

# TOWN COUNCIL

## STAFF REPORT



<b>MEETING DATE:</b>	September 9, 2025
<b>PROJECT:</b>	Consideration and Direction on Proposed Amendments to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, Chapter 12 Environmental, Article 3 Noise Control
<b>PROJECT MANAGER:</b>	Heather Colin, AICP, Assistant Town Manager

**REQUEST:** Request Town Council's direction on proposed amendments to the Code of Ordinances, Chapter 12 Environmental, Article 3 Noise Control.

**BACKGROUND:** On July, 2024 Town Council heard first reading of proposed amendments to park rules, noise control and special events. Town Council approved amendments related to park rules and tabled any action related to special events and noise pending a workshop. At the meeting there was concern with the frequency of events and the associated noise with outdoor entertainment and music specifically at Town parks in the historic district and the allowed times and bass. There was also discussion that the current Ordinance lacks clarity on the application of the noise Ordinance and the enforcement mechanisms.

Over the past year, Town staff have monitored events with outdoor entertainment and music and all related noise complaints. Staff have also been regularly discussing with the Police Department and legal counsel to amend the Ordinance for clarity.

We have received 17 complaints this past year in the Oyster Factory Park area; however, this does not capture all complaints. If multiple calls come in for the same date and time, only one record is created by Beaufort County Sheriff's Office dispatch. The majority of the complaints were after 9:00 pm and on Saturdays and Sundays. During this time there were 2 violations above the maximum allowed decibel readings; however, it was not enforceable because the current Ordinance is contradicting for special events.

### **SUMMARY of PROPOSED AMENDMENTS:**

- Resolves conflicting language for special events;
- Decrease in decibels during specific times; and
- Restriction of 6 hours of continuous play.

**NEXT STEPS:** Should Town Council direct staff to move forward with the proposed Ordinance:

- First Reading – Tuesday, October 14, 2025
- Second and Final Reading – Thursday, November 13, 2025

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Proposed Ordinance