

AN ORDINANCE

AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT AND ENACT REGULATIONS PROHIBITING CAMPING ON PUBLIC OR PRIVATE PROPERTY WITHIN THE CITY OF GOOSE CREEK; TO PROVIDE FOR PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS; AND TO ADDRESS OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO WITHIN THE CITY OF GOOSE CREEK, A SOUTH CAROLINA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Goose Creek finds that unregulated camping can create health and safety concerns, damage public and private property, and impede the intended use of such property; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the City of Goose Creek to establish reasonable regulations concerning camping activities and for the new section to be placed under the title and chapter in the City of Goose Creek Code of Ordinances as follows:

TITLE XIII: GENERAL OFFENSES

CHAPTER 131. OFFENSES CONCERNING PROPERTY

§ 131.083 REGULATIONS PROHIBITING CAMPING ON PUBLIC OR PRIVATE PROPERTY

Section 1. Purpose.

The purpose of this ordinance is to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public, safeguard public and private property, and prevent the degradation of land within the City of Goose Creek by imposing reasonable restrictions on camping.

Section 2. Definitions.

For the purposes of this Article, the following terms shall have the meanings assigned below:

(a) *Camping* shall mean residing in or using any public or private property for one or more nights for living accommodation purposes, including, but not limited to, sleeping, making preparations to sleep (such as laying down bedding), storing personal belongings, making fires, using tents or shelters, cooking meals, or living in a parked vehicle. Camping shall be deemed to occur when, under all the circumstances, it reasonably appears that a person is using public or private property as a living accommodation.

Section 3. Camping on Public Property Prohibited.

Except as permitted by the City of Goose Creek, it shall be unlawful for any person to camp on any public property owned, leased, or maintained by the City. This includes, but is not limited to, streets, sidewalks, parks, easements, stormwater facilities, parking lots, and other public lands. No person shall erect or maintain any tent, shack, trailer, motorhome, camper, or other structure for camping purposes on such property.

Section 4. Camping on Private Property Prohibited; Exceptions.

(a) It shall be unlawful to camp or squat on private property within the City of Goose Creek, except as provided herein.

(b) The prohibition shall not apply to:

1. Children under the age of 18, along with adult family members, that are camping on their own residential property for recreational purposes.
2. Groups or organizations that have received prior approval by the City of Goose Creek for special events.
3. Individuals lawfully camping in designated campgrounds, recreational vehicle parks, or areas permitted for such use pursuant to the City's zoning ordinances and applicable South Carolina state laws.

Section 5. Penalty.

Violation of this ordinance shall constitute a misdemeanor and shall be punishable by a fine not exceeding five hundred dollars (\$500), imprisonment for not more than thirty (30) days, or both, at the discretion of the municipal court. (this is straight from city code on ordinance violation penalties)

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED and ordered by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Goose Creek, South Carolina, duly assembled and that the Code of Ordinances of the City of Goose Creek, South Carolina, is hereby amended and that all ordinances and provisions that conflict herewith are repealed, and if any sentence, clause, phrase or word contained herein shall be held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect the validity of the remainder of this ordinance.

This ordinance shall be effective on the date of final reading.

INTRODUCED the 8 day of July, 2025.

DONE the 12 day of August, 2025.



Mayor Gregory S. Habib

Attest:



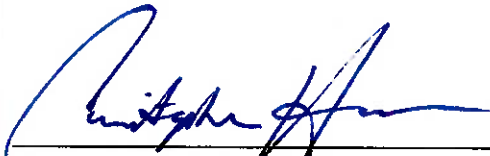
Kelly J. Lovette, MMC, City Clerk



Mayor Pro Tem Debra Green-Fletcher



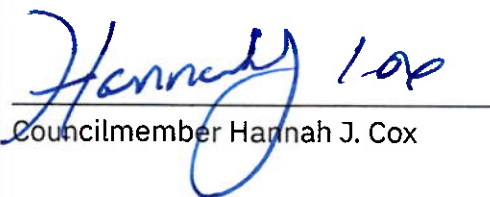
Councilmember Jerry Tekac



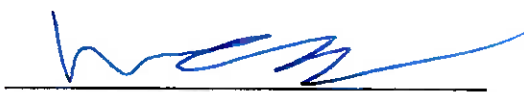
Councilmember Christopher Harmon



Councilmember Gayla S.L. McSwain



Councilmember Hannah J. Cox



Councilmember Melissa Enos-Sims