STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
COUNTY OF HORRY)
TOWN OF ATLANTIC BEACH)

Ordinance No. 10-2025
First Reading: 8/4/2025
Second Reading: 8/25/2025

Article I. General Provisions

Section 1.01 Adoption of State Traffic Laws.

(a) Incorporation by Reference. The provisions of the South Carolina Uniform Act Regulating Traffic on Highways, Title 56, Chapter 5 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, as amended, are hereby adopted and incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein. All future amendments to said act shall be automatically incorporated without further action by the Town Council.

Section 1.02 Municipal Authority. This chapter supplements and does not replace state traffic laws. Where municipal regulations are more restrictive than state law, municipal regulations shall control within the corporate limits of the Town of Atlantic Beach.

Section 1.03 Penalty. Unless otherwise specified in this chapter, violations of state traffic laws within the town limits shall be punishable according to state law and may be prosecuted in municipal court.

Section 1.04 Definitions. For purposes of this chapter, the following terms shall have the meanings ascribed herein:

- (a) Authorized Emergency Vehicle means any vehicle operated by police, fire, emergency medical services, or other emergency personnel while responding to emergency calls or engaged in emergency operations.
- (b) Commercial Vehicle means any vehicle designed, used, or maintained primarily for the transportation of property or passengers for compensation, or any vehicle with a gross vehicle weight rating exceeding 10,000 pounds.
- (c) Golf Cart means a motor vehicle designed and manufactured for operation on a golf course for sporting or recreational purposes and that is not capable of exceeding speeds of 20 miles per hour.
- (d) Low Speed Vehicle means a four-wheeled motor vehicle whose top speed is greater than 20 miles per hour but not greater than 25 miles per hour.
- (e) Municipal Court means the municipal court of the Town of Atlantic Beach or any court designated by the Town to hear traffic violations.
- (f) Recreational Vehicle means a motor home, travel trailer, truck camper, or camping trailer, with or without motive power, designed for temporary living quarters during recreational, camping, or travel use.

(g) Through Street means a street or highway where traffic has the right-of-way and traffic entering from intersecting streets must yield or stop.

Article II. TRAFFIC CONTROL AND SPEED LIMITS

Section 2.01 Speed Limits.

- (a) Prohibited Conduct. It shall be unlawful for any person to operate a motor vehicle at a speed in excess of the posted speed limit or, where no speed limit is posted, in excess of twenty-five (25) miles per hour within the corporate limits of the Town of Atlantic Beach.
- (b) Penalty. Any person convicted under this section shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and may be punished by a fine not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500.00), plus applicable fees and assessments, or by imprisonment for a period not to exceed thirty (30) days.
- (c) Authority to Establish Speed Limits. The Town Manager or designee may establish speed limits on specific streets within the town limits, provided such limits do not exceed those permitted under state law. Speed limit changes shall require appropriate signage conforming to state specifications.

Section 2.02 Traffic Control Devices.

- (a) Prohibited Conduct.
 - (i) It shall be unlawful for any person to disobey the instructions of any official traffic control device placed in accordance with this chapter and state law, unless otherwise directed by a police officer.
 - (ii) Interference Prohibited. It shall be unlawful for any person to willfully damage, deface, move, or interfere with any traffic control device installed by the town.
- (b) Penalty. Any person convicted under this section shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and may be punished by a fine not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500.00), plus applicable fees and assessments, or by imprisonment for a period not to exceed thirty (30) days.
- (c) Authority to Install. The Town Manager or designee may install and maintain traffic control devices on streets under municipal jurisdiction as deemed necessary for public safety. All devices shall conform to the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices and state specifications.

Section 2.03 Stop Signs and Yield Signs.

- (a) Prohibited Conduct. Every driver of a vehicle approaching a stop sign shall stop completely before entering the crosswalk or, if there is no crosswalk, before entering the intersection. Every driver approaching a yield sign shall slow down to a speed reasonable for existing conditions and yield the right-of-way to other vehicles and pedestrians.
- (b) Penalty. Any person convicted under this section shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and may be punished by a fine not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500.00), plus applicable fees and assessments, or by imprisonment for a period not to exceed thirty (30) days.
- (c) Authority to Designate. The Town Manager or designee may designate intersections where stop signs or yield signs are required and shall cause appropriate signs to be installed.

Section 2.04 One-Way Streets.

- (a) Prohibited Conduct. It shall be unlawful to operate a vehicle in the wrong direction on any street designated as one-way by official signage.
- (b) Penalty. Any person convicted under this section shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and may be punished by a fine not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500.00), plus applicable fees and assessments, or by imprisonment for a period not to exceed thirty (30) days.
- (c) Authority to Designate. The Town Manager or designee may designate certain streets or portions of streets as one-way and shall cause appropriate signs to be installed to indicate the direction of authorized traffic movement.

Section 2.05 Through Streets.

- (a) Prohibited Conduct. The driver of a vehicle shall yield the right-of-way to traffic on through streets and shall stop or yield as indicated by posted signs.
- (b) Penalty. Any person convicted under this section shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and may be punished by a fine not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500.00), plus applicable fees and assessments, or by imprisonment for a period not to exceed thirty (30) days.
- (c) Authority to Designate. The Town Manager or designee may designate certain streets as through streets and require traffic entering from intersecting streets to stop or yield. Appropriate signage shall be installed to indicate through street status.

Article III. VEHICLE EQUIPMENT AND NOISE

Section 3.01 Vehicle Equipment Requirements.

- (a) Prohibited Conduct. It shall be unlawful to operate any motor vehicle that does not comply with state equipment requirements, including but not limited to proper lighting, brakes, steering, tires, and safety equipment.
- (b) Specific Requirements. All vehicles operated within the town shall be equipped with:
 - (i) Proper headlights, taillights, and turn signals in working order;
 - (ii) Adequate brakes capable of stopping the vehicle safely;
 - (iii) Properly inflated tires with adequate tread;
 - (iv) Functioning horn or warning device;
 - (v) Required safety belts and restraint systems.
- (c) Penalty. Any person convicted under this section shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and may be punished by a fine not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500.00), plus applicable fees and assessments, or by imprisonment for a period not to exceed thirty (30) days.

Section 3.02 Vehicle Noise Control.

- (a) Prohibited Conduct.
 - (i) It shall be unlawful to operate any motor vehicle that produces excessive noise from the exhaust system, sound system, engine modifications, or any other source that disturbs the peace and quiet of the community.
 - (ii) Sound System Restrictions. No person shall operate a motor vehicle with a sound system audible beyond fifty (50) feet from the vehicle between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m.
- (iii) Sound System Location Restrictions. No person shall operate a motor vehicle with a sound system that produces excessive noise or disturbs the peace at any time of day in residential areas or near places of worship, hospitals, or other noise-sensitive locations.
- (b) Penalty. Any person convicted under this section shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and may be punished by a fine not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500.00), plus applicable fees and assessments, or by imprisonment for a period not to exceed thirty (30) days.

Article IV. SPECIAL VEHICLE REGULATIONS

Section 4.01 Golf Cart Operations.

- (a) State Law Compliance. For the purposes of this section, the operation of any and all golf carts within the town's corporate limits shall comply with state law governing such operation, including the provisions of S.C. Code § 56-2-90 as amended effective May 22, 2025.
- (b) State Registration Required. No person shall operate a golf cart on any public street, alley, or right-of-way within the Town of Atlantic Beach unless the golf cart displays a valid South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles golf cart permit.
- (c) Hours of Operation. Golf carts may be operated at any time during a twenty-four (24) hour period. Golf carts operated during nighttime hours from sunset to sunrise must be equipped with working headlights and taillights that are illuminated during operation.
- (d) Operator Requirements. The operator of a golf cart must:
 - (i) Be at least sixteen (16) years of age;
 - (ii) Possess a valid driver's license;
 - (iii) Have in possession while operating:
 - 1) The SC DMV registration certificate;
 - 2) Proof of liability insurance for the golf cart;
 - 3) Valid driver's license.
- (e) Mandatory Safety Belts. All children under twelve (12) years of age must be secured by safety belts while riding in golf carts on public streets.
- (f) Equipment Requirements. All golf carts operated on public streets shall be equipped with:
 - (i) Headlights and taillights (if operated at night hours);
 - (ii) Rearview mirror;
 - (iii) Warning devices or reflectors;
 - (iv) Adequate brakes;
 - (v) Safety belts for all seating positions.
- (g) Operational Restrictions.
 - (i) Speed Limit Compliance. Golf carts may only operate on streets with posted speed limits of thirty-five (35) miles per hour or less.
- (h) Crossing Restrictions. Golf carts may cross highways with speed limits exceeding thirty-five (35) miles per hour.

- (i) Passenger Limitations. No more passengers than the manufacturer's designed seating capacity may ride in any golf cart.
- (j) Guest Use. Property owners may permit guests to operate their registered golf carts provided:
 - (i) The guest possesses a valid driver's license;
 - (ii) The guest is at least sixteen (16) years of age;
- (iii) The property owner remains responsible for all violations;
- (iv) The guest operates only within the two-mile distance limitation.

Section 4.02 Golf Cart Enforcement and Penalties.

- (a) Penalty Structure. Violations of Golf Cart Operations section 4.01 shall be penalized as follows.
- (b) Specific Fine Schedule. The following violations shall be subject to the specified fines:
 - (i) Operating without required headlights and or taillights at night: One hundred dollars (\$100.00)
 - (ii) Operating outside distance limitations: One hundred dollars (\$100.00)
 - (iii) Safety belt violation (children under 12): Fifty dollars (\$50.00)
 - (iv) Operating without required equipment: Seventy-five dollars (\$75.00)
 - (v) Operating without proper licensing: One hundred dollars (\$100.00)
- (c) General Penalty. Any violation of the Golf Cart Operations, section 4.01, not specifically listed above shall be a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500.00), plus applicable fees and assessments, or by imprisonment for a period not to exceed thirty (30) days.
- (d) Progressive Penalties for Repeat Offenses:
 - (i) Second Offense. Any person convicted of a second golf cart violation within a twelve (12) month period shall pay double the applicable fine amount, whether specific or general.
 - (ii) Third and Subsequent Offenses. Any person convicted of three or more golf cart violations within a twelve (12) month period shall pay triple the applicable fine amount.
- (iii) Violation Counting. For purposes of progressive penalties, all golf cart violations under this section count toward the total, regardless of violation type.
- (e) Exemptions. The provisions of this section shall not apply to:

- (i) Golf carts used by police or public safety agencies in the performance of official duties;
- (ii) Golf carts properly equipped and licensed as low-speed vehicles under state law;
- (iii) Golf carts operated during declared emergencies under the direction of emergency management officials.

Section 4.03 Low Speed Vehicle Operations.

- (a) State Compliance Required. Low speed vehicles may operate on streets with posted speeds of 35 miles per hour or less, provided they comply with all applicable state registration, equipment, and operational requirements.
- (b) Prohibited Areas. Low-speed vehicles are prohibited as designated by the Town Manager for safety reasons.
- (c) Penalty. Any person convicted under this section shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and may be punished by a fine not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500.00), plus applicable fees and assessments, or by imprisonment for a period not to exceed thirty (30) days.

Section 4.04 Commercial Vehicle Restrictions.

- (a) Prohibited Areas. Commercial vehicles with a gross vehicle weight rating exceeding 10,000 pounds are prohibited from operating on residential streets except when making deliveries or providing services to properties on those streets.
- (b) Time Restrictions. Commercial deliveries on residential streets are permitted only between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday, and 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. on Sunday.
- (c) Through Traffic Prohibited. Commercial vehicles are prohibited from using residential streets as through routes to avoid traffic on arterial streets.
- (d) Penalty. Any person convicted under this section shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and may be punished by a fine not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500.00), plus applicable fees and assessments, or by imprisonment for a period not to exceed thirty (30) days.

Article V. GENERAL PARKING REGULATIONS

Section 5.01 No Parking Places.

- (a) Prohibited Conduct. It shall be unlawful at any time for a person to permit any vehicle, golf cart, or trailer to stop, stand, or park in any of the following places except when necessary to avoid conflict with other traffic or in compliance with the direction of a police officer or traffic control device:
 - (i) At any place where official signs prohibit parking;
 - (ii) On any sidewalk;
- (iii) Within thirty (30) feet of any intersection not otherwise designated for parking;
- (iv) Within ten (10) feet of any beach access, driveway and entrance or exit to any parking lot;
- (v) On any private property without the consent of the owner;
- (vi) Within fifteen (15) feet of a fire hydrant;
- (vii) Upon any public right-of-way with the vehicle facing against the proper flow of traffic unless directed by a law enforcement officer;
- (viii) Upon any public right-of-way with the vehicle parked in any manner other than parallel with the roadway and facing the proper flow of traffic unless within a legally marked and designated parking space;
- (ix) Within fifty (50) feet of any designated beach access point;
- (x) In any fire lane or emergency vehicle access route.
- (b) Application. The provisions of this section shall apply to all off-street parking facilities owned or operated by the town and to town rights-of-way.
- (c) Penalty. Any person convicted under this section shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and may be punished by a fine not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500.00), plus applicable fees and assessments, or by imprisonment for a period not to exceed thirty (30) days.

Section 5.02 Blocking Streets and Alleys.

- (a) Prohibited Conduct. No person shall stop, stand, or park any vehicle upon a street, in such a manner or under such conditions as to obstruct the well-traveled portion of the roadway, except that a driver may stop temporarily during the actual loading or unloading of passengers or when necessary in obedience to traffic regulations or traffic signs or signals of a police officer.
 - (i) Alley Restrictions. No person shall park a vehicle within an alley in such a manner or under such conditions as to leave available less than ten (10) feet of the width of the roadway for the free movement of vehicular traffic.

(b) Penalty. Any person convicted under this section shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and may be punished by a fine not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500.00), plus applicable fees and assessments, or by imprisonment for a period not to exceed thirty (30) days.

Section 5.03 Parallel Parking Requirements.

- (a) Proper Positioning. All vehicles parked on public streets shall be positioned parallel to the roadway and facing in the direction of traffic flow, unless parking within legally marked diagonal or perpendicular parking spaces.
- (b) Distance from Curb. Vehicles shall be parked as close as practicable to the right-hand curb or edge of the roadway, not to exceed eighteen (18) inches from the curb.
- (c) Exceptions. This section shall not apply to vehicles parked in legally marked and designated parking spaces that allow diagonal or perpendicular parking.
- (d) Penalty. Any person convicted under this section shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and may be punished by a fine not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500.00), plus applicable fees and assessments, or by imprisonment for a period not to exceed thirty (30) days.

Section 5.04 Residential Street Parking.

- (a) Prohibited Conduct. It shall be unlawful for any person to park any vehicle on any residential street for more than forty-eight (48) consecutive hours.
- (b) Definition of Residential Street. For purposes of this section, a residential street means any street within a residentially zoned area or any street where the primary land use is residential in nature.
- (c) Exceptions. This section shall not apply to:
 - (i) Vehicles parked on private property with the consent of the property owner;
 - (ii) Vehicles temporarily disabled due to mechanical breakdown, provided the owner makes reasonable efforts to remove or repair the vehicle within forty-eight (48) hours;
 - (iii) Vehicles parked during declared emergencies when normal traffic patterns are suspended.
- (d) Enforcement Procedure. Vehicles in violation of this section may be tagged with a notice indicating the date and time of initial observation. If the vehicle remains in the same location for more than forty-eight (48) hours from the time indicated on the notice, it may be towed at the owner's expense.

(e) Penalty. Any person convicted under this section shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and may be punished by a fine not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500.00), plus applicable fees and assessments, or by imprisonment for a period not to exceed thirty (30) days.

Section 5.05 Vehicle Display, Sales, and Maintenance.

- (a) Prohibited Conduct on Public Property. No person shall stand or park a vehicle alongside any roadway or on any public right-of-way for the principal purposes of displaying it for sale, washing or repairing such vehicle except for repairs necessitated by an emergency.
- (b) Commercial Vehicle Sales on Private Property.
 - (i) Zoning Compliance Required. No person shall use private property for the display, sale, or storage of motor vehicles for commercial purposes unless such use is permitted under the town's zoning ordinance and any applicable business license requirements.
 - (ii) Limitation on Number of Vehicles. On private property not zoned for commercial vehicle sales, no more than two (2) vehicles may be displayed for sale at any one time, regardless of ownership.
- (iii) Time Limitation. Vehicles displayed for sale on private property not zoned for commercial use may not remain on the property for more than ninety (90) consecutive days.
- (iv) Screening Requirements. All vehicles displayed for sale on private property visible from public roadways must comply with applicable screening and landscaping requirements under the town's zoning ordinance.
- (c) Limited Exception for Personal Vehicle Sales.
 - (i) Residential Areas. In residential areas, property owners may display one (1) vehicle for sale on their own property or in the public right-of-way immediately adjacent to their property during daylight hours only.
 - (ii) Duration Limit. Personal vehicle sales displays may not exceed thirty (30) consecutive days per vehicle.
- (d) Emergency Repairs. Emergency repairs necessary for the safe operation of a vehicle may be performed on public streets, provided the repairs are completed as quickly as possible and do not obstruct traffic flow.
- (e) Enforcement and Violations.

- (f) Notice Requirement. Before issuing a citation for violations of subsections (b) or (c), the town shall provide written notice to the property owner or person in control of the property, allowing seven (7) days to cure the violation.
- (g) Each Vehicle is a Separate Violation. Each vehicle in violation of this section shall constitute a separate offense.
- (h) Continuing Violation. Each day a violation continues after the cure period expires shall constitute a separate offense.
- (i) Penalty. Any person convicted under this section shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and may be punished by a fine not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500.00) per violation, plus applicable fees and assessments, or by imprisonment for a period not to exceed thirty (30) days.

Article VI. MOVING VIOLATIONS

Section 6.01 Driving Across Private Property.

- (a) Prohibited Conduct. It shall be unlawful for any person driving a vehicle to use the driveway of any private property, filling station, service station, or other commercial property in the town as a roadway or thoroughfare.
- (b) Penalty. Any person convicted under this section shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and may be punished by a fine not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500.00), plus applicable fees and assessments, or by imprisonment for a period not to exceed thirty (30) days.

Section 6.02 Prohibited Turns.

- (a) Prohibited Conduct. It shall be unlawful for any person driving a vehicle to make any "U" turn or other turns at any point where such turn is prohibited, and it shall be unlawful to accomplish a "U" turn by deviously going into or through private property adjoining the street where such turn is prohibited.
- (b) Penalty. Any person convicted under this section shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and may be punished by a fine not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500.00), plus applicable fees and assessments, or by imprisonment for a period not to exceed thirty (30) days.

Section 6.03 Reckless Driving.

- (a) Prohibited Conduct. It shall be unlawful for any person to drive any vehicle carelessly and heedlessly in willful or wanton disregard of the rights or safety of others, or without due caution and circumspection and at a speed or in a manner so as to endanger or be likely to endanger any person or property.
- (b) Examples of Reckless Driving. The following acts shall constitute evidence of reckless driving:
 - (i) Excessive speeding under the circumstances;
 - (ii) Improper lane changes or weaving between lanes;
 - (iii) Following too closely given traffic conditions;
 - (iv) Racing or engaging in speed contests on public streets;
 - (v) Passing in no-passing zones or unsafe conditions.
- (c) Penalty. Any person convicted under this section shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and may be punished by a fine not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500.00), plus applicable fees and assessments, or by imprisonment for a period not to exceed thirty (30) days.

Section 6.04 Careless Operation of a Vehicle.

- (a) Prohibited Conduct. It shall be unlawful for any person to operate any vehicle without care and caution, and due regard for the safety of persons or property. Any person failing to operate a vehicle with care and caution and due regard for the safety of persons and property shall be guilty of the offense of careless operation of a vehicle. In accordance with state law, it shall be unlawful for any person to operate any vehicle when the same or any of its components is not in a proper or safe condition, and such shall be prima facie evidence of the careless operation of a vehicle. Careless operation of a vehicle is unlawful and may be a lesser included offense of "reckless driving."
- (b) Penalty. Any person convicted under this section shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and may be punished by a fine not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500.00), plus applicable fees and assessments, or by imprisonment for a period not to exceed thirty (30) days.

Section 6.05 Improper Use of Vehicle.

(a) Prohibited Conduct. The use of any automobile, motorcycle, or vehicle that creates any loud or unnecessary noise that results from any one or more of the following actions by the operator is prohibited:

- (i) Misuse of acceleration or braking power that exceeds tire traction limits, sometimes known as "burn-outs," "burning rubber," "laying down rubber," or "peeling rubber";
- (ii) Excessive acceleration or deceleration while in motion where there is no emergency need;
- (iii) Rapid acceleration by means of quick up-shifting of transmission gears with either a clutch or manual transmission or an automatic transmission;
- (iv) Rapid deceleration by means of quick down-shifting of transmission gears with either a clutch or manual transmission or an automatic transmission;
- (v) Racing or revving of engines by manipulation of the accelerator, gas pedal, or carburetor in applying fuel to the engine in a greater amount than is necessary whether the vehicle is either in motion or standing still;
- (vi) Operation of the vehicle by applying unnecessary, deliberate or intentional acceleration from a stationary position, or unnecessary, deliberate or intentional bursts of acceleration while moving in a nonemergency situation.
- (b) Penalty. Any person convicted under this section shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and may be punished by a fine not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500.00), plus applicable fees and assessments, or by imprisonment for a period not to exceed thirty (30) days.

Section 6.06 Failure to Yield Right-of-Way.

- (a) Prohibited Conduct. It shall be unlawful to fail to yield the right-of-way when required by state law or municipal ordinance, including but not limited to yielding to pedestrians in crosswalks, emergency vehicles, and traffic with the right-of-way at intersections.
- (b) Penalty. Any person convicted under this section shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and may be punished by a fine not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500.00), plus applicable fees and assessments, or by imprisonment for a period not to exceed thirty (30) days.

Section 6.07 Improper Lane Usage.

- (a) Prohibited Conduct. It shall be unlawful to:
 - (i) Change lanes without signaling or when unsafe to do so;
 - (ii) Cross solid lane markings where prohibited;
- (iii) Use turn lanes for purposes other than turning;
- (iv) Occupy bicycle lanes with motor vehicles except when making turns.

(b) Penalty. Any person convicted under this section shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and may be punished by a fine not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500.00), plus applicable fees and assessments, or by imprisonment for a period not to exceed thirty (30) days.

Section 6.08 Following Too Closely.

- (a) Prohibited Conduct. It shall be unlawful to follow another vehicle more closely than is reasonable and prudent, having regard for the speed of such vehicles, traffic conditions, and road conditions.
- (b) Penalty. Any person convicted under this section shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and may be punished by a fine not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500.00), plus applicable fees and assessments, or by imprisonment for a period not to exceed thirty (30) days.

Section 6.09 Driving Under the Influence.

- (a) Municipal Court Jurisdiction. The municipal court shall have jurisdiction over first offense driving under the influence cases occurring within the town limits, subject to the defendant's right to request transfer to state court.
- (b) Prohibited Conduct. It shall be unlawful to drive or attempt to drive a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or any combination thereof that materially and appreciably impairs the person's faculties.
- (c) Penalty. Penalties for driving under the influence shall be imposed according to state law, including fines, license suspension, and possible imprisonment.

Article VII. HORNS AND SOUND DEVICES

Section 7.01 Horns.

- (a) Prohibited Conduct. Blowing horns, the sounding or blowing of any horn or signal device on any automobile, motorcycle, motor bus or other vehicle, except as a danger signal if another vehicle is approaching apparently out of control, or if in motion only as a danger signal is declared to be a nuisance. The creation by any signal device of such loud or harsh noise and the sounding of such device for any unnecessary period of time is prohibited.
- (b) Penalty. Any person convicted under this section shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and may be punished by a fine not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500.00), plus applicable fees and assessments, or by imprisonment for a period not to exceed thirty (30) days.

Article VIII. SAFETY AND ACCESSIBILITY

Section 8.01 ADA Compliance and Handicapped Parking.

- (a) Prohibited Conduct. It shall be unlawful for any person to park in any space designated for persons with disabilities unless the vehicle displays:
 - (i) A valid handicapped license plate issued by any state;
 - (ii) A valid handicapped parking placard or hang tag;
 - (iii) A valid Purple Heart, Disabled American Veterans, or Medal of Honor license plate;
 - (iv) A valid military license plate issued after May 6, 2022.
- (b) Enforcement Authority. Police officers may issue citations for violations of handicapped parking restrictions and may authorize immediate towing of vehicles illegally parked in handicapped spaces.
- (c) Enhanced Penalties. Violations of handicapped parking restrictions shall be subject to a fine of not less than one hundred dollars (\$100.00) and not more than five hundred dollars (\$500.00), plus applicable fees and assessments.
 - (i) Any person convicted under this section shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and may be punished by a fine as specified above, plus applicable fees and assessments, or by imprisonment for a period not to exceed thirty (30) days.

Section 8.02 Emergency Vehicle Access.

- (a) Fire Lane Enforcement. All fire lanes shall be clearly marked with appropriate signage and maintained free of obstructions at all times.
- (b) Minimum Width Requirements. Emergency vehicle access routes shall maintain a minimum unobstructed width of twenty (20) feet.
- (c) Immediate Towing Authority. Any person who parks in or blocks emergency vehicle access routes or fire lanes shall be subject to immediate towing at the owner's expense without prior notice.
- (d) Enhanced Penalty. Any person convicted of blocking emergency vehicle access shall be subject to a fine of not less than two hundred dollars (\$200.00) and not more than five hundred dollars (\$500.00), plus applicable fees and assessments, and immediate towing costs.

Section 8.03 Pedestrian Safety in Crosswalks.

Section 8.04 Driver Responsibility. Drivers shall yield the right-of-way to pedestrians lawfully within crosswalks and shall exercise due care to avoid colliding with any pedestrian.

- (a) Pedestrian Responsibilities. Pedestrians shall not suddenly enter a crosswalk or roadway into the path of a vehicle when it is impossible for the driver to stop safely.
- (b) Crosswalk Priority. At intersections with traffic control signals, pedestrians shall obey pedestrian control signals when present.
- (c) Penalty. Any person convicted under this section shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and may be punished by a fine not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500.00), plus applicable fees and assessments, or by imprisonment for a period not to exceed thirty (30) days.

Section 8.05 Beach Access Safety.

- (a) Emergency Access Protection. No person shall park any vehicle within fifty (50) feet of any designated beach access point to ensure emergency vehicle access and pedestrian safety.
- (b) Pedestrian Walkway Protection. Vehicles shall not block or obstruct designated pedestrian walkways, beach access boardwalks, or ADA-compliant pathways.
- (c) Enhanced Enforcement. During peak tourist season, violations of beach access safety provisions may result in immediate towing at the owner's expense.
- (d) Penalty. Any person convicted under this section shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and may be punished by a fine not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500.00), plus applicable fees and assessments, or by imprisonment for a period not to exceed thirty (30) days.

Article IX. BEACH-SPECIFIC TRAFFIC ISSUES

Section 9.01 Beach Driving Prohibitions.

- (a) General Prohibition. It shall be unlawful for any person to operate any motor vehicle, motorcycle, ATV, or other motorized vehicle on any beach, sand dune, or beach vegetation area within the town limits.
- (b) Exceptions. The prohibitions in this section shall not apply to:
 - (i) Authorized beach service contractors operating under valid contracts with the Town of Atlantic Beach for the provision of beach services, equipment placement, or maintenance activities;

- (ii) Town employees or authorized contractors performing official town business including beach maintenance, emergency services, or public safety operations;
- (iii) Emergency vehicles responding to emergency calls or conducting rescue operations;
- (iv) Law enforcement vehicles engaged in official duties;
- (v) Vehicles authorized by special permit issued by the Town Manager for specific events or circumstances.
- (c) Beach Service Contractor Requirements. Contractors authorized to operate vehicles on the beach must:
 - (i) Use designated access routes established by the town or specified in their service contract;
 - (ii) Operate vehicles in a manner that minimizes impact to beach vegetation and nesting areas;
 - (iii) Comply with all sea turtle protection requirements and seasonal restrictions;
 - (iv) Maintain liability insurance as specified in their service contract;
 - (v) Display appropriate identification on authorized vehicles.
- (d) Seasonal Restrictions. Beach driving by authorized personnel is subject to additional restrictions from May 1 through October 31 to protect sea turtle nesting activities:
 - (i) No beach driving between 10:00 p.m. and sunrise except for emergency operations;
 - (ii) Vehicles must avoid marked nesting areas and turtle nests;
 - (iii) All beach driving activities must comply with state and federal wildlife protection laws.
- (e) Penalty. Any person convicted under this section shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and may be punished by a fine not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500.00), plus applicable fees and assessments, or by imprisonment for a period not to exceed thirty (30) days.

Section 9.02 Watercraft Trailer Restrictions.

- (a) Parking Limitations. Boat trailers and watercraft trailers may not be parked on any public street for more than four (4) consecutive hours.
- (b) Prohibited Areas. Watercraft trailers are specifically prohibited from parking:
 - (i) Within one hundred (100) feet of any beach access point;
 - (ii) On Ocean Boulevard or 30th Avenue North;
 - (iii) In any designated fire lane or emergency access route;

- (iv) In any manner that obstructs traffic flow or emergency vehicle access.
- (c) Loading and Unloading Exception. Watercraft trailers may be temporarily positioned for loading and unloading watercraft for a period not to exceed two (2) hours, provided such positioning does not create a traffic hazard or block emergency access.
- (d) Penalty. Any person convicted under this section shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and may be punished by a fine not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500.00), plus applicable fees and assessments, or by imprisonment for a period not to exceed thirty (30) days.

Section 9.03 Beach Equipment Transport.

- (a) Golf Cart Authorization. Property owners may use golf carts to transport beach equipment, provided:
 - (i) The equipment does not exceed the manufacturer's weight capacity of the golf cart;
 - (ii) Equipment is properly secured to prevent falling or shifting during transport;
- (iii) Golf carts remain on designated streets and do not operate on beach sand or dunes;
- (iv) All golf cart operational restrictions in this ordinance are followed.
- (b) Commercial Beach Equipment Services. Commercial beach equipment rental or service companies may transport equipment using:
 - (i) Golf carts operated in compliance with all municipal regulations;
 - (ii) Hand carts or non-motorized equipment on designated beach access paths;
- (iii) Authorized vehicles operating under valid beach service contracts with the town.
- (c) Prohibited Transport Methods. The following are prohibited for beach equipment transport:
 - (i) ATVs, dirt bikes, or other off-road vehicles not specifically authorized;
 - (ii) Vehicles operated on beach sand except as authorized for contracted beach services;
- (iii) Motorized vehicles on beach access boardwalks or pedestrian paths.
- (d) Penalty. Any person convicted under this section shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and may be punished by a fine not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500.00), plus applicable fees and assessments, or by imprisonment for a period not to exceed thirty (30) days.

Section 9.04 Beach Access Traffic Control.

(a) Vehicle Access Restrictions. Vehicular access to beach areas is limited to:

- (i) Designated public beach access points with appropriate roadway access;
- (ii) Authorized service vehicles operating under valid town contracts;
- (iii) Emergency vehicles responding to emergency situations.
- (b) Traffic Flow During Peak Periods. During peak tourist periods (May 1 through October 31), the police department may implement:
 - (i) Temporary traffic control measures on Ocean Boulevard and beach access streets;
 - (ii) One-way traffic restrictions on narrow beach access routes;
- (iii) Parking restrictions near beach access points to maintain traffic flow;
- (iv) Special event traffic management for beach activities.
- (c) Beach Access Point Protection. All designated beach access points must maintain:
 - (i) Unobstructed emergency vehicle access at all times;
 - (ii) Clear pedestrian walkways with ADA compliance where applicable;
 - (iii) Adequate turnaround space for emergency vehicles;
 - (iv) Posted signage indicating vehicle restrictions and emergency access requirements.
- (d) Penalty. Any person convicted under this section shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and may be punished by a fine not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500.00), plus applicable fees and assessments, or by imprisonment for a period not to exceed thirty (30) days.

Section 9.05 Sand and Debris on Roadways.

- (a) Prohibited Conduct. It shall be unlawful for any person to:
 - (i) Allow sand, beach equipment, or debris to fall from vehicles onto public roadways;
 - (ii) Track excessive amounts of sand onto public streets from beach access points;
 - (iii) Fail to clean up sand or debris that falls from vehicles or equipment during transport.
- (b) Beach Service Contractor Responsibility. Authorized beach service contractors must:
 - (i) Take reasonable precautions to prevent sand and debris from falling onto roadways;
- (ii) Clean up any sand or debris deposited on roadways during their operations;
- (iii) Use appropriate equipment covers or containment methods during transport.
- (c) Property Owner Responsibility. Property owners and beach equipment users should:
 - (i) Rinse equipment at designated areas when available before transport;
 - (ii) Secure loose items that could fall during transport;

- (iii) Use floor mats or coverings in vehicles to minimize sand tracking.
- (d) Enforcement. The town may require immediate cleanup of sand or debris on roadways and may assess cleanup costs to responsible parties.
- (e) Penalty. Any person convicted under this section shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and may be punished by a fine not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500.00), plus applicable fees and assessments, or by imprisonment for a period not to exceed thirty (30) days.

Article X. ADVANCED PARKING INTEGRATION

Section 10.01 Division of Authority. This chapter governs moving traffic violations and general traffic control measures. Parking violations in designated Pay-to-Park Areas and related parking enforcement procedures are governed by Chapter 9 of this Code.

Section 10.02 Overlapping Violations. When a single incident involves both a moving traffic violation and a parking violation, separate citations may be issued under both this chapter and Chapter 9, provided the violations are distinct and separately chargeable.

Section 10.03 Consistent Penalty Structure. Penalties under this chapter shall be coordinated with Chapter 9 penalties to ensure proportionate enforcement and avoid excessive punishment for similar violations.

Section 10.04 Cross-Reference Authority. Officers enforcing provisions of this chapter may also observe and report Chapter 9 parking violations to appropriate enforcement personnel.

Section 10.05 Enforcement Personnel Authority.

- (a) Sworn Police Officers. Sworn police officers of the Town of Atlantic Beach have full authority to enforce all provisions of this chapter as detailed in the Traffic Enforcement section.
- (b) Chapter 9 Parking Enforcement. Pay-to-Park Area enforcement under Chapter 9 is conducted by designated parking enforcement personnel as specified in that chapter.
- (c) Coordination Requirements. Police officers shall focus enforcement activities on moving violations and public safety matters while coordinating with Chapter 9 enforcement to avoid conflicting actions.
- (d) Administrative Coordination.
 - (i) Separate Enforcement Programs. Traffic enforcement under this chapter operates independently from Chapter 9 parking enforcement, with coordination limited to:

- 1) Information sharing about repeat violators when appropriate;
- 2) Coordination to avoid conflicting enforcement actions in the same areas;
- (ii) Joint public education efforts when beneficial.
- (e) Budget Independence. Traffic enforcement costs and revenue under this chapter are maintained separately from Chapter 9 parking operations.
- (f) Reporting Requirements. Traffic enforcement activities shall be reported separately from parking enforcement statistics, including:
 - (i) Citation volumes by violation type;
 - (ii) Enforcement costs and personnel time;
 - (iii) Court proceedings and outcomes;
 - (iv) Public safety impact assessments.
- (g) Penalty. Any person who violates the enforcement authority provisions of this section, including impersonating an enforcement officer or interfering with lawful enforcement activities, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and may be punished by a fine not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500.00), plus applicable fees and assessments, or by imprisonment for a period not to exceed thirty (30) days.

Section 10.06 TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT

- (a) Citation Authority.
 - (i) Authorized Personnel. Traffic citations may be issued only by sworn police officers of the Town of Atlantic Beach or other authorized law enforcement officers acting within their jurisdiction.
 - (ii) Traffic Citation Authority. The following violations fall under this chapter and may be enforced by sworn police officers:
 - 1) All moving violations (speeding, reckless driving, DUI, following too closely, etc.);
 - 2) General parking violations outside designated Pay-to-Park Areas;
 - 3) Golf cart violations on public streets;
 - 4) Beach-specific traffic violations;
 - 5) Emergency access violations requiring immediate response;
 - 6) Vehicle equipment and safety violations;
 - 7) Noise violations from vehicles and sound systems;
 - 8) Commercial vehicle restriction violations.

(b) Chapter 9 Coordination. Pay-to-Park Area enforcement under Chapter 9 is conducted by designated parking enforcement personnel as specified in that chapter. Police officers may refer Pay-to-Park Area violations to Chapter 9 enforcement personnel when appropriate.

Section 10.07 Citation Requirements. All traffic citations shall include:

- (a) The specific violation charged;
- (b) The date, time, and location of the alleged violation;
- (c) The vehicle identification and license plate number;
- (d) The officer's identification and signature;

Article XI. Court Procedures.

Section 11.01 Municipal Court Jurisdiction. The municipal court shall have jurisdiction over traffic infractions and misdemeanors occurring within the town limits, except where state law requires prosecution in other courts.

Section 11.02 Service of Citations. Citations may be served by personal service to the operator or by securely affixing the citation to the vehicle in a conspicuous location.

Section 11.03 Appearance Requirements. Persons cited for moving violations must appear in municipal court unless permitted to pay fines in advance for non-criminal infractions.

Section 11.04 Payment of Fines. Payment of a fine for a traffic infraction constitutes a guilty plea and waiver of the right to trial, except where court appearance is mandatory.

Section 11.05 Appeals. Appeals from municipal court decisions may be taken to the court of Common Pleas in accordance with state law.

Section 11.06 Point System Coordination.

- (a) State Reporting. The municipal court shall report all moving violation convictions to the South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles for inclusion in the defendant's driving record and point assessment.
- (b) License Suspensions. The court may impose license suspensions for violations as authorized by state law and shall coordinate such suspensions with the Department of Motor Vehicles.

Article XII. ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

Section 12.01 Traffic Engineering Authority.

- (a) Designation of Traffic Engineer. The Town Manager may designate a qualified traffic engineer to make technical decisions regarding traffic flow, signage, and street modifications.
- (b) Authority and Duties. The designated traffic engineer shall have authority to:
 - (i) Conduct traffic studies and recommend improvements;
 - (ii) Review development plans for traffic impact;
 - (iii) Recommend modifications to traffic control devices;
 - (iv) Coordinate with state agencies on traffic matters.

Section 12.02 Traffic Impact Studies.

- (a) When Required. Traffic impact studies shall be required for any proposed development that is projected to generate more than one hundred (100) vehicle trips per day.
- (b) Study Requirements. Traffic impact studies shall address:
 - (i) Existing traffic conditions;
 - (ii) Projected traffic increases from the development;
 - (iii) Impact on intersection levels of service;
 - (iv) Recommended mitigation measures;
 - (v) Compliance with town transportation plans.
 - (vi) Developer Responsibility. The developer shall be responsible for implementing traffic improvements recommended in approved traffic impact studies.

Section 12.03 Special Event Traffic Management.

- (a) Traffic Management Plan Required. Organizers of special events that may impact traffic flow shall submit a traffic management plan to the police department. For events requiring a special event permit under Chapter 7, the traffic management plan shall be submitted with the special event permit application and shall satisfy the traffic control requirements of Section 7.21(g) of Chapter 7.
- (b) Plan Requirements. Traffic management plans shall include:
 - (i) Expected attendance and traffic generation;
 - (ii) Proposed parking arrangements, including overflow parking;
 - (iii) Traffic control measures and personnel assignments;
 - (iv) Emergency vehicle access provisions;

- (v) Crowd control measures as they relate to traffic flow.
- (c) Police Details. Events projected to generate more than five hundred (500) attendees may be required to provide uniformed police officers for traffic control at the organizer's expense, in accordance with the rates and payment terms established in Chapter 7.
- (d) Authority to Modify Traffic Patterns. During special events, the Town Manager or police chief may authorize temporary modifications to traffic patterns, including street closures and parking restrictions, consistent with the authority granted in Section 7.45 of Chapter 7.

Section 12.04 Road Surface Protection and Damage Liability

- (a) Prohibited Conduct. It shall be unlawful for any person to:
 - (i) Operate any vehicle or equipment that causes damage to public roadways, curbs, sidewalks, or other public infrastructure within the town limits;
 - (ii) Knowingly operate overweight vehicles or equipment on roads not designed to support such loads;
- (iii) Fail to report damage to public roadways when such damage is caused by the person's vehicle, equipment, or activities;
- (iv) Leave the scene of road damage without reporting as required by this section.
- (b) Liability for Repairs. Any person who causes damage to public roadways shall be liable for the full cost of repairs necessary to restore the roadway to its original condition. The town may place liens on real or personal property to secure payment of unpaid repair costs.
- (c) Penalty. Any person convicted under this section shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and may be punished by a fine not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500.00), plus applicable fees and assessments, or by imprisonment for a period not to exceed thirty (30) days.

Section 12.05 BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN REGULATIONS

Section 12.06 Bicycle Operations. Traffic Law Compliance. Bicycles operated on public streets shall comply with all applicable traffic laws and regulations, including stopping at stop signs and traffic signals.

Section 12.07 Equipment Requirements. Bicycles operated during hours of darkness shall be equipped with:

- (a) A white light visible from the front;
- (b) A red reflector or red light visible from the rear;
- (c) Reflective material on pedals and wheels as required by state law.

Section 12.08 Prohibited Areas. Bicycles are prohibited on sidewalks in commercial districts and other areas as designated by appropriate signage.

Section 12.09 Penalty. Any person convicted under this section shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and may be punished by a fine not to exceed one hundred dollars (\$100.00), plus applicable fees and assessments.

Section 12.10 Pedestrian Safety.

- (a) Crosswalk Usage. Pedestrians shall use crosswalks when crossing streets at intersections and shall obey pedestrian traffic control signals.
- (b) Right-of-Way in Crosswalks. Drivers shall yield the right-of-way to pedestrians lawfully within crosswalks.
- (c) Prohibited Conduct. Pedestrians shall not:
 - (i) Suddenly enter a crosswalk or roadway into the path of a vehicle;
 - (ii) Cross streets at locations other than crosswalks when crosswalks are available;
 - (iii) Walk along roadways when sidewalks are available.
 - (iv) Penalty. Any person convicted under this section shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and may be punished by a fine not to exceed one hundred dollars (\$100.00), plus applicable fees and assessments.

Article XIII. SEASONAL AND SPECIAL PROVISIONS

Section 13.01 Beach Access Traffic Control.

- (a) Traffic Flow Maintenance. During peak season, the police department may implement temporary traffic control measures to maintain traffic flow on Ocean Boulevard and other heavily traveled streets.
- (b) Penalty. Any person convicted under this section shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and may be punished by a fine not to exceed two hundred dollars (\$200.00), plus applicable fees and assessments.

Section 13.02 Seasonal Enforcement Enhancement.

- (a) Enhanced Enforcement Period. Traffic enforcement shall be enhanced during the period from March 1 through October 31 of each year to address increased traffic volume from tourism.
- (b) Additional Personnel. The town may employ additional traffic enforcement personnel during peak season as budget permits.

Section 13.03 Emergency Operations.

- (a) Emergency Traffic Control. During declared emergencies, the Town Manager or police chief may implement emergency traffic control measures, including:
 - (i) Street closures and detours;
 - (ii) Mandatory evacuation routes;
 - (iii) Suspension of normal parking regulations;
- (iv) Coordination with county and state emergency management.
- (b) Authority During Emergencies. Normal traffic regulations may be suspended or modified during declared emergencies to facilitate evacuation, emergency response, or disaster recovery operations.

Article XIV. ENFORCEMENT AND PENALTIES

Section 14.01 General Enforcement Authority.

- (a) Police Powers. Sworn police officers of the Town of Atlantic Beach are hereby authorized to enforce all provisions of this chapter and may issue citations, make arrests, and take other lawful enforcement actions.
- (b) Impoundment Authority. Police officers may order the impoundment of vehicles when:
 - (i) The vehicle is illegally parked and creating a safety hazard;
 - (ii) The operator is arrested and no other person is available to take custody;
 - (iii) The vehicle is evidence of a crime or involved in an accident investigation;
 - (iv) Required by court order or state law.

Section 14.02 Progressive Enforcement.

(a) Warning Period. For new traffic regulations, the police department may implement a warning period of thirty (30) days before issuing citations, except for violations posing immediate safety hazards.

- (b) Educational Programs. The town may implement driver education programs and safety campaigns to promote compliance with traffic regulations.
- (c) Penalty Enhancement.
 - (i) Repeat Offenders. Persons convicted of three (3) or more traffic violations within a twelve (12) month period may be subject to enhanced penalties, including license suspension recommendations to the state.

Article XV. EFFECTIVE DATE AND SEVERABILITY

Section 15.01 Implementation. This chapter shall take effect immediately upon adoption by the Town Council and publication as required by law.

Section 15.02 Severability.

- (a) Invalidity of Provisions. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or word of this chapter is for any reason held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a decision of any court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this chapter.
- (b) Continued Effect. The Town Council hereby declares that it would have adopted this chapter and each section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, and word thereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, sentences, clauses, phrases, or words might be declared invalid or unconstitutional.

Atlantic Beach Town Council

Attest

Town Clerk

Town Manager

Jake Evans, Mayor

John David, Jr., Mayor Pro Tem

Jacqueline Gore, Councilmember

Edward Campbell, Councilmember

Carla Y. Taylor, Councilmember