



Chapter 20

ROADS*

* **Cross References:** Any ordinance dedicating, naming, establishing, locating, relocating, opening, widening, paving, etc. any street or public way in the county saved from repeal, § 1-10(6); any ordinance providing for local improvements and assessing taxes for such improvements saved from repeal, § 1-10(9); any ordinances levying or imposing taxes not included in this Code saved from repeal, § 1-10(13); any ordinance establishing or prescribing street grades saved from repeal, § 1-10(14); buildings and building regulations, ch. 6; environment, ch. 10; utilities, ch. 26.

State Law References: Roads and bridges, G.S. 153A-239 et seq.

Article I. In General

Secs. 20-1--20-30. Reserved.

Article II. Addressing Public and Private Roads

Sec. 20-31. Purpose and authority.

Sec. 20-32. Definitions.

Sec. 20-33. Relationship of GIS (geographic information system) to house numbering in the county.

Sec. 20-34. Administration and application.

Sec. 20-35. County address guidelines.

Sec. 20-36. County address schematic procedures.

Sec. 20-37. Naming roads and assignment of new addresses.

Sec. 20-38. Enforcement and standards.

ARTICLE I.

IN GENERAL

Secs. 20-1--20-30. Reserved.

ARTICLE II.

ADDRESSING PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ROADS*

* **State Law References:** Naming roads and assigning street numbers in unincorporated areas, G.S. 153A-239.1.

Sec. 20-31. Purpose and authority.

(a) The purpose of this article is to establish a consistent and coherent system and to establish an official process by which roads are named and signed, addresses are assigned and displayed, and the addressing system is maintained.

(b) Addresses will be assigned to all addressable structures within the county governmental jurisdiction in order to facilitate and enhance the location of individual addresses, increase public safety, and decrease emergency response time.



(c) The provisions of this article are adopted under the authority and in accordance with G.S. 153A-239.1.
(Ord. of 8-12-1993, § 1)

Sec. 20-32. Definitions.

The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this article, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

Address schematics means the county system generated by the geographic information system based computer grid plan and used to assign starting numbers on both public and private roads.

Addressable structure means a structure having a roof supported by columns or walls for the shelter, support or equipment contained as part of a commercial business operation. For the purpose of this article, the term "addressable structure" may also include other manmade facilities in keeping with the spirit and intent of this article.

E 911 committee means the following: EMS, planning department, the tax assessor, mapping (GIS) and data processing.

Geographic information system (GIS) means a system of computer hardware, software, and procedures designed to support the capture, management, manipulation, analysis and display of spatially referenced data designed to solve complex planning and management problems.

Road means as defined in G.S. 153A-238.
(Ord. of 8-12-1993, § 2)

Cross References: Definitions generally, § 1-2.

Sec. 20-33. Relationship of GIS (geographic information system) to house numbering in the county.

(a) The basis of the house numbering project is not to inconvenience citizens, but to provide a logical and sequential assignment of a number. This number assignment will become an integral part of the county's geographical information system (GIS).

(b) GIS is a computer mapping system which has analytical capabilities. GIS computes the distance of all the county's roads. When asked to locate any of the sequentially assigned numbers, GIS can instantly determine a value for that specific geographic location and can dispense information relative to that address.

(c) Very important in such application is an emergency dispatch system (E 911). This is such a system designed by the telephone company which displays on a computer screen the address from which the call is coming. GIS will add a third crucial element: in addition to the telephone number and address of the caller, the computer console will precisely locate that address in the county. It will pinpoint the exact road and display of the incoming call. It will determine the shortest route available to the nearest emergency vehicle. This is made possible because of the added dimension GIS gives the dispatch system. It actually contains the



coordinate values of that address and locates its physical position on the earth's surface.

(d) To work efficiently and economically GIS must perform within the framework of a logically and sequentially planned system. The equal interval system used by the county in assigning street addresses is such a system. Vacant land is held in reserve for axes, or roads, which split the county into four quadrants which form the basis of the numbering system. The further one moves in any direction from the intersection of these axes, the higher the number becomes.

(e) Existing addresses may now have to conform with the countywide numbering system, to do otherwise would leave isolated pockets of incompatible and nonsequential addresses throughout the county. This would greatly encumber GIS, a system built and maintained on the basis of the logic of its database and the information fed to it.

(f) While it is not impossible to retrieve incompatible address numbers through GIS, such activity severely limits GIS capabilities. But more importantly, it does an injustice to the very citizen who wants to retain his old address by offering to him a lesser service than which is efficiently used by his fellow citizens in the county.

(Ord. of 8-12-1993, § 3)

Sec. 20-34. Administration and application.

The E 911 committee is responsible for the administration of this article including, but not limited to:

- (1) Maintaining system, assigning all numbers for addressable structures;
- (2) Maintaining appropriate address records;
- (3) Approval of change of address schematic when necessary to facilitate house number assignments along existing roads;
- (4) Authorizing legal enforcement action as required by ordinance;
- (5) Establishment of interdepartmental infrastructure to ensure continued operation of the addressing system to meet the spirit and intent of this article;
- (6) Responsible for the appropriate notification of citizens, governments, agencies, and post offices, as required by law;
- (7) The E 911 committee is authorized to correct such clerical or administrative error that may from time to time occur keeping with the overall plan and the intent of this article when strict adherence to these standards cannot be readily met.

(Ord. of 8-12-1993, § 4)

Cross References: Administration, ch. 2.

Sec. 20-35. County address guidelines.



(a) The equal interval system used in the approach to assigning house numbers in the county requires the selection of two intersection base lines, one running in an east-west direction, the other running in a north-south direction. A frontage interval of 10.56 feet is then used to assign a progression of house numbers to properties, working out from these lines. The house number increases as one moves away from these lines in any direction along a continuous road. Odd numbers are assigned to the left side of the road, and even numbers are assigned to the right side of the road facing the direction of increasing numbers.

(b) This system offers several advantages:

- (1) It provides a consistent and coherent house and building numbering system necessary for public safety purposes, to minimize confusion for citizens and visitors to the county, to facilitate orderly and comprehensive mail delivery, and to establish a constant and permanent address for county citizens.
- (2) It provides accurate information concerning both distances and direction of a destination from a central point.
- (3) It ensures that house numbers within specific geographical districts will remain constant and continuous.
- (4) Emergency calls can be assisted with the installation of ANI (automatic number identification) and ALI (automatic location identification) via telephone and EMS - PSAP (public service answering point).

(c) In cases where county and town governmental jurisdiction adjoin, every effort is made to maintain a continuity in numbering across governmental lines. This helps in avoiding the reassignment of house numbers as fringe areas are annexed and ETJ lines are extended.
(Ord. of 8-12-1993, § 5)

Sec. 20-36. County address schematic procedures.

(a) *Road schematic.* To facilitate continued conformity in the county addressing system, the following system shall be used: Number ranges shall begin with one unless the road is to continue the range of another road. Base lines selected are based on two axes. The north-south axis shall be the centerline of SR 1418 (Etheridge Farm Road) from the Halifax County line south to the intersection of NC 33 (NC 33 NW), south along the centerline of NC 33 into Tarboro, following its course along St. Andrew St., E. North Blvd., and Main Street to the intersection with US 258 in Princeville (Mutual Blvd.), then following the centerline of US 258 south to the Pitt County line. The east-west axis shall be the centerline of US 64 Bus. Or US 64 Alt. (E. Thomas St., then N. Raleigh St., then US 64 Alt. west) at the Nash County line, following the centerline of US 64 Alt. west to Tarboro, then following the centerline of US 64 Alt. along Western Blvd. to the intersection of Wilson Street (NC 111/SR 1350), then continuing along the centerline of NC 111 along Western Blvd, US 64 Bypass, and Mutual Blvd. to the intersection with Greenwood Blvd. (NC 111), then following the centerline of NC 111 (Greenwood Blvd./NC 111 north) to the Martin County line. Each addressing base line shall pass through the county from boundary to boundary. The addressing system shall be used in such manner and



fashion as to generate addressable numbers for each 10.56 feet of road.

(b) *Numbering system.* Beginning block numbers are assigned to each road in the county based on their relationship to the base line as follows:

- (1) Numbers shall run in an ascending order from east to west on streets to the west of the north-south axis and shall run in an ascending order from west to east on streets to the east of the north-south base line. Numbers shall run in an ascending order from south to north on streets to the north of the east-west axis and shall run in an ascending order from north to south on streets to the south of the east-west axis.
- (2) All dead-end streets shall begin numbers at the access road.
- (3) Streets with both ends opening from the same direction shall begin numbering on the end closest to the axis.
- (4) Streets which do not run north-south or east-west shall begin numbering at the end closest to the axis.
- (5) Streets which connect to both axes shall begin numbering on the end stemming from the north-south axis.
- (6) Numbers shall remain unassigned in order to accommodate future development and block numbers shall be assigned to undeveloped areas.
- (7) Corner lots having an addressable structure shall normally receive the road name and number of the structure's driveway.
- (8) Existing addresses in corporate areas will remain as is unless there is a conflict in numbering. Every effort will be made to keep existing addresses in town.
- (9) All unnamed roads shall be named by the county.
- (10) Lanes with three or more addressable structures shall be named by the county.
- (11) All streets within mobile home parks shall be named by the county.
- (12) Posting of address numbers shall be per the county address display ordinance.
- (13) The E 911 committee is authorized to approve minor deviations from the basic schematic when actual field conditions indicate a change may be the most beneficial in keeping with the spirit and intent of this article.

(Ord. of 8-12-1993, § 7)

Sec. 20-37. Naming roads and assignment of new addresses.



(a) *Road names.* Names required for new roads and proposed name changes shall be reviewed in accordance with this section. Unique road names are required, and names which refer to landmarks, places, and natural features are preferable. All approved road names shall be added to the official road name list either through administrative action in the case of new developments or action of the board of county commissioners in all other cases, as authorized in this article. U.S. and state highways in the county will not be named, but shall be known by their highway numbers, such as US 301 or NC 111.

(1) *Future road within planned developments.* Road names for proposed new roads shall be submitted to the planning department by the developer for review and approval through the plan review process. Acceptability of proposed names shall be evaluated using both the official road name list and the unofficial list of pending road names maintained by the planning department. Once approved by the planning department, proposed names shall be added to the pending road name list and shall remain on the list until the final plan for the development is approved; the approval of the preliminary plan becomes invalid; or the developer submits and gains approval of substitute road names prior to final plan approval. Road names shall be placed on the official road name list when final plans are approved.

(2) *All other roads.* The planning department shall identify such roads and notify property owners with frontage along that road that a name is needed. Upon receipt of a proposed name from the property owners, the planning department shall review the proposed name within five working days. When an acceptable response is not received within ten days of notification, the planning department shall propose a new name. Proposed names shall be forwarded to the planning board for a recommendation of approval or denial. The recommended name shall then be forwarded to the board of county commissioners for final approval at an advertised public hearing as required by G.S. 153A-239.1. Following approval, the road name shall be added to the official road name list maintained by the planning department.

(b) *Road name changes.*

(1) Road name change requests must include a petition for such action bearing the signatures of not less than 75 percent of the property owners who own frontage on the road. The petitioner shall state the reasons for the proposed name change. Only one owner's signature per individual parcel shall be permitted. Petitions which include signatures of persons other than property owners will be deemed invalid. All road name changes shall be considered by the board of county commissioners at an advertised public hearing as required by G.S. 153A-239.1.

(2) All costs involved in changing a road name including, but not limited to, blades, posts, installation, map changes, and advertising for any required public hearing, shall be borne by those petitioning for the name change. The board of commissioners will consider such petitions once a year.

(3) A charge per sign per intersection along with the currently required administrative fee will be submitted with the petition no later than March 1 for consideration at the regularly scheduled May meeting. Road name changes approved by the board of commissioners become effective 90



days from the date approved by the board.

- (4) There is no fee for requesting a name to be applied to an unnamed public or private road; however, the petitioning procedure shall remain the same. The planning department is authorized to determine the need for additional road name changes and to recommend such changes to the planning board for review and to forward such requests to the board of county commissioners at any time.

(c) *Road name signs.* All roads shall be identified by a county-approved sign showing the official road name; road type; initial address number; and if applicable, the secondary road number. Except as otherwise authorized by the planning department, the county shall be responsible for the purchase, construction, installation, maintenance, and replacement of all road name signs required by this section. In the case of new developments and manufactured home parks, the initial purchase of road name signs shall be the developer's expense. The cost of replacement signs within approved manufactured home parks shall be the responsibility of the park owner. The fee is established on an annual basis by the county commissioners in their annually approved fee schedule.

(Ord. of 8-12-1993, § 8)

Sec. 20-38. Enforcement and standards.

- (a) Within 60 days after written notice by the county of the assignment of or change of an address number, the owner of such property shall be required to post the number so assigned in accordance with standards listed as follows:
 - (1) All buildings shall clearly display a road address number. The owner and occupant of each building is required to clearly display a road address number on each building so that the location can be identified easily from the road.
 - (2) The official address number must be displayed on the building or dwelling which is most clearly visible from the street or road during both day and night.
 - (3) Where a building or house is not visible or 100 feet or more from a public street or road on which it fronts, or the lot on which the building is located is landscaped such that numbers cannot be seen from the street or road, the assigned number shall also be posted at the end of the driveway or easement nearest the road which provides access to the structure.
 - (4) Numerals indicating the address number of dwellings and buildings shall be at least three inches in height and shall be posted so as to be legible from the road.
 - (5) Numerals for multiple dwelling units and nonresidential buildings shall be at least three inches in height and shall be posted so as to be legible from the road.
 - (6) House, building and individual mobile home numbers shall be maintained with a three-foot perimeter of the front entrance, visible and readable from the street. However, if the front entrance is not visible or is more than 100 feet from the public street or road on which it fronts,



or the lot on which the building is located is landscaped so that such numbers cannot be seen from the public street or road, the assigned building number shall also be posted on a marker not less than a four-inch by four-inch post three feet in height at the driveway or access serving such structure. Mobile homes within mobile home parks shall have permanent site numbers of not less than a four-inch by four-inch post three feet in height at each mobile home site. The address number shall be displayed upon such post in a uniform manner throughout the park. Numbers displayed on mobile homes within a park are not sufficient and not an acceptable substitute for such mobile home site markers.

- (7) Manufactured home parks shall erect a sign at the entrance to the park displaying the name of the park.
- (8) Address numbers shall be in a contrasting color to the color scheme of the house or building or mobile home so that it is clearly visible and shall be maintained in a clearly visible manner. Reflective numbers are encouraged.
- (9) Following the posting of the assigned number as required, the owner or occupant shall maintain such house or building number at all times in compliance with the standards of this section. Address numbers shall not be obstructed from view by shrubs or vegetation as viewed from the public road.

(b) The unauthorized damage to removal or possession of a road sign shall constitute a violation of this section and shall constitute a misdemeanor and the offender shall be subject to one or more of the penalties and remedies provided for in subsection (c) of this section.

(c) If the owner or occupant does not comply voluntarily with this article within 60 days of delivery of a warning notice by certified mail or by hand delivery of notice to the owner of the building in violation, the county attorney is authorized to begin legal enforcement action pursuant to G.S. 153A-123. The violation of the sentence authorized by G.S. 14-4. This article may also be enforced by appropriate equitable remedy issued by a court of competent jurisdiction including, but not limited to, issuance of mandatory or prohibitory injunctions and orders of abatement. Each day of continuing violation of the terms of this article shall constitute a separate and distinct offense.

(Ord. of 8-12-1993, § 9)