

**ORDINANCE NO. 2024-**

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 20, ARTICLE III, OFFENSES AGAINST PROPERTY OF THE TOWN OF MONCK'S CORNER, SOUTH CAROLINA, CODE OF ORDINANCES.**

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Town Council find it necessary to protect public and private property within the incorporated area of the Town from the destruction that accompanies camping; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Town Council find it to be in the best interest of the Town to ensure that proper health and safety accommodations are provided to those who do camp; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Town Council find it to be in the best interest of the Town to prevent degradation of public and private lands and assure that such lands can be utilized for their intended purpose; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Town Council find it necessary and prudent to adopt the following.

**Sec. 20-71- CAMPING**

- (a) For purposes of this chapter, camping is defined as residing in or using any public or private property for one or more nights for living accommodation purposes, such as sleeping activities or making preparations to sleep (including the laying down of bedding for the purpose of sleeping), or storing personal belongings (including, but not limited to clothing, sleeping bags, bed rolls, blankets, sheets, luggage, backpacks, kitchen utensils, cookware, and similar material), or making any fire or using any tents, regularly cooking meals, or living in a parked vehicle. These activities constitute camping when it reasonably appears, in light of all the circumstances, that a person(s) is using public or private property as a living accommodation for one or more nights, with the intent to camp.
- (b) Camping on public property. Except as may be permitted within parks by the Town, it is unlawful to camp or squat upon any public property owned or maintained by the Town, including, without limitation, streets, easements, parks, dump sites, creek beds, parking lots, or corporation yards. No person shall set up tents, shacks, house trailers, motor homes, campers, or any other temporary or permanent shelter for the purpose of overnight camping or squatting, nor shall any person leave in any such place any movable structure or special vehicle to be used or that could be used for such a purpose, such as a house trailer, tent, automobile, or the like.

- (c) Camping on private property. Except as otherwise provided in this section, it is unlawful to camp or squat upon private property within the incorporated area of the Town. No person shall set up tents, shacks, campers, or any other temporary or permanent shelter for the purpose of overnight camping or squatting, nor shall any person leave upon any private property any movable structure or special vehicle to be used or that could be used for such a purpose, such as a tent or automobile, or the like.
- (d) Exceptions. This section shall not apply to persons camping upon their own land or camping with the owner of the land, or to persons camping with the written consent of the owner of the land, provided that such written consent is in their possession at the time and is shown upon demand of any peace officer, and provided that all local zoning ordinances of the Town are met and all State regulations are complied with. This section shall not apply to persons lawfully camping within campgrounds or trailer parks specifically designated or approved for such use pursuant to the Zoning Ordinance of the Town.
- (e) *Penalty.* Any person who violates any provision of this section shall severally for each such violation be guilty of a misdemeanor, punishable as provided in section 1-9 of this Code.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** and ordered by the Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Moncks Corner, South Carolina, in Council duly assembled on May 21, 2024, that Chapter 20, of the Town of Moncks Corner Code of Ordinances is amended.

**Done in Council Assembled this 21<sup>st</sup> day of May, 2024.**

**First Reading:**

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**Thomas J. Hamilton, Jr. Mayor**

**April 16, 2024**

**Second Reading and Public Hearing:**

**May 21 2024**

**Attest:**

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Marilyn M. Baker, Clerk to Council

**Approved As To Form:**

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James E. Brogdon, Town Attorney