

ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH
A
COMMUNITY APPEARANCE COMMISSION IN
CHATHAM COUNTY

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CHATHAM COUNTY
UNDER AUTHORITY DULY GRANTED UNDER SECTIONS 160A-451 THROUGH 160A-455
OF THE GENERAL STATUTES OF NORTH CAROLINA AS FOLLOWS:

ORDINANCE NUMBER

1.0 Establishment of Community Appearance Commission.

There is hereby created and established "The Chatham County Appearance Commission," hereinafter referred to as the "Commission," composed of seven (7) members appointed by the County Board of Commissioners of Chatham County. All members shall be residents of Chatham County at the time of appointment.

2.0 Membership Qualifications and Terms of Office.

2.1 Where possible, appointments shall be made in such a manner as to maintain on the Commission at all times a majority of members who have had special training or experience in a design field, such as architecture, landscape architecture, horticulture, city planning or a closely related field.

2.2 The terms of office of the members shall be three (3) years, except that the Board of County Commissioners may stagger the length of the terms of the initial appointees so that all terms do not expire simultaneously.

2.3 Members of the Commission shall serve without pay, but may be reimbursed for actual expenses incidental to the performance of their duties within the limits of funds available to the Commission.

3.0 Organization of the Appearance Commission.

3.1 Officers-The Commission shall elect one member to serve as Chairman and preside over its meetings, and shall create and fill such offices and committees as it may deem necessary. The term of the Chairman and other officers shall be one year, with eligibility for re-election to a second term.

3.2 The Commission shall maintain a record of its members' attendance, its actions, findings, and recommendations, which record shall be open to the public.

3.3 A quorum of members shall be necessary to take any official action authorized or required by this ordinance. A majority of member, excluding vacancies, shall constitute a quorum.

3.4 The Commission shall hold at least six (6) meetings per year. All of its meetings shall be open to the public.

4.0 Powers and Duties of the Commission

The Appearance Commission shall have the following powers and duties:

4.1 To initiate, promote and assist in the implementation of programs of general community beautification in Chatham County;

4.2 To seek to coordinate the activities of individuals, agencies, and organizations, public and private, whose plans, activities and programs bear upon the appearance of Chatham County;

4.3 To provide leadership and guidance in matters of area or community design and appearance to individuals, and to public and private organizations, and agencies;

4.4 To make studies of the visual characteristics and problems of Chatham County, including surveys and inventories of an appropriate nature, and to recommend standards and policies of design for the entire area, any portion or neighborhood thereof, or any project to be undertaken;

4.5 Prior to consideration of any application for approval of a conditional use, the County Board of Commissioners may request a recommendation on the appearance of such proposed conditional use from the Commission. The Commission shall have 30 days after the request is made to submit its recommendations;

4.6 To prepare both general and specific plans for the improved appearance of Chatham County. These plans may include the entire area or any part thereof, and may include private as well as public property. The plans shall set forth desirable standards and goals for the aesthetic enhancement of Chatham County or any part thereof within its area of planning and zoning jurisdiction, including public ways and areas, open spaces, and public and private buildings and projects. Plans and recommendations shall be coordinated with municipalities and communities lying within and near the county where plans would affect these areas.

4.7 To request from the proper officials of any public agency or body, including agencies of the State and its political subdivisions, its plans for public buildings, facilities, or projects to be located within Chatham County.

4.8 To review these plans and to make recommendations regarding their aesthetic suitability to the appropriate agency, or to the planning or governing board. All plans shall be reviewed by the Commission in a prompt and expeditious manner, and all recommendations of the Commission with regard to any public project shall be made in writing. Copies of the recommendation shall be transmitted promptly to the planning or governing body of Chatham County and to the appropriate agency;

4.9 To formulate and recommend to the Board of County Commissioners the adoption of amendments of ordinances that will, in the opinion of the Commission, serve to enhance the appearance of the county;

4.10 To direct the attention of Chatham County officials to needed enforcement of any ordinance that may in any way affect the appearance of Chatham County.

4.11 To seek voluntary adherence to the standards and policies of its plans;

4.12 To promote public interest in and an understanding of its recommendations, studies and plans, and to that end to prepare, publish and distribute to the public such studies and reports as will, in the opinion of the Commission, advance the cause of improved municipal appearance.

5.0 Annual Report

The Commission shall, no later than April 15 of each year, submit to the Board of County Commissioners a written report of its activities, a statement of its expenditures to date for the current fiscal year, and its requested budget for the next fiscal year. All accounts and funds of the Commission shall be administered substantially in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act.

6.0 Staff and Technical Services

The Commission may recommend to the Board of County Commissioners suitable arrangements for the procurement or provision of staff or technical services for the Commission.

7.0 Receipt and Expenditure of Funds

The Commission may receive contributions from private agencies, foundations, organizations, individuals and the state or federal government, or any other source in addition to any sums appropriated for its use by the county. It may accept and disburse these funds for any purpose within the scope of its authority and as herein specified.

8.0 Effective Date

This Ordinance shall be effective from and after April 20, 1992.

Duly enacted this 6th day of April, 1992.

Ordinance Amended October 1995.