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## Article II

### MISCELLANEOUS OFFENSES

#### Section 5-11 Noise Generally

No person may authorize or cause the emission from any property or source under his control any noise that is both:

- (1) Sufficiently loud to frighten or pose a danger to the health of or seriously disturb any person who:
  - a. if the noise emanates from a source located on private premises, is located on other premises (including other dwelling units or rented premises located on the same tract of land), or (Amend. 4/27/82)
  - b. if the noise emanates from a street or other public property, is located on private property or the street or other public property, and
- (2) Louder, or of greater duration, or otherwise more disturbing than is reasonably necessary for the performance of some lawful public or private function, enterprise, operation, or activity.

#### Section 5-12 Particular Noise (Amend. 11/16/93)

The following are declared to be illustrations of noises prohibited under the foregoing section, and are hereby declared to be unlawful, but this list shall not be exhaustive:

- (1) The playing of any radio, television, tape recorder, phonograph, or similar electronic device or any musical instrument so as to disturb the comfort, quiet or repose of persons in any place of residence or so as to interfere substantially with the operations of any church, school, theater, library or other similar place of assembly.
- (2) The use of any drum, loudspeaker, or other amplification instrument or device for the purpose of attracting attention by the creation of noise to any performance, show, ale, display, advertisement of merchandise, or other commercial venture.
- (3) Any party or assembly of persons in a dwelling unit or on residential premises producing loud and raucous noise after 11:00 p.m. that tend to disturb the comfort, quiet, or repose of persons in other dwelling units or on other residential premise. The person in possession of the premises where such a part or assembly of persons takes place shall be deemed responsible for the emission of loud and raucous noises under this subdivision. (Amend. 4/27/82)
- (4) The operation or use of any of the following tools, machinery, or equipment, when such operation or use takes place (i) outside of a fully enclosed structure; and (ii) within 300 feet of a residentially occupied structure that is not in the possession of the party responsible for the noise at issue; and (iii) after sunset on any day or

before 7:00 a.m. on any day except Sunday and before 12:00 noon on Sunday. However, this prohibition shall not apply when work must take place on an emergency basis for health or safety reasons, or when work is undertaken within a public street right-of-way by (i) a utility pursuant to an encroachment agreement, (ii) the town, or (iii) the North Carolina Department of Transportation. (Amend. 1/16/2001)

- (a) Earth moving or clearing power equipment.
- (a) Chain saws, brush cutters, wood chippers, or similar power equipment.
- (a) Power saws
- (a) Power driven hammers or jackhammers.
- (5) The barking, howling, whining, crying, crowing, or other noise making of any animal that occurs essentially unabated for a period of at least five minutes on at least three occasions during the hours between 11:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. (Amend. 9/24/02)

#### Section 5-12.1 Motor Vehicle Noises (Amend. 11/16/93)

The following are illustrations of noises, produced in connection with the operation or use of motor vehicles, that are prohibited under Section 5-11 and are hereby declared to be unlawful, but this list shall not be exhaustive:

- (1) The blowing of a horn on any motor vehicle except when the horn is used as a warning device.
- (2) The operation of any motor vehicle without a muffler or with a muffler that is so defective or so designed that the vehicle emits an unusually loud noise.
- (3) The operation of any motor vehicle so as to create unnecessary and unusual noise through the screeching of tires or racing of engines.
- (4) The operation or use of a motor vehicle with amplified sound produced by a radio, tape player, compact disc player or other soundmaking device or instrument within the motor vehicle such that the sound is plainly audible at a distance of 100 feet or more from the motor vehicle.

#### Section 5-13 Discharge of Firearms and Air Rifles

(a) Subject to subsection (b), no person may discharge any pistol, rifle, shotgun, or other gun or any air pistol, slingshot or any like instrument used to eject a pellet or projectile within the town limits.

(b) Subjection (a) shall not apply to private citizens acting in justifiable defense of persons or property or pursuant to the lawful directions of a police officer nor to police officers acting in the lawful performance of their duties.

- (4) Coring and aerification.
- (5) Application rates of nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, and/or iron in pounds per square foot, including adjustments for steeper slopes and areas near drainageways (streams, ditches, swales, and runoff conveyances) and impervious surfaces.
- (6) Timing of application.
- (7) Recycling of grass clippings.
- (8) Type of spreader (gravity or centrifugal).
- (9) Name and contact information of applier.
- (10) Reference document(s) used to develop the plan

Records shall be kept and updated annually to document the actual implementation of these components. Nutrient quantities stored and applied shall be documented via sales receipts or similar records.

(f) Landowners and other individuals applying nutrients to areas less than two acres in size are encouraged to adopt manage practices to reduce the risk of surface water impacts and apply nutrients at rates recommended by the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service.

#### Section 5-21 Penalties and Remedies.

(a) A violation of any of the provisions of this chapter, other than those set forth in Article III, shall constitute a misdemeanor, punishable as provided in G.S. 14-4.

(b) A violation of any of the provisions of this chapter, other than Section 5-15, shall subject the offender to a civil penalty of \$25.00 for the first offense, \$50.00 for the second offense within a 30-day period, and \$100.00 for the third or any additional offense that occurs within any 30-day period. A violation of the provisions of Section 5-15 shall subject the offender to a civil penalty in the amount by which the contribution exceeds \$250.00. If a person fails to pay this penalty within 10 days after being cited for a violation, the town may seek to recover the penalty by filing a civil action in the nature of debt. (Amend. 11/18/08, 3/3/09)

(b1) A violation of the provisions of Article IV of this chapter shall subject the offender to a civil penalty of up to five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00). In determining the amount of the civil penalty assessment, the administrator shall consider the following factors, and the decision levying a civil penalty shall cite those factors deemed applicable: (Amend. 11/18/08)

- (1) The degree and extent of harm to the natural resources of the town, to the public health, or to private property resulting from the violation;
- (2) The duration and gravity of the violation;
- (3) The cost to the violator or others of rectifying the damage;
- (4) The amount of money saved by the violator by noncompliance;

- (5) Whether the violation was committed willfully or intentionally, negligently, or as the result of an unforeseeable or unavoidable accident;
  - (6) Whether the violator promptly ceased the violation upon notice by the town and took whatever steps were reasonably possible to limit or correct any damage caused by the violation;
  - (7) The prior record of the violator in complying or failing to comply with the provisions of Article IV of this chapter;
  - (8) The cost to the town of the enforcement procedures;
  - (9) Whether the civil penalty is levied for a single day's violation or a single event or whether it is levied on a daily basis for a continuing violation, as authorized under subsection (d) below. Civil penalties levied on a daily basis may cumulatively exceed the \$5,000.00 cap set forth in this subsection.
- (c) The town may seek to enforce this chapter through any appropriate equitable action.
- (d) Each day that a violation continues after the offender has been notified of the violation shall constitute a separate offense.
- (e) The town may seek to enforce this chapter by using any one or a combination of the foregoing remedies.