



Town of Southern Shores

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8 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES
9 OF THE TOWN OF SOUTHERN SHORES, NORTH CAROLINA

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11 **ARTICLE I. Purpose(s) and Authority.**

12
13 **WHEREAS**, the Town of Southern Shores (the “Town”) is a predominately
14 single-family residential community for families and retirees, as well as a vacation
15 destination for seasonal visitors who rent single-family dwellings; and

16
17 **WHEREAS**, The Town is a quiet seaside residential community comprised
18 primarily of small low density neighborhoods consisting of single family homes
19 primarily on large lots (i.e., at least 20,000 sq ft); and

20
21 **WHEREAS**, the Town has long desired to maintain its low density residential
22 character by not permitting large oversized homes, increased commercial development
23 and increased density. The Town recognizes that increases in density increase the need
24 for public services related to safety, fire prevention, water supply, schools and traffic
25 congestion; and

26
27 **WHEREAS**, the Town recognizes that property owners enjoy the use of their
28 property for parties and family related events on a regular basis and that such use should
29 continue long into the future. However, the Town also recognizes that a growing trend on
30 the Outer Banks and other coastal areas in North Carolina and nationally, is to construct
31 large buildings on residentially zoned properties which purport to be single-family
32 dwellings, but which are often designed for and after construction and permitting
33 advertised, maintained and used as commercial event facilities; and

34
35 **WHEREAS**, the Town’s residential areas have limited means of access due to the
36 layout of roads and limited number of major thoroughfares in the Town. The road layout
37 and limited number of thoroughfares already cause numerous traffic problems,
38 particularly during the high traffic tourist season from approximately Memorial Day to
39 Labor Day each year. The use of single-family residences in residentially zoned areas for
40 pre-planned events, community uses and private parties increases traffic and safety
41 hazards to the attendees, owners, neighbors and visitors to the Town; and

42
43 **WHEREAS**, pursuant to North Carolina General Statutes § 160A-174 the Town
44 may enact and amend ordinances that define, prohibit, regulate, or abate acts, omissions,
45 or conditions, detrimental to the health, safety, or welfare of its citizens and the peace and
46 dignity of the Town, and may define and abate nuisances; and

1
2 **WHEREAS**, pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 160A-381, the Town may enact and amend
3 ordinances regulating the zoning and development of land within its jurisdiction and
4 specifically the height, number of stories and size of buildings and other structures, the
5 percentage of lots that may be occupied, the size of yards, courts and other open spaces,
6 the density of population, the location and use of buildings, structures and land. Pursuant
7 to this authority and the additional authority granted by N.C.G.S. Chap. 160A, Art. 19 et.
8 seq, the Town has adopted a comprehensive zoning ordinance (the “Town’s Zoning
9 Ordinance”) and has codified the same as Chapter 36 of the Town’s Code of Ordinances
10 (the “Town Code”); and

11
12 **WHEREAS**, pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 160A-383, the Town may use zoning
13 regulations to provide adequate light and air; to prevent the overcrowding of land; to
14 avoid undue concentration of population; to lessen congestion in the streets; to secure
15 safety from fire, panic, and dangers; and to facilitate the efficient and adequate provision
16 of transportation, water, sewerage, schools, parks, and other public requirements. In
17 doing so, the Town may take into account the character of the Town’s zoning districts
18 and their peculiar suitability for particular uses with a view to conserving the value of
19 buildings and encouraging the most appropriate use of land throughout the Town; and

20
21 **WHEREAS**, 2015 N.C. Sess. Law 86 made substantial changes to the text of
22 N.C.G.S. § 160A-381 which purport to limit the Town’s authority to regulated “building
23 design elements.” In particular, the changes to N.C.G.S. § 160A-381 prohibit the Town
24 from regulating density or use of residential structures through restrictions on the number
25 of bedrooms as the Town has historically regulated such density. These changes require
26 that the Town’s Zoning Ordinance be updated accordingly; and

27
28 **WHEREAS**, the Town finds that in order to effectively regulate the density of
29 population within the Town following the adoption of 2015 N.C. Sess. Law 86 the Town
30 must regulate and limit the occupancy of single-family dwellings; and

31
32 **WHEREAS**, the Town finds that setting a reasonable maximum design limitation
33 for septic systems on single-family dwellings remains a fair and equitable balancing of
34 the Town’s interests to regulate population density and to maintain the historical and
35 residential character of developed areas of Town compared with property owners’
36 interests in using their property for residential purposes; and

37
38 **WHEREAS**, the Town does not desire for commercial event facilities to operate
39 within its residentially zoned districts and the Town finds that the following amendments
40 are necessary to further clarify the delineation between such event facility usage and
41 single-family residential dwellings; and

42
43 **WHEREAS**, the Town finds that a lack of regulation of the maximum design for
44 septic systems of dwellings and the use of the residential properties for pre-planned
45 events, community uses and private parties will result in a decrease in value of buildings

1 and lands within the Town due to the Town’s unique single-family residential nature and
2 character; and

3
4 **WHEREAS**, the Town further finds that in accordance with the findings above it
5 is in the interest of and not contrary to the public's health, safety, morals and general
6 welfare for the Town to amend the Town’s Zoning Ordinance and Town Code of
7 Ordinances as stated below.

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9 **ARTICLE II. Construction.**

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11 For purposes of this ordinance amendment, underlined words (underline) shall be
12 considered as additions to existing Town Code language and strikethrough words
13 (~~strikethrough~~) shall be considered deletions to existing language. Any portions of the
14 adopted Town Code which are not repeated herein, but are instead replaced by an ellipses
15 (“...”) shall remain as they currently exist within the Town Code.

16
17 **ARTICLE III. Amendment of Zoning Ordinance.**

18
19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Town Council of the Town of Southern
20 Shores, North Carolina, that the Town Code shall be amended as follows:

21
22 **PART 1. That Sec 36-57. Definitions of specific terms and words.** be amended as
23 follows:

24 ...
25 *Dwelling, large home*, means any residential structure ~~home~~ designed or constructed to
26 have containing more than seven bedrooms (or rooms that could be considered as
27 bedrooms using the county criteria for determining septic system design) or septic system
28 capacity for more than 14 people. Large home dwellings are not a permitted use in any
29 zoning district unless expressly authorized by that district’s regulations.

30 ...
31 *Dwelling, single-family*, means a detached building designed for or occupied exclusively
32 by one family. Large home dwellings having septic system capacity for more than 14
33 people are not included within the term “single-family dwelling.”

34
35 *Dwelling, two-family (duplex)*, means a detached building, divided horizontally or
36 vertically, and designed for or occupied by two single-family housekeeping units
37 contained entirely under one roof and having one dividing partition common to each unit,
38 or having the ceiling structure of the lower unit and the floor structure of the unit above.
39 Large home dwellings having septic system capacity for more than 14 people are not
40 included within the term “two-family dwelling.”

41 ...
42 *Event facility* means an establishment, structure or property designed, maintained,
43 advertised or actually used during any continuous twelve-month period for (i) any
44 number of pre-planned events, (ii) four or more community uses; or (iii) four or more
45 private parties having between twenty-five (25) and seventy-five (75) attendees. The term
46 “pre-planned events”, includes, but is not limited to, private parties of greater than

1 seventy-five (75) attendees, weddings, rehearsal dinners, corporate meetings, retreats,
2 sporting events, cultural events, musical events, celebrations, festivals, fairs, carnivals,
3 circuses or similar events. The term “community uses” means meetings of charitable,
4 political, governmental or civic groups. The term “private parties” means events that are
5 not open to the public, and are held by or on behalf of an individual or organization for
6 the primary purpose of socializing or gathering. On site sales of Ffood and/or beverages
7 at an event facility service for purchase by individual patrons from the establishment
8 owner, whether seated or non-seated, shall constitute a restaurant as defined in section
9 36-57 which shall require a conditional use permit. The term “event facility” does not
10 include the use of a residential structure or property on which a residential structure is
11 located for social gatherings of less than twenty-five attendees or for traditional family
12 events. The term “traditional family events” includes, but is not limited to, holiday parties
13 and meals, birthday parties, funeral services, religious ceremonies and weddings for
14 family members related by blood or marriage to: (i) any of the individual holders of legal
15 title to the property; (ii) a majority of the owners of a business entity holding legal title to
16 the property; or (iii) the beneficiaries of a trust holding legal title to the property.

17
18 *Family* means one or more persons occupying a single-family dwelling unit, provided
19 that unless all members are related by blood or marriage or that the dwelling unit is being
20 used as a vacation rental under the North Carolina Vacation Rental Act (N.C.G.S. Chap.
21 42A), then no such family shall contain more than five persons.

22
23 **PART 2.** That **Sec 36-202. RS-1 single-family residential district.** be amended as
24 follows:

25 ...
26 (b) Permitted uses. The following uses shall be permitted by right:
27 (1) ~~Detached single-family dwelling consisting of no more than seven bedrooms or septic~~
28 ~~system capacity for more than 14 people.~~

29
30 **PART 3.** That **Sec 36-203. RS-8 residential district.** be amended as follows:

31 ...
32 (b) Permitted uses. The following uses shall be permitted by right:
33 ...
34 (9) ~~Dwellings shall consist of no more than seven bedrooms or septic system capacity for~~
35 ~~more than 14 people.~~

36
37
38 **PART 4.** That **Sec 36-204. RS-10 residential district.** be amended as follows:

39 ...
40 (b) Permitted uses. The following uses shall be permitted by right:
41 (1) ~~Detached single-family dwellings shall consist of no more than seven bedrooms or~~
42 ~~septic system capacity for more than 14 people.~~

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45 **PART 5.** That **Sec 36-205. R-1 low-density residential district.** be amended as
46 follows:

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...
(b) Permitted uses. The following uses shall be permitted by right:
(1) Detached single-family dwelling ~~consisting of no more than seven bedrooms or septic capacity for more than 14 people.~~

PART 6. That **Sec 36-207. C general commercial district.** be amended as follows:

...
(b) Permitted uses. The following uses shall be permitted by right:
...
(4) Detached Ssingle-family dwellings, two-family (duplexes) dwellings, multifamily dwellings, large home dwellings, and accessory buildings, according to the dimensional requirements of RS-8 multifamily residential district. Large home dwellings shall be exempt from section 36-203(d)(8) requirements. For multifamily dwellings, the lot coverage shall not exceed 40 percent.
...
(10) ~~Dwelling, large homes.~~
(11) Event facilities.

PART 7. That **Sec 36-163. Off-street parking requirements** be amended as follows:

...
(3) *Minimum parking requirements.* ...
a. *Residential and related uses.*
1. Detached Ssingle-family dwelling units, two-family detached dwelling units and townhouses: three parking spaces for each dwelling unit with up to ~~four bedrooms (including all areas used for sleeping), eight (8) persons of septic capacity~~ and one additional space for each additional four (4) persons of septic capacity two bedrooms (including areas useable for sleeping), or fraction thereof, in excess of four eight (8) person septic capacity.
(i) ~~Bedrooms and/or areas useable for sleeping shall be defined and~~ The number of persons of septic capacity shall be determined by the county health department in establishing residence occupancy limits for wastewater/septic system.
...
4. Dwelling, large home: one parking space for each ~~bedroom~~ two (2) persons of septic capacity as . ~~Bedrooms and/or areas useable for sleeping shall be defined and~~ determined by the county health department in establishing residence occupancy limits for wastewater/septic system. ...

ARTICLE IV. Statement of Consistency with Comprehensive Plan and Reasonableness.

1 The Town's adoption of this ordinance amendment is consistent with the Town's adopted
2 comprehensive zoning ordinance, land use plan and any other officially adopted plan that
3 is applicable. For all of the above-stated reasons, any reasons stated during the meetings
4 at which this ordinance amendment was considered and any additional reasons
5 supporting the Town's adoption of this ordinance amendment, the Town considers the
6 adoption of this ordinance amendment to be reasonable and in the public interest.

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8 **ARTICLE V. Severability.**

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10 All Town ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with this ordinance amendment
11 are hereby repealed. Should a court of competent jurisdiction declare this ordinance
12 amendment or any part thereof to be invalid, such decision shall not affect the remaining
13 provisions of this ordinance amendment nor the Zoning Ordinance or Town Code of the
14 Town of Southern Shores, North Carolina which shall remain in full force and effect.

15
16 **ARTICLE VI. Effective Date.**

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18 This ordinance amendment shall be in full force and effect from and after the ____ day of
19 _____, 2016.

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24 _____,
Tom Bennett, Mayor

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26
27
28 ATTEST:

29
30
31 _____
32 Town Clerk

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34
35 APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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37
38 _____
39 Town Attorney

40
41 Date adopted:

42
43 _____
44 Motion to adopt by Councilmember:

45 _____
46 Motion seconded by Councilmember:

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Vote: ___AYES___NAYS