

Ordinance



City Council
City of Wilmington
North Carolina

Introduced By: Meredith T. Everhart, City Attorney

Date: 3/24/2026

Ordinance Amending Wilmington City Code, Chapter 1, “General Provisions”

LEGISLATIVE INTENT/PURPOSE:

WHEREAS, periodic review of the Wilmington City Code (“Code”) is necessary to ensure the information contained within the Code is accurate and up to date.

THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED:

THAT, Wilmington City Code Chapter 1, Sec. 1-2, “Definitions and rules of construction,” is hereby amended to read as follows, and as shown in Attachment 2, which is incorporated herein by reference:

“Sec. 1-2. Definitions and rules of construction.

In the construction of this Code and of all ordinances, the following definitions and rules of construction shall be observed, unless inconsistent with the manifest intent of the council or the context clearly requires otherwise:

Bond. When a bond is required, an undertaking in writing shall be sufficient.

City. The words "the city" shall mean the City of Wilmington, in the County of New Hanover and State of North Carolina.

City manager. The words "city manager" shall mean the city manager or the designee of the city manager.

Computation of time. The time within which an act is to be done shall be computed as provided in G.S. section 1A-1, Rule 6.

Council. The words "the council" or "council" shall mean the council or governing body of the City of Wilmington.

County. The words "the county" shall mean the County of New Hanover, North Carolina.

Fee schedule. The words "fee schedule" shall mean the "City of Wilmington Fee Schedule," as amended, a copy of which is located in the office of the city clerk.

Gender. Any and all gender-specific references shall be interpreted as gender-neutral.

G.S.; General Statutes. "General Statutes" shall mean the General Statutes of North Carolina, as amended, and shall be identified in this document as “General Statutes” or abbreviated as “G.S.”

Joint authority. All words giving joint authority to three (3) or more persons or officers shall be construed as giving such authority to a majority of such persons or officers.

Oath. The word "oath" shall be construed to include "affirmation" in all cases in which, by law, an affirmation may be substituted for an oath, and in like cases the words "swear" and "sworn" shall be equivalent to the words "affirm" and "affirmed."

Owner. The word "owner," applied to building or land, shall include any part owner, joint owner, tenant in common, joint tenant, or tenant by the entirety, of the whole or a part of such building or land.

Person. The word "person" shall include a corporation, firm, partnership, association, organization, and any other group acting as a unit, as well as an individual.

Shall, may. "Shall" is mandatory; "may" is permissive.

Sidewalk. The word "sidewalk" shall mean that portion of a street between the curblines, or the lateral lines of a roadway where there is no curb, and the adjacent property line, intended for the use of pedestrians.

Signature. The word "signature" shall be defined as provided in G.S. section 12-3.

Street, highway. The word "street" or "highway" shall be defined as provided in G.S. section 20-4.01.

Year. The word "year," except where fiscal year is specifically referred to, shall mean a calendar year.

If any term not defined herein is defined in the General Statutes, that definition shall apply.”

THAT, Wilmington City Code Chapter 1, Sec. 1-8, the title of the section “Sec. 1-8. Amendments to Code, effect of new ordinances; amendatory language” is hereby amended to read “Sec. 1-8. Amendments to Code; effect of new ordinances; amendment language.” as shown in Attachment 2, which is incorporated herein by reference. The remainder of Sec. 1-8 shall remain the same.

THAT, Wilmington City Code Chapter 1, Sec. 1-9, “Supplementation of Code” is hereby amended by removing subsection (c) in its entirety, as shown in Attachment 2, which is incorporated herein by reference.

Adopted at a _____ meeting

On _____ 2026

Bill Saffo, Mayor

Approved As To Form:

Attest:

Penelope Spicer-Sidbury, City Clerk

City Attorney