

AN ORDINANCE

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ARTICLE 4 DEFINITIONS AND ADD SECTION 9:6 LIGHTING TO THE GREENVILLE COUNTY ZONING ORDINANCE, RELATING TO LIGHTING STANDARDS.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE GREENVILLE COUNTY COUNCIL:

Section 1. Findings. Greenville County Council finds to minimize light pollution and trespass and maintain night-time safety and utility, it is necessary to enact standards for lighting. These standards will provide safe, convenient, and efficient lighting for pedestrians and vehicles, enhance the visual impact of the County, and provide lighting designed to blend into the surrounding landscape while ensuring that on-site lighting needs are addressed without intrusion on adjoining properties. And further, in order to implement this goal, it is necessary to amend the Greenville County Zoning Ordinance.

Section 2. Amendment. Amend Article 4 of the Greenville County Zoning Ordinance, as amended, and add Section 9:6 Lighting as follows:

PART 1:

Amendment to Article 4:

Add the following definitions:

Foot-candle – A quantitative unit measuring the amount of light cast onto a given point, measured as one lumen per square foot.

Light Trespass – The encroachment of unwanted light from private property onto another private property or onto public property.

Light Pollution – Excessive illumination that, because of quantitative or directional characteristics, results in annoyance, distraction, or impairment of visual acuity.

Shield – A design feature or a device that is applied to a light to prevent its luminous output from being visible from selected locations or from horizontal or vertical angles.

Amendment to Article 9:

Section 9:6 Lighting

9:6.1 Applicability

The following provisions shall apply to all newly developed properties, except for those developed with single-family or two-family dwellings, to reduce light pollution and light trespass. These standards shall also apply when new lighting fixtures are being placed at an existing developed property. These provisions shall not apply to lighting erected by a governmental agency for public safety purposes, including, but not limited to Greenville County, the Federal Aviation Administration, or SCDOT.

9:6.2 General Standards for Outdoor Lighting

The maximum light level permissible at a residential property line shall not exceed one-half (0.5) foot-candles where non-residential uses abut residential uses, and shall not exceed two (2.0) foot-candles at the road right-of-way or at a non-residential property line.

9:6.3 Exception for Outdoor Playing Field/Performance Area/Special Event Lighting

The maximum light level permitted in Section 9:6.2 shall not apply to outdoor playing fields, performance areas, or special events. All outdoor playing field/performance area/special event lighting fixtures shall be equipped with shields or other devices to control and to direct lighting at the playing field/performance area/special event area. Lighting fixtures shall be mounted at a height not greater than eighty (80) feet above the playing field/performance area/special event area. Lighting of the playing field/performance area/special event area shall be extinguished no later than one (1) hour after the event or as soon as all patrons exit the premises.

9:6.4 Prohibited Lighting

No blinking, flashing, or fluttering lights or other illuminated devices that have a changing light intensity, brightness, or color are permitted in any district except for temporary holiday displays. Neither the direct nor reflected light from any outdoor light source shall create a traffic hazard to operators of motor vehicles or to operators of aircraft and no colored lights may be used in such a way as to be confused or construed as street-traffic control or air-traffic control devices.

PART 2:

The changes set forth in this amendment shall be reflected in all applicable and affected sections of the GCZO.

Section 3. Committee Review Required. Staff shall report to the Planning and Development Committee one year after the effective date of this ordinance for the purposes of updating the Committee on the effectiveness of the text amendment.

Section 4. Effective Date. This ordinance shall become effective on the date of its adoption.

DONE IN REGULAR MEETING THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2013.

Dr. Bob Taylor, Chairman
Greenville County Council

ATTEST:

Joseph Kernell
County Administrator

Theresa B. Kizer
Clerk to Council

First Reading _____
Second Reading _____
Third Reading _____
Public Hearing _____