

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
)
COUNTY OF DORCHESTER)

ORDINANCE NUMBER 23-07

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND SUPPLEMENT THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, DORCHESTER COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, BY DELETING CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE IV, DIVISION 9, SEC. 2-393 THROUGH SEC. 2-400, INCLUSIVE, THEREBY ABOLISHING THE COUNTY CONSERVATION COMMISSION; BY DELETING CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE IV, DIVISION 11, SEC. 2-419 THROUGH SEC. 2-427, INCLUSIVE, THEREBY ABOLISHING THE RIVERS AND WATERWAYS COMMISSION; AND CREATING A NEW CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE IV, DIVISION 9, SEC. 2-393 THROUGH SEC. 2-398, INCLUSIVE, THEREBY CREATING THE CONSERVATION AND GREENBELT ADVISORY COMMISSION.

Dorchester County Council, duly assembled, hereby amends and supplements the Code of Ordinances, Dorchester County, South Carolina, as follows:

1. Chapter 2, Article IV, Division 9, Sec. 2-393 through Sec. 2-400, inclusive, are deleted in their entirety.
2. Chapter 2, Article IV, Division 11, Sec. 2-419 through Sec. 2-427, inclusive, are deleted in their entirety.
3. A new Chapter 2, Article IV, Division 9, Sec. 2-393 through Sec. 2-398, inclusive, is added creating the Dorchester County Conservation and Greenbelt Advisory Committee shall read as follows:

Sec 2-393. Creation. There is hereby created a Commission to be known as the Dorchester County Conservation and Greenbelt Advisory Commission, which shall have the structure, organization, composition, purposes, powers, duties, and functions established herein below.

Sec. 2-394. Structure, Organization, and Composition of Commission.

- (a) The Dorchester County Conservation and Greenbelt Advisory Commission shall consist of seven (7) members to be appointed by County Council with each member of County Council being entitled to nominate one member. Appointees shall be residents of Dorchester County and shall remain residents of Dorchester County during their term. The term of each member shall be coterminous with the term of the County Council member which made the nomination. Vacancies on the Commission shall be filled in the manner of original appointments. Persons seeking to be appointed to the Commission shall make application on a form prescribed by the Dorchester County Administrator.
- (b) Officers of the Commission shall consist of a Chairman and Vice Chairman which shall be elected at the first meeting of the Commission following the

appointment of all members. The initial term of these Officers shall be two (2) years and following this initial term, an election shall be held for these Offices at the next meeting following the expiration of the initial term for subsequent terms of two (2) years.

- (c) The members of the Commission, including officers, shall serve without pay but may be reimbursed for travel and other incidental expenses incurred in connection with the Commission's responsibilities; however, such reimbursement shall not be made for the attendance of meetings of the Commission and shall be subject to compliance with ordinances, policies and procedures established by the Dorchester County Council governing the reimbursement of expenses for county boards, agencies and commissions.

Sec. 2-395. *Parliamentary Procedure; Minutes.* The Commission shall conduct all meetings in accordance with Roberts Rules of Order, the laws of the State of South Carolina, and the Dorchester County Ordinances. The Commission shall maintain records and minutes of its proceedings and meetings.

Sec. 2-396. *Meetings; Attendance.* The Commission shall meet at intervals appropriate to the requirements of the Commission but no less than quarterly. The Chairman or a majority of the members of the Commission may call a special meeting of the Commission at any time provided that twenty-four (24) hours advance notice is given to the members. A member of the Commission who shall be absent for 50% or more of the meetings of the Commission during any twelve-month period shall be deemed to have forfeited their membership and shall be removed without further action by the Commission or the County Council.

Sec. 2-397. *Purposes and Objectives.* The purposes and objectives of the Dorchester County Conservation and Greenbelt Advisory Commission shall be as follows:

- (a) To identify, conserve and protect natural resources;
- (b) To educate the public as to the benefits of conservation;
- (c) To work with County staff and the County's consultant in formulating and developing a Master Plan for the expenditure of Greenbelt funding received as a result of the 2022 Dorchester County One Cent Sales and Use Tax Referendum;
- (d) To work in conjunction with County staff and the County's consultant to identify eligible projects to be funded with the Greenbelt funding received as a result of the 2022 Dorchester County One Cent Sales and Use Tax Referendum;

- (e) To review eligible projects pursuant to applications developed by County staff and/or the County's Consultant and make recommendations to County Council for the expenditure of Greenbelt funding received as a result of the 2022 Dorchester County One Cent Sales and Use Tax Referendum.
- (f) To undertake such studies, plans, activities, and projects as may, from time-to-time, be assigned to the Commission by the County Council.

Sec. 2-398. *Plan for Protection; List of Significant Resources.*


- (a) The Commission in conjunction and with the assistance of County staff, shall prepare and submit annually to the Dorchester County Council a plan for the protection of significant resources in Dorchester County. Such plan shall include a list of significant natural and cultural resources in Dorchester County, which are recommended to the County Council for protection by acquisition or easement. A financing strategy shall accompany each recommendation, with emphasis being placed upon minimizing the utilization of public monies and maximizing the utilization of other sources, such as grants, public donations, etc.
- (b) The plan may provide various recommendations and approaches for the protection of natural or cultural properties or resources, including:
 - (1) Purchase of resources for public ownership or other protective ownership;
 - (2) Purchase of resources to help support activities described in Sec. 2-397;
 - (3) Acquisition of conservation easements to protect resources;
 - (4) The development of access to, or the restoration of properties or resources;
 - (5) Acceptance by donation of properties or resources in name of the County;
 - (6) The negotiation of leases or conservation easements;
 - (7) The maintenance, preservation, protection, identification or development of natural or cultural properties or resources;
 - (8) Other plans, methods, or approaches for the identification, acquisition, purchase, lease, preservation, protection or development of natural or cultural properties or resources.

- (c) The Dorchester County Council may adopt the list of significant resources submitted by the Commission, in whole or in part, and may add to or delete additional properties and significant resources to the list of significant resources submitted by the Commission.
- (d) The plan for the protection or preservation of significant resources in Dorchester County may include plans and recommendations for the protection of the following resources:
 - (1) Open space and significant scenic views;
 - (2) Wildlife habitat;
 - (3) Sensitive ecological land; i.e. waterways, river corridors, wetlands, swamps, and natural forests;


This Ordinance shall be effective upon third and final reading.

Adopted this 17th day of April 2023

DORCHESTER COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA

By: 
S. Todd Friddle, Chairman
County Council of Dorchester County,
South Carolina

ATTEST:


Tracey L. Langley, Clerk
County Council of Dorchester County,
South Carolina

First Reading: 03/20/2023
Second Reading: 04/03/2023
Third Reading: 04/17/2023