



**ORDINANCE NO. 699
FAIRFIELD COUNTY FLOOD DAMAGE PREVENTION**

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An Ordinance "TO REGULATE CONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF FLOOD HAZARD AREAS IN THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF FAIRFIELD COUNTY AND TO REPEAL ORDINANCE NO. 586."

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Article I. General Standards

A. Statutory Authorization -The legislature of the State of South Carolina has in SC Code of Laws, Title 4, Chapters 9 (Article 1), 25, and 27, and amendments thereto, delegated the responsibility to local governmental units to adopt regulations designed to promote the public health, safety, and general welfare of its citizenry. Therefore, the Fairfield County Council of Fairfield County, South Carolina does ordain as follows:

B. Findings of Fact - The Special Flood Hazard Areas of the Fairfield County are subject to periodic inundation which results in loss of life, property, health and safety hazards, disruption of commerce and governmental services, extraordinary public expenditures of flood protection and relief, and impairment of the tax base, all of which adversely affect the public health, safety, and general welfare.

Furthermore, these flood losses are caused by the cumulative effect of obstructions in floodplains causing increases in flood heights and velocities, and by the occupancy in flood hazard areas by uses vulnerable to floods or hazardous to other lands which are inadequately elevated, flood proofed, or otherwise unprotected from flood damages.

C. Statement of Purpose and Objectives - It is the purpose of this ordinance to protect human life and health, minimize property damage, and encourage appropriate construction practices to minimize public and private losses due to flood conditions by requiring that uses vulnerable to floods, including facilities which serve such uses, be protected against flood damage at the time of initial construction. Uses of the floodplain which are dangerous to health, safety, and property due to water or erosion hazards, or which increase flood heights, velocities, or erosion are restricted or prohibited. These provisions attempt to control the alteration of natural floodplains, stream channels, and natural protective barriers which are involved in the accommodation of flood waters, and control filling, grading, dredging and other development which may increase flood damage or erosion. Additionally, the ordinance prevents or regulates the construction of flood barriers which will unnaturally divert floodwaters or which may increase flood hazards to other lands.

The objectives of this ordinance are to protect human life and health, to help maintain a stable tax base by providing for the sound use and development of flood-prone areas in such a manner as to minimize flood blight areas, and to insure that potential home buyers are notified that property is in a flood area. The provisions of the ordinance are intended to minimize damage to public facilities and utilities such as water and gas mains, electric, telephone, and sewer lines, streets and bridges located in the floodplain, and prolonged business interruptions. Also, an important floodplain management objective of this ordinance is to minimize expenditure of public money for costly flood control projects and rescue and relief efforts associated with flooding.

Floodplains are an important asset to the community. They perform vital natural functions such as temporary storage of floodwaters, moderation of peak flood flows, maintenance of water quality, groundwater recharge, prevention of erosion, habitat for diverse natural wildlife populations, recreational opportunities, and aesthetic quality. These functions are best served if floodplains are kept in their natural state. Wherever possible, the natural characteristics of floodplains and their associated wetlands and water bodies should be preserved and enhanced. Decisions to alter floodplains, especially floodways and stream channels, should be the result of careful planning processes that evaluate resource conditions and human needs.

D. Lands to Which this Ordinance Applies- This ordinance shall apply to all areas of special flood hazard within the jurisdiction of Fairfield County as identified by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in its Flood Insurance Study, with accompanying FIRM panels (45039CIND0B, 45039C0120D, 45039C0230D, 45039C0235D, 45039C0245D, 45039C0255D, 45039C0265D, 45039C0270D, and 45039C0410D) all **dated September 28, 2018**, and other supporting data that are hereby adopted by reference and declared to be a part of this ordinance.

E. Establishment of Development Permit A Development Permit shall be required in conformance with the provisions of this ordinance prior to the commencement of any development activities.

F. Compliance No structure or land shall hereafter be located, extended, converted, or structurally altered without full compliance with the terms of this ordinance and other applicable regulations.

G. Interpretation In the interpretation and application of this ordinance all provisions shall be considered as minimum requirements, liberally construed in favor of the governing body, and deemed neither to limit nor repeal any other powers granted under State law. This ordinance is not intended to repeal, abrogate, or impair any existing easements, covenants, or deed restrictions. However, where this ordinance and another conflict or overlap, whichever imposes the more stringent restrictions, shall prevail.

H. Partial Invalidity and Severability If any part of this Ordinance is declared invalid, the remainder of the Ordinance shall not be affected and shall remain in force.

I. Warning and Disclaimer of Liability The degree of flood protection required by this ordinance is considered reasonable for regulatory purposes and is based on scientific and engineering consideration. Larger floods can and will occur on rare occasions. Flood heights may be increased by man-made or natural causes. This ordinance does not imply that land outside the areas of special flood hazard or uses permitted within such areas will be free from flooding or flood damages. This ordinance shall not create liability on the part of Fairfield County or by any officer or employee thereof for any flood damages that result from reliance on this ordinance or any administrative decision lawfully made hereunder.

J. Penalties for Violation - Violation of the provisions of this ordinance or failure to comply with any of its requirements, including violation of conditions and safeguards established in connection with grants of variance or special exceptions, shall constitute a misdemeanor. Any person who violates this ordinance or fails to comply with any of its requirements shall, upon conviction thereof, be fined not more than \$500.00 or imprisoned for not more than 30 days, or both. Each day the violation continues shall be considered a separate offense. Nothing herein contained shall prevent Fairfield County from taking such other lawful action as is necessary to prevent or remedy any violation.

Article II. **DEFINITIONS**

A. General - Unless specifically defined below, words or phrases used in this ordinance shall be interpreted so as to give them the meaning they have in common usage and to give this ordinance it's most reasonable application.

1. **Accessory Structure** (Appurtenant Structure) - structures that are located on the same parcel of property as the principal structure and the use of which is

incidental to the use of the principal structure. Accessory Structures should constitute a minimal investment, may not be used for human habitation, and be designed to have minimal flood damage potential. Examples of accessory structures are detached garages, carports, storage sheds, pole barns, and hay sheds.

2. **Addition (to an existing building)** - an extension or increase in the floor area or height of a building or structure. Additions to existing buildings shall comply with the requirements for new construction regardless as to whether the addition is a substantial improvement or not. Where a firewall or load-bearing wall is provided between the addition and the existing building, the addition(s) shall be considered a separate building and must comply with the standards for new construction.
3. **Agricultural structure** - a structure used solely for agricultural purposes in which the use is exclusively in connection with the production, harvesting, storage, drying, or raising of agricultural commodities, including the raising of livestock. Agricultural structures are **not** exempt from the provisions of this ordinance.
4. **Appeal** - a request for a review of the local floodplain administrator's interpretation of any provision of this ordinance.
5. **Area of shallow flooding** - a designated AO or VO Zone on a community's Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) with base flood depths of one to three feet where a clearly defined channel does not exist, where the path of flooding is unpredictable and indeterminate, and where velocity flow may be evident.
6. **Area of special flood hazard** - the land in the floodplain within a community subject to a one percent or greater chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year.
7. **Base flood** - the flood having a one percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year.
8. **Base Flood Elevation** - The computed elevation to which floodwater is anticipated to rise during the base flood. Base Flood Elevations (BFEs) are shown on Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) and on the flood profiles. The BFE is the regulatory requirement for the elevation or floodproofing of structures. The relationship between the BFE and a structure's elevation determines the flood insurance premium.
9. **Basement** - means any enclosed area of a building that is below grade on all sides.
10. **Building** - see structure

11. **Coastal High Hazard Area** - an area of special flood hazard extending from offshore to the inland limit of the primary frontal dune along an open coast and any other area subject to velocity wave action from storms or seismic sources.
12. **Critical Development** – development that is critical to the community’s public health and safety, is essential to the orderly functioning of a community, store or produce highly volatile, toxic or water-reactive materials, or house occupants that may be insufficiently mobile to avoid loss of life or injury. Examples of critical development include jails, hospitals, schools, fire stations, nursing homes, wastewater treatment facilities, water plants, and gas/oil/propane storage facilities.
13. **Development** - any man-made change to improved or unimproved real estate, including, but not limited to, buildings or other structures, mining, dredging, filling, grading, paving, excavation or drilling operations, or storage of equipment or materials.
14. **Elevated building** - a non-basement building built to have the lowest floor elevated above the ground level by means of solid foundation perimeter walls, pilings, columns, piers, or shear walls parallel to the flow of water.
15. **Enclosure** - That portion of an elevated building below the lowest elevated floor that is either partially or fully shut in by rigid walls.
16. **Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management)** - Issued by President Carter in 1977, this order requires that no federally assisted activities be conducted in or have the potential to affect identified special flood hazard areas unless there is no practicable alternative.
17. **Existing construction** - means, for the purposes of determining rates, structures for which the start of construction commenced before **July 19, 1987**
18. **Existing manufactured home park or manufactured home subdivision** - a manufactured home park or subdivision for which the construction of facilities for servicing the lots on which the manufactured homes are to be affixed (including, at a minimum, the installation of utilities, the construction of streets, and either final site grading or the pouring of concrete pads) is completed before **October 24, 1978**.
19. **Expansion to an existing manufactured home park or subdivision** - the preparation of additional sites by the construction of facilities for servicing the lots on which the manufactured homes are to be affixed (including the installation of utilities, the construction of streets, and either final site grading or the pouring of concrete slabs).

20. **Flood** - a general and temporary condition of partial or complete inundation of normally dry land areas from the overflow of inland or tidal waters, or the unusual and rapid accumulation of runoff of surface waters from any source.
21. **Floodproofing** - Any combination of structural and non-structural additions, changes, or adjustments to structures which reduce or eliminate flood damage to real estate or improved real property, water and sanitary facilities, structures and their contents. The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) allows a new or substantially improved non-residential building in an A Zone (Zone A, AE, A1-30, AR, AO or AH) to have a lowest floor below the Base Flood Elevation (BFE), provided that the design and methods of construction have been certified by a registered professional engineer or architect as being dry floodproofed in accordance with established criteria. Floodproofing of areas below the BFE in residential buildings is not permitted under the NFIP except in communities that have been granted an exception to permit floodproofed basements. Floodproofing is not permitted in Coastal High Hazard Areas (Zone V, VE, or V1-30). It is recommended that floodproofing be implemented up to one foot above BFE for a factor of safety and to receive full credit for flood insurance rating. Limited enclosed areas below elevated within newly constructed and substantially improved residential and non-residential structures may be permitted provide that they are wet floodproofing. See Enclosure. Certain other categories of structures may be allowed to be wet floodproofed if a variance is issued and other requirements are met. See Agricultural Structure.
22. **Flood Hazard Boundary Map (FHBM)** - an official map of a community, issued by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, where the boundaries of the areas of special flood hazard have been defined as Zone A.
23. **Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM)** - an official map of a community, on which the Federal Emergency Management Agency has delineated both the areas of special flood hazard and the risk premium zones applicable to the community.
24. **Flood Insurance Study** - the official report provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency which contains flood profiles, as well as the Flood Boundary Floodway Map and the water surface elevation of the base flood.
25. **Flood-resistant material** - any building material capable of withstanding direct and prolonged contact (minimum 72 hours) with floodwaters without sustaining damage that requires more than low-cost cosmetic repair. Any material that is water-soluble or is not resistant to alkali or acid in water, including normal adhesives for above-grade use, is not flood-resistant. Pressure-treated lumber or naturally decay-resistant lumbers are acceptable flooring materials. Sheet-type flooring coverings that restrict evaporation from below and materials that are impervious, but dimensionally unstable are not acceptable. Materials that absorb or retain water excessively after submergence

are not flood-resistant. Please refer to Technical Bulletin 2, Flood Damage-Resistant Materials Requirements, dated 8/08, and available from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Class 4 and 5 materials, referenced therein, are acceptable flood-resistant materials.

26. **Floodway** - the channel of a river or other watercourse and the adjacent land areas that must be reserved in order to discharge the base flood without cumulatively increasing the water surface elevation more than one foot.
27. **Freeboard** - a factor of safety usually expressed in feet above a flood level for purposes of flood plain management. "Freeboard" tends to compensate for the many unknown factors that could contribute to flood heights greater than the height calculated for a selected size flood and floodway conditions, such as wave action, bridge openings, and the hydrological effect of urbanization of the watershed.
28. **Functionally dependent use**- a use which cannot perform its intended purpose unless it is located or carried out close proximity to water. The term includes only docking facilities, port facilities that are necessary for the loading and unloading of cargo or passengers, and shipbuilding and ship repair facilities, but does not include long-term storage or related manufacturing facilities.
29. **Highest Adjacent Grade** - the highest natural elevation of the ground surface, prior to construction, next to the proposed walls of the structure.
30. **Historic Structure** - any structure that is: (a) listed individually in the National Register of Historic Places (a listing maintained by the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI)) or preliminarily determined by the Secretary of the Interior as meeting the requirements for individual listing on the National Register; (b) certified or preliminarily determined by the Secretary of the Interior as contributing to the historical significance of a registered historic district or a district preliminarily determined by the Secretary to qualify as a registered historic district; (c) individually listed on a State inventory of historic places; (d) individually listed on a local inventory of historic places in communities with historic preservation programs that have been certified (1) by an approved State program as determined by the Secretary of Interior, or (2) directly by the Secretary of Interior in states without approved programs. Some structures or districts listed on the State or local inventories **MAY NOT** be "Historic" as cited above but have been included on the inventories because it was believed that the structures or districts have the **potential** for meeting the "Historic" structure criteria of the DOI. In order for these structures to meet NFIP historic structure criteria, it must be demonstrated and evidenced that the South Carolina Department of Archives and History has **individually determined** that the structure or district meets DOI historic structure criteria.
31. **Increased Cost of Compliance (ICC)** – applies to all new and renewed flood insurance policies effective on and after June 1, 1997. The NFIP shall enable the purchase of insurance to cover the cost of compliance with land use and control

measures established under Section 1361. It provides coverage for the payment of a claim to help pay for the cost to comply with State or community floodplain management laws or ordinances after a flood event in which a building has been declared substantially or repetitively damaged.

32. **Limited storage** - an area used for storage and intended to be limited to incidental items that can withstand exposure to the elements and have low flood damage potential. Such an area must be of flood resistant or breakaway material, void of utilities except for essential lighting and cannot be temperature controlled. If the area is located below the base flood elevation in an A, AE and A1-A30 zone it must meet the requirements of Article IV.A.4 of this ordinance. If the area is located below the base flood elevation in a V, VE and V1-V30 zone it must meet the requirements of Article IV.F of this ordinance.
33. **Lowest Adjacent Grade (LAG)** - is an elevation of the lowest ground surface that touches any deck support, exterior walls of a building or proposed building walls.
34. **Lowest Floor** -the lowest floor of the lowest enclosed area (including basement). An unfinished or flood resistant enclosure, usable solely for parking of vehicles, building access or storage in an area other than a basement area is not considered a building's lowest floor; provided, that such enclosure is not built so as to render the structure in violation of the applicable non-elevation design requirements of this ordinance.
35. **Manufactured home** - a structure, transportable in one or more sections, which is built on a permanent chassis and designed to be used with or without a permanent foundation when connected to the required utilities. The term "manufactured home" does not include a "recreational vehicle".
36. **Manufactured Home Park or subdivision** - a parcel (or contiguous parcels) of land divided into two or more manufactured home lots for rent or sale.
37. **Mean Sea Level** – means, for the purpose of this ordinance, the Nations Geodetic Vertical Datum (NGVD) of 1929, North American Vertical Datum (NAVD) of 1988, or other datum, to which the base flood elevations shown on a community's Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) are shown.
38. **National Geodetic Vertical Datum (NGVD) of 1929** - as corrected in 1929, elevation reference points set by National Geodetic Survey based on mean sea level.
39. **North American Vertical Datum (NAVD) of 1988** – vertical control, as corrected in 1988, used as the reference datum on Flood Insurance Rate Maps.
40. **New construction** - structure for which the start of construction commenced on or after **October 24, 1978**. The term also includes any subsequent improvements to such structure.

41. **New manufactured home park or subdivision** - a manufactured home park or subdivision for which the construction of facilities for servicing the lots on which the manufactured homes are to be affixed (including at a minimum, the installation of utilities, the construction of streets, and either final site grading or the pouring of concrete slabs) is completed on or after **October 24, 1978**.
42. **Primary Frontal Dune** - a continuous or nearly continuous mound or ridge of sand with relatively steep seaward and landward slopes immediately landward and subject to erosion and overtopping from high tides and waves during coastal storms. The inland limit of the primary frontal dune occurs at the point where there is a distinct change from a relatively steep slope to a relatively mild slope.
43. **Recreational vehicle** - a vehicle which is: (a) built on a single chassis; (b) 400 square feet or less when measured at the largest horizontal projection; (c) designed to be self-propelled or permanently towable by a light duty truck; and, (d) designed primarily not for use as a permanent dwelling, but as temporary living quarters for recreational, camping, travel, or seasonal use.
44. **Repetitive Loss** - a building covered by a contract for flood insurance that has incurred flood-related damages on 2 occasions during a 10 year period ending on the date of the event for which a second claim is made, in which the cost of repairing the flood damage, on the average, equaled or exceeded 25% of the market value of the building at the time of each such flood event.
45. **Section 1316 of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968** - The act provides that no new flood insurance shall be provided for any property found by the Federal Emergency Management Agency to have been declared by a state or local authority to be in violation of state or local ordinances.
46. **Stable Natural Vegetation** - the first place on the oceanfront where plants such as sea oats hold sand in place.
47. **Start of construction** - for other than new construction or substantial improvements under the Coastal Barrier Resources Act (P.L. 97-348), includes substantial improvement, and means the date the building permit was issued, provided the actual start of construction, repair, reconstruction, rehabilitation, addition, or improvement was within 180 days of the permit date. The actual start means the first placement of permanent construction of a structure (including a manufactured home) on a site, such as the pouring of slabs or footings, installation of piles, construction of columns, or any work beyond the stage of excavation or the placement of a manufactured home on a foundation. Permanent construction does not include land preparation, such as clearing, grading, and filling; nor does it include the installation of streets and/or walkways; nor does it include excavation for footings, piers or foundations, or the erection of temporary forms; nor does it include the installation on the property of accessory buildings, such as garages or sheds not occupied as dwelling units or not part of the main structure. For a substantial improvement,

the actual start of construction means the first alteration of any wall, ceiling, floor, or other structural part of the building, whether or not that alteration affects the external dimensions of the building.

48. **Structure** - a walled and roofed building, a manufactured home, including a gas or liquid storage tank that is principally above ground.
49. **Substantial damage** - damage of any origin sustained by a structure whereby the cost of restoring the structure to it's before damaged condition would equal or exceed 50 percent of the market value of the structure before the damage occurred. Such repairs may be undertaken successively and their costs counted cumulatively. Please refer to the definition of "substantial improvement".
50. **Substantial improvement** - any repair, reconstruction, rehabilitation, addition, or other improvement of a structure, the cost of which equals or exceeds 50 percent of the market value of the structure before the start of construction of the improvement. This term includes structures that have incurred repetitive loss or substantial damage, regardless of the actual repair work performed. The term does not, however, include either:
- a) any project of improvement to a structure to correct existing violations of State or local health, sanitary, or safety code specifications which have been identified by the local code enforcement official and which are the minimum necessary to assure safe living conditions or,
 - b) any alteration of a historic structure provided that the alteration will not preclude the structure's continued designation as a historic structure.
 - c) permits shall be cumulative for a period of five years. If the improvement project is conducted in phases, the total of all costs associated with each phase, beginning with the issuance of the first permit, shall be utilized to determine whether "substantial improvement" will occur.
51. **Substantially improved existing manufactured home park or subdivision** - where the repair, reconstruction, rehabilitation or improvement of the streets, utilities and pads equals or exceeds 50 percent of the value of the streets, utilities and pads before the repair, reconstruction, or improvement commenced.
52. **Variance** - is a grant of relief from a term or terms of this ordinance.
53. **Violation** - the failure of a structure or other development to be fully compliant with these regulations.

Article III. ADMINISTRATION

A. Designation of Local Floodplain Administrator –The Fairfield County Community Development Director or his/her designee is hereby appointed to administer and implement the provisions of this ordinance.

B. Adoption of Letter of Map Revisions (LOMR) – All LOMRs that are issued in the areas identified in Article I Section D of this ordinance are hereby adopted.

C. Development Permit and Certification Requirements.

1. **Development Permit:** - Application for a development permit shall be made to the local floodplain administrator on forms furnished by him or her prior to any development activities. The development permit may include, but not be limited to, plans in duplicate drawn to scale showing: the nature, location, dimensions, and elevations of the area in question; existing or proposed structures; and the location of fill materials, storage areas, and drainage facilities. Specifically, the following information is required:

a) A plot plan that shows the 100-year floodplain contour or a statement that the entire lot is within the floodplain must be provided by the development permit applicant when the lot is within or appears to be within the floodplain as mapped by the Federal Emergency Management Agency or the floodplain identified pursuant to either the Duties and Responsibilities of the local floodplain administrator of Article III.D.11 or the Standards for Subdivision Proposals of Article IV.B and the Standards for streams without Estimated Base Flood Elevations and Floodways of Article IV.C. The plot plan must be prepared by or under the direct supervision of a registered land surveyor or professional engineer and certified by it. The plot plan must show the floodway, if any, as identified by the Federal Emergency Management Agency or the floodway identified pursuant to either the duties or responsibilities of the local floodplain administrator of Article III.D.11 or the standards for subdivision proposals of Article IV.B.12 and the standards for streams without estimated base flood elevations and floodways of Article IV.C.

b) Where base flood elevation data is provided as set forth in Article I.D or the duties and responsibilities of the local floodplain administrator of Article III.D.11 the application for a development permit within the flood hazard area shall show:

(1) the elevation (in relation to mean sea level) of the lowest floor of all new and substantially improved structures, and

(2) if the structure will be floodproofed in accordance with the Non-Residential Construction requirements of Article IV.B.2 the elevation (in relation to mean sea level) to which the structure will be floodproofed.

- c) Where base flood elevation data is **not** provided as set forth in Article I.D or the duties and responsibilities of the local floodplain administrator of Article III.D.11, then the provisions in the standards for streams without estimated base flood elevations and floodways of Article IV.C must be met.
- d) Alteration of Watercourse: Where any watercourse will be altered or relocated as a result of proposed development, the application for a development permit shall include a description of the extent of watercourse alteration or relocation, an engineering study to demonstrate that the flood- carrying capacity of the altered or relocated watercourse is maintained and a map showing the location of the proposed watercourse alteration or relocation.

2. **Certifications**

- a) Floodproofing Certification - When a structure is floodproofed, the applicant shall provide certification from a registered, professional engineer or architect that the non-residential, floodproofed structure meets the floodproofing criteria in the non-residential construction requirements of Article IV.B.2 and Article IV.E.2(b).
- b) Certification During Construction – A lowest floor elevation or floodproofing certification is required after the lowest floor is completed. As soon as possible after completion of the lowest floor and before any further vertical construction commences, or floodproofing by whatever construction means, whichever is applicable, it shall be the duty of the permit holder to submit to the local floodplain administrator a certification of the elevation of the lowest floor, or floodproofed elevation, whichever is applicable, as built, in relation to mean sea level. Said certification shall be prepared by or under the direct supervision of a registered land surveyor or professional engineer and certified by it. Any work done prior to submission of the certification shall be at the permit holder's risk. The local floodplain administrator shall review the floor elevation survey data submitted. The permit holder immediately and prior to further progressive work being permitted to proceed shall correct deficiencies detected by such review. Failure to submit the survey or failure to make said corrections required hereby shall be cause to issue a stop-work order for the project.
- c) V-Zone Certification - When a structure is located in Zones V, VE, or V1-30, certification shall be provided from a registered professional engineer or architect, separate from submitted plans, that new construction and substantial improvement meets the criteria for the coastal high hazard areas outlined in Article IV.F.5.

- d) As-built Certification - Upon completion of the development a registered professional engineer, land surveyor or architect, in accordance with SC law, shall certify according to the requirements of Article III.C.2a, 2b, and 2c that the development is built in accordance with the submitted plans and previous pre-development certifications.

D. Duties and Responsibilities of the Local Floodplain Administrator - shall include, but not be limited to:

1. **Permit Review** - Review all development permits to assure that the requirements of this ordinance have been satisfied.
2. **Requirement of Federal and/or state permits** - Review proposed development to assure that all necessary permits have been received from those governmental agencies from which approval is required by Federal or State law, including section 404 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972, 33 U.S.C 1334.
3. **Watercourse alterations** –
 - a) Notify adjacent communities and the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, Land, Water, and Conservation Division, State Coordinator for the National Flood Insurance Program, prior to any alteration or relocation of a watercourse, and submit evidence of such notification to the Federal Emergency Management Agency.
 - b) In addition to the notifications required watercourse alterations per Article III.D.3a, written reports of maintenance records must be maintained to show that maintenance has been provided within the altered or relocated portion of said watercourse so that the flood-carrying capacity is maintained. This maintenance must consist of a comprehensive program of periodic inspections, and routine channel clearing and dredging, or other related functions. The assurance shall consist of a description of maintenance activities, frequency of performance, and the local official responsible for maintenance performance. Records shall be kept on file for FEMA inspection.
 - c) If the proposed project will modify the configuration of the watercourse, floodway, or base flood elevation for which a detailed Flood Insurance Study has been developed, the applicant shall apply for and must receive approval for a Conditional Letter of Map Revision with the Federal Emergency Management Agency prior to the start of construction.
 - d) Within 60 days of completion of an alteration of a watercourse, referenced in the certification requirements of Article III.C.2.d, the applicant shall submit as-built certification, by a registered professional engineer, to the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

4. **Floodway encroachments** - Prevent encroachments within floodways unless the certification and flood hazard reduction provisions of Article IV.B.5 are met.
5. **Adjoining Floodplains** - Cooperate with neighboring communities with respect to the management of adjoining floodplains and/or flood-related erosion areas in order to prevent aggravation of existing hazards.
6. **Notifying Adjacent Communities** – Notify adjacent communities prior to permitting substantial commercial developments and large subdivisions to be undertaken in areas of special flood hazard and/or flood-related erosion hazards.
7. **Certification requirements** –
 - a) Obtain and review actual elevation (in relation to mean sea level) of the lowest floor of all new or substantially improved structures, in accordance with administrative procedures outlined in Article III.C.2.b or the coastal high hazard area requirements outlined in Article IV.F.5.
 - b) Obtain the actual elevation (in relation to mean sea level) to which the new or substantially improved structures have been floodproofed, in accordance with the floodproofing certification outlined in Article III.C.2.a.
 - c) When floodproofing is utilized for a particular structure, obtain certifications from a registered professional engineer or architect in accordance with the non-residential construction requirements outlined in Article IV.B.2.
 - d) A registered professional engineer or architect shall certify that the design, specifications, and plans for construction are in compliance with the provisions contained in the coastal high hazard area requirements outlined in Article IV.F.4, Article IV.F.6, and Article IV.F.8 of this ordinance.
8. **Map Interpretation** - Where interpretation is needed as to the exact location of boundaries of the areas of special flood hazard (for example, where there appears to be a conflict between a mapped boundary and actual field conditions), make the necessary interpretation. The person contesting the location of the boundary shall be given a reasonable opportunity to appeal the interpretation as provided in this article.
9. **Prevailing Authority** – Where a map boundary showing an area of special flood hazard and field elevations disagree, the base flood elevations for flood protection elevations (as found on an elevation profile, floodway data table, etc.) shall prevail. The correct information should be submitted to FEMA as per the map maintenance activity requirements outlined in Article IV.B.7.b.

10. **Use Of Best Available Data** - When base flood elevation data and floodway data has not been provided in accordance with Article I.D, obtain, review, and reasonably utilize best available base flood elevation data and floodway data available from a federal, state, or other source, including data developed pursuant to the standards for subdivision proposals outlined in Article IV.B.12, in order to administer the provisions of this ordinance. Data from preliminary, draft and final Flood Insurance Studies constitutes best available data from a federal, state, or other source. Data must be developed using hydraulic models meeting the minimum requirement of NFIP approved model. If an appeal is pending on the study in accordance with 44 CFR Ch. 1, Part 67.5 and 67.6, the data does not have to be used.
11. **Special Flood Hazard Area/topographic Boundaries Conflict** - When the exact location of boundaries of the areas special flood hazards conflict with the current, natural topography information at the site; the site information takes precedence when the lowest adjacent grade is at or above the BFE, the property owner may apply and be approved for a Letter of Map Amendment (LOMA) by FEMA. The local floodplain administrator in the permit file will maintain a copy of the Letter of Map Amendment issued from FEMA.
12. **On-Site inspections** - Make on-site inspections of projects in accordance with the administrative procedures outlined in Article III.E.1.
13. **Administrative Notices** - Serve notices of violations, issue stop-work orders, revoke permits and take corrective actions in accordance with the administrative procedures in Article III.E.
14. **Records Maintenance** - Maintain all records pertaining to the administration of this ordinance and make these records available for public inspection.
15. **Annexations and Detachments** - Notify the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources Land, Water and Conservation Division, State Coordinator for the National Flood Insurance Program within six (6) months, of any annexations or detachments that include special flood hazard areas.
16. **Federally Funded Development** - The President issued *Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management May 1977*. E.O. 11988 directs federal agencies to assert a leadership role in reducing flood losses and losses to environmental values served by floodplains. Proposed developments must go through an eight-step review process. Evidence of compliance with the executive order must be submitted as part of the permit review process.
17. **Substantial Damage Determination** - Perform an assessment of damage from any origin to the structure using FEMA's Residential Substantial Damage Estimator (RSDE) software to determine if the damage equals or exceeds 50 percent of the market value of the structure before the damage occurred.

18. Substantial Improvement Determinations – Perform an assessment of permit applications for improvements or repairs to be made to a building or structure that equals or exceeds 50 percent of the market value of the structure before the start of construction. Cost of work counted for determining if and when a substantial improvement to a structure occurs shall be cumulative for a period of five years. If the improvement project is conducted in phases, the total of all costs associated with each phase, beginning with the issuance of the first permit, shall be utilized to determine whether “substantial improvement” will occur.

The market values shall be determined by one of the following methods:

- a) The current assessed building value as determined by the county’s assessor’s office or the value of an appraisal performed by a licensed appraiser at the expense of the owner within the past six months.
- b) One or more certified appraisals from a registered professional licensed appraiser in accordance with the laws of South Carolina. The appraisal shall indicate actual replacement value of the building or structure in its pre-improvement condition, *less the cost of site improvements and depreciation for functionality and obsolescence.*
- c) Real Estate purchase contract within six months prior to the date of the application for a permit.

E. Administrative Procedures

1. **Inspections of Work in Progress** - As the work pursuant to a permit progress, the local floodplain administrator shall make as many inspections of the work as may be necessary to ensure that the work is being done according to the provisions of the local ordinance and the terms of the permit. In exercising this power, the floodplain administrator has a right, upon presentation of proper credentials, to enter on any premises within the territorial jurisdiction at any reasonable hour for the purposes of inspection or other enforcement action.
2. **Stop-Work Orders** - Whenever a building or part thereof is being constructed, reconstructed, altered, or repaired in violation of this ordinance, the floodplain administrator may order the work to be immediately stopped. The stop-work order shall be in writing and directed to the person doing the work. The stop-work order shall state the specific work to be stopped, the specific reasons for the stoppage, and the conditions under which the work may be resumed. Violation of a stop-work order constitutes a misdemeanor.
3. **Revocation of Permits** - The local floodplain administrator may revoke and require the return of the development permit by notifying the permit holder in writing, stating the reason for the revocation. Permits shall be revoked for any substantial departure from the approved application, plans, or specifications; for

4. **Periodic Inspections** - The local floodplain administrator and each member of his/her inspections department shall have a right, upon presentation of proper credentials, to enter on any premises within the territorial jurisdiction of the department at any reasonable hour for the purposes of inspection or other enforcement action.
5. **Violations to be Corrected** - When the local floodplain administrator finds violations of applicable state and local laws, it shall be his/her duty to notify the owner or occupant of the building of the violation. The owner or occupant shall immediately remedy each of the violations of law on the property he owns.
6. **Actions in Event of Failure to Take Corrective Action:** If the owner of a building or property shall fail to take prompt corrective action, the floodplain administrator shall give him written notice, by certified or registered mail to his last known address or by personal service, that:
 - a) the building or property is in violation of the Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance,
 - b) a hearing will be held before the local floodplain administrator at a designated place and time, not later than ten days after the date of the notice, at which time the owner shall be entitled to be heard in person or by counsel and to present arguments and evidence pertaining to the matter; and,
 - c) following the hearing, the local floodplain administrator may issue such order to alter, vacate, or demolish the building; or to remove fill as appears appropriate.
7. **Order to Take Corrective Action:** If, upon a hearing held pursuant to the notice prescribed above, the floodplain administrator shall find that the building or development is in violation of the Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance, he/she shall make an order in writing to the owner, requiring the owner to remedy the violation within such period, not less than 60 days, the floodplain administrator may prescribe; provided that where the floodplain administrator finds that there is imminent danger to life or other property, he may order that corrective action be taken in such lesser period as may be feasible.
8. **Appeal:** Any owner who has received an order to take corrective action may appeal from the order to the local elected governing body by giving notice of appeal in writing to the floodplain administrator and the clerk within ten days following issuance of the final order. In the absence of an appeal, the order of the floodplain administrator shall be final. The local governing body shall hear

an appeal within a reasonable time and may affirm, modify and affirm, or revoke the order.

9. **Failure to Comply with Order:** If the owner of a building or property fails to comply with an order to take corrective action from which no appeal has been taken, or fails to comply with an order of the governing body following an appeal, he shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished in the discretion of the court.

10. **Denial of Flood Insurance under the NFIP:** If a structure is declared in violation of this ordinance and after all other penalties are exhausted to achieve compliance with this ordinance then the local floodplain administrator shall notify the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to initiate a Section 1316 of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 action against the structure upon the finding that the violator refuses to bring the violation into compliance with the ordinance. Once a violation has been remedied the local floodplain administrator shall notify FEMA of the remedy and ask that the Section 1316 be rescinded.

11. The following **documents** are incorporated by reference and may be used by the local floodplain administrator to provide further guidance and interpretation of this ordinance as found on FEMA's website at www.fema.gov:
 - a) FEMA 55 Coastal Construction Manual
 - b) All FEMA Technical Bulletins
 - c) All FEMA Floodplain Management Bulletins
 - d) FEMA 348 Protecting Building Utilities from Flood Damage
 - e) FEMA 499 Home Builder's Guide to Coastal Construction Technical Fact Sheets

Article IV. **PROVISIONS FOR FLOOD HAZARD REDUCTION**

A. **General Standards**

Development may not occur in the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) where alternative locations exist due to the inherent hazards and risks involved. Before a permit is issued, the applicant shall demonstrate that new structures cannot be located out of the SFHA and that encroachments onto the SFHA are minimized. In all areas of special flood hazard the following provisions are required:

1. **Reasonably Safe from Flooding** - Review all permit applications to determine whether proposed building sites will be reasonably safe from flooding