

Staff Report

Subject: Ordinance Revision
Author: Steve Candler, Director Development Services
Department: Development Services
Meeting Date: November 21, 2023
Item Description: Consideration to **approve** an **amendment** to the Code of Ordinances **Part II – Official Code, Chapter 42; Section 42-7-Firearms** the Effingham County Code of Ordinances.

Executive Summary/Background

This amendment also allows certain traditions in Effingham County to continue amid the population changes the county is experiencing. The amendment specially addresses firearm use during dove season. The amendment allows for a registration system with the Sheriff's office for dove hunts on property less than 100 acres. It is not a permit system, just a notification system; very similar to the timber notification system in place.

Alternatives

1. Approve an **amendment** to the Code of Ordinances **Part II – Official Code, Chapter 42, Section 42-7-Firearms** the Effingham County Code of Ordinances.

2. Deny an **amendment** to the Code of Ordinances **Part II – Official Code, Chapter 42, Section 42-7-Firearms** the Effingham County Code of Ordinances.

Recommended Alternative: 1

Other Alternatives: 2

Department Review: County Administration, Development Services, Sherriff's Office

Sec. 42-7. - Firearms.

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person to discharge any explosive, pistol, gun, or other weapon or instrument likely to produce injury to person or property, except in defense of person or property, within a radius of 300 yards from any occupied dwelling without the express permission of the occupant of such dwelling. Nothing in this section shall apply to any person authorized by law to use firearms in the course of his duty.

(b) It shall be unlawful for any person to discharge any firearm on any public boat ramp or public dock, or on any public land or facilities adjacent to any public boat ramp or public dock maintained or owned by the county.

(c) Notwithstanding section (a), a single parcel, under single ownership, and a minimum of one hundred (100) acres, in an AR-1 zoning district, can discharge firearms on the parcel without notifying the county during the Georgia Wildlife Resources Division designated dove season.

(d) Notwithstanding section (a), for properties in single ownership under 100 acres, the landowner must register, with the Sheriff's office, the times and the dates for any discharge of a firearm on the property during the Georgia Wildlife Resources Division designated dove season.

(Ord. of 9-2-80; Ord. of 2-18-97)