

ARTICLE II. ROAD NAMES AND ADDRESSES

Sec. 20-19. Authority.

The provisions of this article are adopted under authority granted by G.S. 153A-239.1.

(Ord. No. 2001-8, § 1, 9-12-2001)

Sec. 20-20. Intent.

The intent of this article is to provide a uniform system of assigning addresses for properties and structures throughout the county's jurisdiction in order to facilitate and enhance expeditious individual address location, public safety, and decreased emergency response time.

(Ord. No. 2001-8, § 2, 9-12-2001)

Sec. 20-21. Jurisdiction.

The jurisdiction of this article includes the entire geographic area of the county, but excludes areas of jurisdiction of incorporated municipalities unless any municipality requests that this article apply also within their jurisdiction and present a valid resolution as evidence of same.

(Ord. No. 2001-8, § 3, 9-12-2001)

Sec. 20-22. Naming; numbering system.

- (a) Each mile of roadway, path, or lane, or portion thereof, providing access to three or more occupied dwelling units and/or active businesses, shall be assigned a name for identification. Each lot adjoining a named roadway shall be numbered within a designated grouping, beginning with 1,000 at the designated beginning of any named road. The lot numbers of any address within one mile from the beginning point shall consist of one plus three numbers, in thousandths of a mile or every 5.28 feet. The first number in the second mile shall be two plus three in thousandths, and so on chronologically.
- (b) The standard frontage distance unit for addressing purposes shall be 5.28 feet per unit. Address numbering shall increase by one unit for each distance of 5.28 feet, whether the lot be improved property, field, woodland, etc. Address even numbers shall be assigned to lots on the right side of the road from the beginning point, and odd numbers to lots on the left side from the beginning point.

(Ord. No. 2001-8, § 4, 9-12-2001)

Sec. 20-23. Road name (and number, where applicable) signs.

The county, in conjunction with the state department of transportation where applicable, will provide and maintain road name signs for all roads named within the requirements of this article and located in the unincorporated areas of the county in accordance with G.S. 153A-239.1.

(Ord. No. 2001-8, § 5, 9-12-2001)

Sec. 20-24. 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 means the combination of lot number and road name assigned to a particular location which uniquely identifies that location, and the postal district designation.

Lot frontage unit means a standard interval in feet along the frontal border of a given lot or area to which numbers may be assigned consecutively. The standard lot frontage unit adopted in the county for the E-911 mapping system is 5.28 feet.

Official road names mean the names listed in the county road name files, and which have been approved by the state department of transportation (DOT), are hereby declared as the official names for roads in the county.

Private road means any road or roadway which is not maintained with public funds.

Road or roadway means a public or private one-way or multiple-lane route used for ingress or egress or route of transportation between specific points and/or areas. This article does not include driveways to individual single-occupancy locations, but does include access routes to three or more occupied dwellings and/or active businesses.

(Ord. No. 2001-8, § 6, 9-12-2001; Ord. No. 2006-6, § 1, 7-12-2006)

Sec. 20-25. Approved method for naming, renaming or changing the name of a public road in the county.

- (a) Requests for assignment of a name or for a name change must include a petition for such action bearing the signatures of not less than 51 percent of the owners whose property adjoins the affected road. The petition shall bear evidence of the approval of the fire chief and the emergency medical service squad captain/president of the affected district prior to submission to the county commissioners. The request for road name assignment or a road name change must be submitted in writing to the tax assessor. The requestor must provide three proposed names which will be submitted by the tax assessor to the county board of commissioners for their consideration and approval of an official name assignment. New road names should not include names after people, first or last or consist of road names similar to ones already in the county.
- (b) All costs involved in changing a road name, including, but not limited to, blades and posts, installation, map changes, and advertising for the required public hearing, shall be borne by those petitioning for the name change. A deposit in an amount as shall be determined by the board of commissioners from time to time, will be submitted with the petition, all but the costs involved in advertising for the public hearing to be refunded if the name change is not approved and/or effected.
- (c) 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.
- (d) The tax assessor will review requests and petitions and consult with the E911 committee, as needed, to determine if all procedural requirements have been met and that proposed name does not duplicate any other name of an existing road.
- (e) Any road, public or private, that provides access to three or more occupied dwellings, including mobile homes, and/or active businesses, shall be named.

(Ord. No. 2001-8, § 7, 9-12-2001; Ord. No. 2006-6, § 2, 7-12-2006)

Sec. 20-26. Display of assigned addresses.

- (a) The assigned address number shall be displayed at the end of the driveway or easement nearest the road which provides access, so as to be clearly visible from both directions of road travel.
- (b) The assigned address number shall be displayed on the front of any normally occupied dwelling and/or business building or structure, so as to be clearly visible, if the structure is more than 100 feet from any access road.
- (c) Displayed address numerals of a single-family dwelling unit shall be no less than three inches in height. Numerals for multiple-family units, industrial offices and single-structure businesses or offices shall be no less than six inches in height. All numbers shall be in contrast to the color on which posted and of reflective material.
- (d) Mobile home lots established after the date of adoption of the ordinance from which this section was adopted shall have sequential address numbers throughout the park or division. Each lot will have a separate address number assigned. The number of each lot must be clearly displayed in the manner described above. Mobile home lots established prior to the date of the ordinance from which this section is derived will be assigned the same road name with different lot numbers.
- (e) Addresses shall be displayed on existing buildings within 12 months.

(Ord. No. 2001-8, § 8, 9-12-2001)

Sec. 20-27. New structure address assignments.

- (a) The owner, occupant or person in charge of any new structure requiring an address in the unincorporated areas of the county shall apply for same through the tax assessor's office. Applicant must complete the E-911 address application; provide a project plan, which can be obtained by the Building Inspections department, and proof of a passed perk test from the Martin County Health Department and turn in to the Tax Assessor's Office. Once the application, project plan, and perk test documentation has been approved by the Building Inspector and the Tax Assessor, an address will be assigned.
- (b) Final approval for occupancy shall be withheld for any principal structure until a proper address for the premises has been procured and the requirements for proper display have been met.

(Ord. No. 2001-8, § 9, 9-12-2001; Ord. No. 2006-6, § 3, 7-12-2006)

Sec. 20-28. Enforcement.

The sheriff shall be responsible for the enforcement of the requirements of this article.

(Ord. No. 2001-8, § 10, 9-12-2001)

Sec. 20-29. Amendments.

- (a) Petitions for amendment to this article may be filed by any individual citizen, department, or agency of the county.
- (b) The provisions and requirements of this article may be amended by the county commissioners according to the following procedures:

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- (1) No amendment shall become effective unless it has been proposed by or shall have been reviewed, and approval recommended by, the tax assessor. The tax assessor shall have 60 days from date of receipt of request for change or amendment in which to review the request and to make recommendations to the commissioners. If the tax assessor fails to report within 60 days, it shall be deemed to have approved the proposed amendment.
 - (2) The board of county commissioners may issue variances and exceptions to the requirements of this article; provided they would not be contrary to the public interest, spirit, and intent of this article, and where due to special conditions, literal enforcement of the provisions would result in undue or unnecessary hardship. When granting a variance, the commissioners may prescribe solutions deemed appropriate and necessary to preserve the intent of this article. Consideration of the following should be used when granting a variance or exception:
 - a. Special conditions and circumstances exist which are peculiar to the road involved, and are not applicable to other roads or addresses.
 - b. Literal interpretation of the provisions of this article would deprive applicant of rights commonly enjoyed by other citizens.
 - c. The special conditions and/or circumstances generating the request for variance are not due to the actions of the applicant.
 - d. Granting the variance requested will not confer on the applicant any special privilege that is generally denied to other citizens by this article.

(Ord. No. 2001-8, § 11, 9-12-2001)

Sec. 20-30. Provisions as minimum standards.

The provisions of this article shall be held to be minimum requirements adopted for the promotion of the public health, safety, and general welfare. Should any requirements of this article differ with the requirements of any other local, state or federal regulation, the most restrictive, or highest standard, shall prevail.

(Ord. No. 2001-8, § 11, 9-12-2001)

Sec. 20-31. Violations.

Any person, firm, or agent thereof who intentionally violates the terms of this article shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to the penalties thereof.

(Ord. No. 2001-8, § 11, 9-12-2001)

Sec. 20-32. Liability.

Any employee, director, officer and/or agent of the county shall not be held liable for any damage, injury, death or any other loss to persons or property incurred as a result of any act or omission of any act by such persons, except for willful or wanton misconduct, in connection with the development, adoption, implementation, maintenance, or operation of the county E-911 emergency telecommunications system.

(Ord. No. 2001-8, § 11, 9-12-2001)

Secs. 20-33—20-52. Reserved.