawfully established business or industry in Greenville County with the exception of business establishments where on-site consumption of alcoholic beverages occurs or is permitted.

(1976 Code, § 15-102) (Ord. 2110, § 2, passed 5-1-1990; Ord. 2599, § 2, passed 8-2-1994)

### **§ 15-103 CITATION OF VIOLATORS.**

The Greenville County Sheriff's Office, in cooperation with county government, shall enforce the provisions of this article. After receiving a complaint and upon a finding by an officer of a violation, any offender shall have an opportunity to immediately abate the offending noise without penalty. However, if the violation continues or reoccurs at any time, the offender shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished to the extent provided for in this article.

(1976 Code, § 15-103) (Ord. 2110, § 3, passed 5-1-1990)

### **§ 15-104 CONSTRUCTION OF ARTICLE.**

This article is hereby declared to be remedial, and shall be construed to secure the beneficial interests and purposes of public safety, health and general welfare. The county or sheriff's office nor any employee shall be liable in tort for damages sustained as a result of sound produced in excess of the requirements of this article. The provisions of this article shall not be held to deprive any county or state agency of any power or authority which it had on the effective date of this article or any remedy then existing for the enforcement of its orders, nor shall it deprive any individual, business or corporation of its legal rights as provided by law.

(1976 Code, § 15-104) (Ord. 2110, § 5, passed 5-1-1990)

### **§ 15-104.1 BASS VIBRATORY SOUNDS PROHIBITED.**

(a) *Prohibition.* The playing of any radio, phonograph, musical instrument, including other mechanical, electric, or electronic devices, which emit low bass vibratory sounds, in such a manner as to cause material distress, discomfort or injury to persons of ordinary sensibilities in any dwelling, hotel, or other type of residence is hereby declared to be a nuisance and is prohibited.

(b) *Evidence.* The complaints of 3 or more persons, or of 1 or more persons, when combined with the complaint of a law enforcement officer, is prima facie evidence that sound regulated by this article has been produced.

(c) *Violation.* A violation of this article shall be considered a misdemeanor and subject to the jurisdiction of the magistrate's court.

(1976 Code, § 15-104) (Ord. 2588, §§ 2-4, passed 6-21-1994)

### **§ 15-105 PENALTIES.**

Any person, firm, corporation or agent, who shall violate the provisions of this article shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished within the jurisdictional limits of magistrate's court. Each such person, firm, corporation or agent shall be deemed guilty of a separate offense for each and every day or portion thereof during which any violation of any of the provisions of this article is committed or continued.

(1976 Code, § 15-105) (Ord. 2110, § 6, passed 5-1-1990; Ord. 2626, § 3, passed 9-6-1994)

**§ 15-106 PENALTIES AND FORFEITURE, CONFISCATION AND DISPOSITION OF SOUND EQUIPMENT IN MOTOR VEHICLES.**

In lieu of the penalties enumerated in § 15-105, above, the penalty for a first conviction, guilty plea or plea of nolo contendere of the excessive noise from sound amplifying devices in motor vehicles ordinance shall be a fine not more than \$250. For a second conviction, guilty plea or plea of nolo contendere, the penalty shall be not more than \$500 or 30 days in jail. For a third conviction, guilty plea or plea of nolo contendere, the sound-producing device used during the offense must be forfeited. Upon an order from the court, following a conviction, guilty plea or plea of nolo contendere of a third offense, the defendant will, at his own expense, remove the sound amplifying device and deliver it to the Greenville County Sheriff's Office within 7 days of the date of conviction, guilty plea or plea of nolo contendere.

(1976 Code, § 15-106) (Ord. 2599, § 3, passed 8-2-1994; Ord. 4539, § 1, passed 2-19-2013)

**§§ 15-107—15-110 RESERVED.**

# THE JOURNAL

## PUBLISHER'S AFFIDAVIT

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF OCONEE


OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL


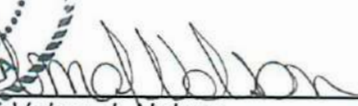
IN RE:

*BEFORE ME* the undersigned, a Notary Public for the State and County above named, This day personally came before me, Larry Davidson, 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

**January 10, 2026**

the rate charged therefore is not in excess of the regular rates charged private individuals for similar insertions.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Larry Davidson  
General Manager

  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Velma J. Nelson  
Notary Public  
State of South Carolina

Subscribed and sworn to before me this  
1/10/2026

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## HOUSES FOR SALE

### PUBLISHERS NOTICE

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968 which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitations or discrimination" based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis.

## LEGALS

### Public Notice

Linda A. Traylor, Director of the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, is authorizing construction in Navigable Waters Permit to remove 177 cubic yards of silt by using an excavator on a barge at the edge of the shoreline and transported by barge to the off-load staging area. The silt will be removed from under and around the privately owned dock located at 122 Fair Haven Ct in Seneca, SC on Lake Keowee. Comments will be received by South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control at 2600 Bull St, Columbia SC 29201, ATTN: Charles Hightower, Division of Water Quality, until January 23, 2025.

### Public Notice

Sharon Swindale has applied to the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control for a Construction in Navigable Waters Permit to remove 256 cubic yards of silt by using an excavator on a barge at the edge of the shoreline and transported by barge to the off-load staging area. The silt will be removed from under and around the privately owned dock located at 13058 Janda Road in Seneca, SC on Lake Keowee. Comments will be received by South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control at 2600 Bull St, Columbia SC 29201, ATTN: Charles Hightower, Division of Water Quality, until January 23, 2025.

The Oconee County Aeronautics Commission meeting scheduled for Thursday January 29, 2026 has been canceled.

The meeting will instead be held on Tuesday January 27, 2026 at 3:30 pm in the Oconee County Chambers located at 415 S. Pine St., Walhalla, SC.

### MEETING NOTICE OF THE PIONEER RURAL WATER DISTRICT

5500 West-Oak Hwy., Westminster, SC  
Tuesday January 13, 2026 @ 3:00 pm

Agenda:  
Call To Order  
Concerns of the District  
Limited: 2 citizens per meeting, for 5 minutes,  
prior scheduling required.  
Agenda & Non Agenda Items: Combined both are limited to a total of forty (40) minutes, four (4) minutes per person.  
Approval of Minutes  
Financial Report / System Report  
Treatment Plant PER Discussion  
Old Business  
New Business  
Adjourn

The Oconee County Council will meet in 2026 on the first and third Tuesday of each month with the following exceptions:

June and November meetings, which will be only on the third Tuesday of each of these months; October and December meetings, which will be only on the first Tuesday of each of these months.

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 20, 2026 to establish short- and long-term goals.

This meeting will be held off-site at Tri-County Technical College, Oconee Campus, conference room located at 552 Education Way, Westminster, South Carolina.

Oconee County Council will also meet on Tuesday, January 5, 2027 in Council Chambers at which point they will establish their 2027 Council and Committee meeting schedules. Additional Council meetings, workshops, and/or committee meetings may be added throughout the year as needed.

Oconee County Council Committees will meet in 2026 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 17, May 19, July 21, & September 15, 2026.

The Transportation Committee at 4:30 p.m. on the following dates: February 17, May 19, July 21, & September 15, 2026.

The Real Estate, Facilities, & Land Management Committee at 4:30 p.m. on the following dates: April 7, June 16, August 18, & October 06, 2026. The Planning & Economic Development Committee at 4:30 p.m. on

the following dates: April 7, June 16, August 18, & October 06, 2026. The Budget, Finance, & Administration Committee at 9:00 a.m. on the following dates: Friday, February 20th [Strategic Planning Retreat], Friday, February 27th [Budget Workshop] and 4:30 p.m. on the following dates: March 3, April 21, & May 5, 2026.

The Corinth-Shiloh Fire Commission will meet during 2026 on the third Thursday of each month. All Commission meetings, unless otherwise noted, will be held at the Corinth-Shiloh Fire Department, 940 Old Clemson Highway, Seneca, SC 29672, at 6:00 p.m. in the training room.

The Commission will hold two budget workshops on Tuesday, February 12, and Tuesday, March 6, at 6:00 p.m. at the fire department. The annual budget meeting will be held on Thursday, March 19, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

Additional Commission meetings and/or workshops may be scheduled throughout the year as needed. A monthly schedule is available at the fire department.

Members of the Commission are invited to attend Corinth-Shiloh Volunteer Fire Department meetings, trainings, and community activities. These events will have no Commission agenda items and no Commission action will be taken. The monthly department meeting is held on the first Monday of each month. Training is held on the third Monday of each month, as well as the Saturday following the third Monday. A monthly schedule of activities, including dates and times, is available at the fire department.

Several fire department ceremonies are planned for 2026, to which the Fire Commission is invited. These events will have no Commission agenda items and no Commission action will be taken. Scheduled events include Meet the Chief on January 15 from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., and the Transfer of Command on Friday, February 27, at 6:00 p.m. Summer and fall family events, Station Open Houses and other community fire department events, and the annual Christmas dinner has not yet been scheduled. Once

finalized, dates, times, and locations will be available at the fire department. These events will have no Commission agenda items and no Commission action will be taken.

Commission agendas will be available and publicized no later than the day prior to the scheduled meeting and/or workshop at [www.corinthshilohfd.com](http://www.corinthshilohfd.com). All meetings and workshops, with the exception of executive sessions, are open to the public.

**CLASSIFIEDS WORK!**

# Oconee County Council

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

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Matthew Durham  
Chairman  
District II

Don Mize  
Vice Chairman  
District III

Thomas James  
Chairman Pro Tem  
District IV

J. Glenn Hart  
District V



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The Budget, Finance, & Administration Committee at 9:00 a.m. on the following dates: Friday, February 20<sup>th</sup> [Strategic Planning Retreat], Friday, February 27<sup>th</sup> [Budget Workshop] and 4:30 p.m. on the following dates: March 3, April 21, & May 5, 2026.

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 pre-empted 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)

# **OCONEE COUNTY RESCUE SQUAD ADVISORY COMMISSION**

## **REPORT TO THE LAW ENFORCEMENT, PUBLIC SAFETY, HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE May 19, 2026**

### **Submitted by:**

Brady Land, Chairman  
Oconee County Rescue Squad Advisory Commission

### **INTRODUCTION**

In accordance with the Oconee County Ordinance governing the Rescue Squad Advisory Commission, the following report is respectfully submitted to summarize the recent activities, findings, functions, and ongoing matters of the Commission.

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Chairman Brady Land is currently out of the country and unable to attend the May 19, 2026 committee meeting. Vice Chairman Steven Zahn will attend and represent the Commission on behalf of the Chairman.

### **COMMISSION ORGANIZATION & ADMINISTRATION**

On January 29, 2026, the Commission held its organizational meeting for the year and elected the following officers:

- Chairman – Brady Land
- Vice Chairman – Steven Zahn
- Secretary – Scott Shear. Due to scheduling Scott stepped down and Steve Zahn was appointed.

Committee assignments for the Radio, Incentive & Budget, SOG, and Training Committees were also established. The Commission additionally approved its 2026 meeting schedule during a special called meeting on February 5, 2026.

## **COMMISSION ACTIVITIES & OPERATIONS**

The Commission has remained actively engaged in matters affecting rescue squad operations, volunteer recruitment and retention, responder incentives, training coordination, communications systems, and county rescue standard operating guidelines.

Key ongoing discussions and activities since January include:

- Continued review and revision of Rescue Squad Standard Operating Guidelines (SOGs) to align with current operational practices and county ordinances.
- Formation and continued work of the SOG Committee with participation from county rescue agencies.
- Continued discussion regarding volunteer incentive requirements and budget considerations.
- Ongoing coordination with Oconee County Emergency Services regarding responder software, training scheduling, apparatus updates, and operational concerns.
- Discussion regarding county radio communications systems and interoperability options.
- Coordination regarding county-wide training opportunities including EMT refreshers, EMR classes, VFIS training, technical rescue training, hazmat operations, and specialty rescue programs.
- Continued discussion regarding volunteer recruitment, retention, and operational readiness across multiple rescue squads.
- Continued review of responder communication and software systems for operational coordination.
- Continued fleet replacement and rescue vehicle planning discussions.

## **ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS**

Additional topics and accomplishments discussed during Commission meetings since January 2026 include:

- Continued improvement in county rescue response statistics and operational readiness.
- Expansion of county-wide training opportunities including EMT, EMR, technical rescue, VFIS driver training, burn management, hazmat, and agricultural rescue programs.
- Coordination with military aviation partners and Special Rescue personnel for helicopter and hoist operations training within Oconee County.
- Continued apparatus improvements and fleet replacement planning for county rescue organizations.
- Ongoing discussions regarding volunteer recruitment, retention, training accessibility,

and responder support initiatives.

- Discussion regarding future recruitment strategies and volunteer engagement initiatives.

## **MATTERS OF CONCERN**

During the March 26, 2026 meeting, the Commission entered Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter relating to a rescue chief nomination and related leadership appointments within a rescue squad.

Upon returning to open session, the Commission determined that the nominee for the rescue chief position did not meet the minimum requirements for the position as outlined within the governing requirements reviewed by the Commission. The Commission further determined that nominees for assistant chief positions did meet the applicable minimum requirements.

Subsequent concerns and questions regarding nomination procedures, voting processes, interpretation of applicable guidelines, and Commission authority have since been raised by Commission members and rescue personnel. Following additional discussion and review, interim Director Scott Smith later proceeded with a temporary appointment of leadership within the organization.

The Commission continues to work toward maintaining professional communication, procedural consistency, cooperation between rescue agencies, and clarification of policies and procedures through the ongoing SOG revision process.

The following items and concerns were submitted by Commission members for inclusion and future discussion with the Law Enforcement, Public Safety, Health & Welfare Committee:

- Radio System Evaluation – Commissioner Shear expressed concern regarding the current county rescue radio system and the need for an independent engineering survey to evaluate current coverage, deficiencies, and future interoperability needs. It was recommended that any survey be conducted by an independent engineering firm not affiliated with a radio manufacturer and that the County consider issuance of a Request for Proposals (RFP) for such services.
- Rescue Squad Funding & Budget Considerations – Discussion continues regarding the current quarterly funding structure for rescue squads and whether future funding models should better reflect operational demand, and increasing operational costs faced by individual squads.

- Volunteer Recruitment & Retention – Commissioner Shear discussed the need for improved volunteer recruitment efforts including possible volunteer postings through Human Resources and consideration of exit surveys to better understand volunteer retention challenges.

- Volunteer Coordinator Concept – Commissioner Shear discussed the possibility of seeking grant funding opportunities for a Volunteer Coordinator position focused on volunteer recruitment, retention, onboarding, and ongoing training support for county rescue personnel.

## **COMMISSIONER RECOMMENDATIONS & DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **UPCOMING COMMISSION ITEMS**

- Continued review and revision of Rescue Squad Standard Operating Guidelines
- Volunteer recruitment and retention discussions
- County rescue communications interoperability discussions
- Coordination of county-wide training opportunities
- Review of Commission procedures and reporting processes
- Continued discussion regarding rescue squad operational concerns and leadership procedures

**Respectfully Submitted,**

Brady Land  
Chairman  
Oconee County Rescue Squad Advisory Commission