

**TITLE I: GENERAL PROVISIONS**

Chapter

**10. RULES OF CONSTRUCTION; GENERAL PENALTY**



## CHAPTER 10: RULES OF CONSTRUCTION; GENERAL PENALTY

### Section

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- 10.13 Ordinances repealed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

### § 10.01 TITLE OF CODE.

This codification of ordinances by and for the Town of Grifton shall be designated as the *Code of Grifton* and may be so cited.  
(Prior Code, § 10.01)

### § 10.02 INTERPRETATION.

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

(Prior Code, § 10.02)

### § 10.03 APPLICATION TO FUTURE ORDINANCES.

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

(Prior Code, § 10.03)

### § 10.04 CAPTIONS.

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

(Prior Code, § 10.04)

### § 10.05 DEFINITIONS.

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

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

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

**COUNCIL** or **BOARD.** The legislative body of the town. The term **COUNCIL** is construed to be synonymous with **BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS.**

**COUNTY.** Pitt or Lenoir County, North Carolina.

**MAY.** The act referred to is permissive.

**MONTH.** A calendar month.

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

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

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

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

**SHALL.** The act referred to is mandatory.

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

**STATE.** The State of North Carolina.

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

**TOWN, MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, MUNICIPALITY** or **CITY.** The Town of Grifton, North Carolina.

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

**YEAR.** A calendar year, unless otherwise expressed; equivalent to the words **YEAR OF OUR LORD.**  
(Prior Code, § 10.05)

## **§ 10.06 RULES OF INTERPRETATION.**

The construction of all ordinances of the municipality shall be by the following rules, unless the construction is plainly repugnant to the intent of the Board of Commissioners or of the context of the same ordinance.

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

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

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

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

(Prior Code, § 10.06)

#### **§ 10.07 SEVERABILITY.**

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

(Prior Code, § 10.07)

#### **§ 10.08 REFERENCE TO OTHER SECTIONS.**

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

(Prior Code, § 10.08)

#### **§ 10.09 REFERENCE TO OFFICES.**

Reference to a public office or officer shall be deemed to apply to any office, officer or employee of the municipality exercising the powers, duties or functions contemplated in the provision, irrespective of any transfer of functions or change in the official title of the functionary.

(Prior Code, § 10.09)

#### **§ 10.10 ERRORS AND OMISSIONS.**

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

(B) No alteration shall be made or permitted if any question exists regarding the nature or extent of the error.

(Prior Code, § 10.10)

### **§ 10.11 OFFICIAL TIME.**

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

(Prior Code, § 10.11)

### **§ 10.12 REASONABLE TIME.**

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

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

(Prior Code, § 10.12)

### **§ 10.13 ORDINANCES REPEALED.**

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

(Prior Code, § 10.13)

### **§ 10.14 ORDINANCES UNAFFECTED.**

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

(Prior Code, § 10.14)

### **§ 10.15 EFFECTIVE DATE OF ORDINANCES.**

(A) All ordinances passed by the Board of Commissioners requiring publication shall take effect from and after the due publication thereof, unless otherwise expressly provided.

(B) Ordinances not requiring publication shall take effect from their passage, unless otherwise expressly provided.

(Prior Code, § 10.15)

## **§ 10.16 REPEAL OR MODIFICATION OF ORDINANCE.**

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

(B) No suit, proceedings, right, fine, forfeiture or penalty instituted, created, given, secured or accrued under any ordinance previous to its repeal shall in any way be affected, released or discharged, but may be prosecuted, enjoyed and recovered as fully as if the ordinance had continued in force unless it is otherwise expressly provided.

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

(Prior Code, § 10.16)

## **§ 10.17 ORDINANCES WHICH AMEND OR SUPPLEMENT CODE.**

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

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

(Prior Code, § 10.17)

## **§ 10.18 SECTION HISTORIES; STATUTORY REFERENCES.**

(A) As histories for the code sections, the specific number and passage date of the original ordinance, and amending ordinances, if any, are listed following the text of the code section. Example: (Ord. 10, passed 5-13-1960; Ord. 15, passed 1-1-1970; Ord. 20, passed 1-1-1980; Ord. 25, passed 1-1-1985)

(B) (1) If a statutory cite is included in the history, this indicates that the text of the section reads substantially the same as the statute. Example: (G.S. § 160A-69) (Ord. 10, passed 1-17-1980; Ord. 20, passed 1-1-1985)

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

**§ 31.10 MAYOR.**

The Mayor shall preside at all meetings of the Board of Commissioners.  
(Ord. 10, passed 1-1-1980)

***Statutory reference:***

*Powers and duties of the Mayor, see G.S. § 160A-67*

(Prior Code, § 10.18)

**§ 10.99 GENERAL PENALTY.**

(A) Unless otherwise specifically provided, if any person shall violate any provision of this code of ordinances, except any provision regulating the operation or parking of vehicles, he or she shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be fined not more than \$500 or imprisoned for not more than 30 days. No fine shall exceed \$50 unless the code provision expressly states that the maximum fine is greater than \$50.

(G.S. § 14-4(a))

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

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

(1) In addition to an injunction, the court may enter an order of abatement as a part of the judgement in the cause. An order of abatement may direct that buildings or other structures on the property be closed, demolished or removed; that fixtures, furniture or other movable property be removed from buildings on the property; that grass and weeds be cut; that improvements or repairs be made; or that any other action be taken that is necessary to bring the property into compliance with this code or the ordinance.

(2) If the defendant fails or refuses to comply with an injunction or with an order of abatement within the time allowed by the court, he or she may be cited for contempt, and the town may execute the order of abatement. The town shall have a lien on the property for the cost of executing an order of abatement in the nature of a mechanic's and materialman's lien.

(3) The defendant may secure cancellation of an order of abatement by paying all costs of the proceedings and posting a bond for compliance with the order. The bond shall be given with sureties approved by the clerk of superior court in an amount approved by the judge before whom the matter is heard, and shall be conditioned on the defendant's full compliance with the terms of the order of abatement within a time fixed by the judge.

(4) Cancellation of an order of abatement shall not suspend or cancel an injunction issued in connection therewith.

(D) The provisions of this code and any other ordinance of the town may be enforced by any one, all or a combination of the remedies authorized and prescribed by this section.

(E) Except as otherwise specifically provided, each day's continuing violation of any provision of this code or any other ordinance of the town shall be a separate and distinct offense.

(F) Violation of this code and other ordinances of this town shall subject the offender to a civil penalty to be recovered by the town in a civil action in the nature of debt if the offender does not pay the penalty within the prescribed period of time after he or she has been cited for violation thereof.

(G.S. § 160A-175)

(Prior Code, § 10.99)