

**TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND, SOUTH CAROLINA**

**ORDINANCE NO. 2025-08**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND, SOUTH CAROLINA,  
AMENDING HILTON HEAD ISLAND CODE, SECTION 8-1-211(8) TO PROHIBIT ANIMALS  
FROM CERTAIN AREAS AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO**

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Hilton Head Island, South Carolina (the "Town") has an adopted policy calling for the periodic nourishment and renourishment of the Atlantic Ocean Beaches on Hilton Head Island in order to maintain the width of the beaches, provide a stable natural area for recreation, and protect the beach critical area flora and fauna; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town has permitted and completed three major beach nourishment projects since 1990, and has scheduled the fourth major beach nourishment project to be permitted and completed in 2025 (the "2025 Project");

**WHEREAS**, in order to commence and complete the 2025 Project, the Town must obtain permits from the United States Army Corps of Engineers and the South Carolina Department of Environmental Services; collectively hereinafter the "Permits"; and

**WHEREAS**, the Permits require that dogs and other animals be banned year-round from certain places along the beaches of Hilton Head Island due to the disturbance of shorebirds caused by the presence of dogs and other animals; and

**WHEREAS**, to comply with the Permits, § 8-1-211(8), *Municipal Code of the Town of Hilton Head Island, South Carolina* (1983), must be amended to prohibit dogs and other animals, year-round from certain areas along the beaches of Hilton Head Island to prevent disturbance of shorebirds; and

**WHEREAS**, other amendments to § 8-1-211(8), *Municipal Code of the Town of Hilton Head Island, South Carolina* (1983), to clarify the text; and,

**WHEREAS**, for the reasons stated above, the Town desires to amend § 8-1-211(8), *Municipal Code of the Town of Hilton Head Island, South Carolina* (1983) as shown on Exhibit "A" attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference, with added language illustrated with underline and deleted language illustrated with strikethrough; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Council for the Town of Hilton Head Island finds that the 2025 Beach Nourishment Project will benefit the Health, Safety and Welfare of the citizens, property owners and residents of the Town and also visitors to the Town, and it is also in the best interest of to amend § 8-1-211(8), *Municipal Code of the Town of Hilton Head Island, South Carolina* (1983), to comply with the Permits and to clarify the language.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED AND ORDAINED BY THE TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND, SOUTH CAROLINA, AND IT IS HEREBY ORDERED AND ORDAINED BY AND UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF SAID TOWN COUNCIL AS FOLLOWS:**

1. *Amendment.* § 8-1-211(8), *Municipal Code of the Town of Hilton Head Island, South Carolina* (1983) is hereby amended as shown on Attachment A, with added language illustrated with underline and deleted language illustrated with strikethrough.

2. *Severability.* If any section, phrase, sentence, or portion of this Ordinance is for any reason held invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, such portion shall be deemed a separate, distinct, and independent provision, and such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions thereof.
3. *Effective Date.* This Ordinance shall be effective upon its adoption by the Town Council of the Town of Hilton Head Island, South Carolina.

**PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL FOR THE TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND ON THIS 3RD DAY OF JUNE, 2025.**

THE TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND,  
SOUTH CAROLINA


  
Alan R. Perry, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Kimberly Gammon, Town Clerk

First Reading: May 20, 2025  
Second Reading: June 3, 2025

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

  
Curtis L. Coltrane, Town Attorney

## ATTACHMENT A

### Title 8 – Beaches, Waterways, Recreational Areas, and Arts Chapter 1 – Beaches Article 2 – Prohibited and Regulated Activities

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#### Sec. 8-2-211. Unlawful activities enumerated. Prohibited and Regulated Activities on the Beach.

~~8) — *Animals.* Except as provided herein, no person shall bring or allow any dog, or any other animal on the beach that is not at all times on a leash between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. from April 1st through the Thursday before Memorial Day weekend and from the Tuesday after Labor Day weekend through September 30th. No person shall bring or allow any dog, or any other animal, on the beach between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. from the Friday before Memorial Day weekend through the Monday of Labor Day weekend. No person shall bring or allow any dog or any other animal on the beach that is not on a leash or under positive voice control of the responsible person between 5:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m. from April 1st through September 30th. No person shall bring or allow any dog or any other animal on the beach that is not on a leash or under positive voice control at any hour from October 1st through March 31st. Any violation of the provisions hereof may result in the owner of the animal being charged with a misdemeanor and the animal being seized by the appropriate animal control officer or law enforcement officer.~~

~~No person shall permit any excrement from any animal under that person's control to remain on the beach but shall dispose of same in a sanitary manner.~~

~~From April 1st through the Thursday before Memorial Day weekend and from the Tuesday after Labor Day weekend through September 30th of each year, dogs or any other animal, other than seeing eye dogs, shall not be allowed in any designated swimming area unless on a leash and walking through the area between 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.~~

#### (8) Animals on the Beach.

- (a) Except in the Prohibited Areas described in Subsection (2) below, animals are allowed on the Beach only as stated below:
  - (i) From October 1 through the following March 31, animals that are either on a leash or under the positive voice control of the person responsible for the animal are allowed on the Beach;
  - (ii) From April 1 through the Thursday before Memorial Day, animals that are leashed are allowed on the Beach between the hours of 10:00, A. M., and 5:00, P. M., and at all other times, animals, other than seeing-eye dogs are allowed on the Beach that are either on a leash or under the positive voice control of the person responsible for the animal;
  - (iii) From the Friday before Memorial Day weekend through the Monday of Labor Day weekend, animals are prohibited on the Beach between the hours of 10:00, A. M., and 5:00, P. M., and at all other times, animals are allowed on the Beach that are either on a leash or under the positive voice control of the person responsible for the animal;
  - (iv) From the Tuesday following Labor Day through October 31, animals that are leashed are allowed on the Beach between the hours of 1:00, A. M., and 5:00, P. M., and at all other times, animals are allowed on the Beach that are either on a leash or under the positive voice control of the person responsible for the animal.
- (b) Prohibited Areas.

(i) Animal Prohibited Areas. No person shall bring or allow any dog or any other animal on the designated Animal Prohibited area of the Beach. Dogs and other animals are prohibited year-round at all times from entering or being brought into or on any Animal Prohibited Area. The boundaries of Animal Prohibited Areas shall be identified by signage stating, “Animals Prohibited Area”.

(1) The area of the Beach shown and described on the drawing in Subsection (c) below is designated as an Animal Prohibited Area.

(2) The Town Manager is hereby authorized to take all actions as may be necessary to comply with the Hilton Head Island Code of Ordinances to designate the aforementioned area a Animal Prohibited Area, including the erection of the required signage.

(c) Map of Animal Prohibited Area.



(d) Animal Excrement. No person who is responsible for an animal on the beach shall permit any excrement from the animal to remain on the beach, and that person shall immediately remove and dispose of the same in a sanitary manner.

e) Penalty for Violation. Any owner or person responsible for an animal who violates any provision of this ordinance, shall, upon conviction, be subject to the penalty set out in § 1-5-10. In addition, the animal may be seized by the appropriate, code enforcement officers, animal control officer or law enforcement officer.

**TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND, SOUTH CAROLINA**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND, SOUTH CAROLINA, AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO SIGN AND ACCEPT PERMITS ISSUED BY THE UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS AND THE SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES FOR THE 2025 TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND BEACH NOURISHMENT PROJECT, AND TO TAKE SUCH ACTIONS ARE NECESSARY TO COMPLY WITH THE PERMITS AND TO BRING FORWARD AN AMENDMENT TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE TO COMPLY WITH A CONDITION OF THE PERMITS**

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Hilton Head Island, South Carolina (the "Town"), has an adopted policy calling for the periodic nourishment and renourishment of the Atlantic Beaches on Hilton Head Island; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town has permitted and completed three major beach nourishment projects since 1990, and has scheduled the fourth major beach nourishment project to be permitted and completed in 2025; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town's beach nourishment projects have maintained the width of the beaches on Hilton Head Island, providing a stable natural area for recreation and for the protection of property; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town's beach nourishment projects have also promoted the formation of sand dunes which protect property and provide habitat for beach and beach critical area flora and fauna; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town must obtain permits from the United States Army Corps of Engineers and the South Carolina Department of Environmental Services in order to commence and complete the 2025 beach nourishment project; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town has applied for the needed permits to authorize the 2025 Beach Nourishment Project; and

**WHEREAS**, a requirement of the permits to be issued by the United States Army Corps of Engineers and the South Carolina Department of Environmental Services is that on receipt the Town Manager must sign and accept the permits; and,

**WHEREAS**, on acceptance of the permits to be issued by the United States Army Corps of Engineers and the South Carolina Department of Environmental Services the conditions of the permits must be satisfied; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Council finds that timely acceptance of the permits to be issued by the United States Army Corps of Engineers and the South Carolina Department of Environmental Services and compliance with the conditions stated in them is essential to the timeline for the commencement and completion of the 2025 beach nourishment project; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Council finds that the timely the commencement and completion of the 2025 beach nourishment project will promote the health, safety and welfare of the citizens, residents, visitors, and property owners in the Town, and is in the best interest of the citizens, residents, visitors, and property owners in the Town.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND IT HEREBY IS RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND, SOUTH CAROLINA:**

1. The Town Manager is hereby authorized to execute and accept the permits issued by the United States Army Corps of Engineers and the South Carolina Department of Environmental Services.
2. The Town Manager is hereby authorized to take all actions as may be necessary to comply with any conditions set out in the permits issued by the United States Army Corps of Engineers and the South Carolina Department of Environmental Services.

3. The Town Manager is directed to bring forward a text amendment to § 8-1-211, *Municipal Code of the Town of Hilton Head Island, South Carolina* (1983), for the purpose of implementing a year-round ban on dogs in areas along the outfall of Fish Haul Creek shown on the Illustration of Revised Restricted Beach Areas dated January, 2025, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit "A".

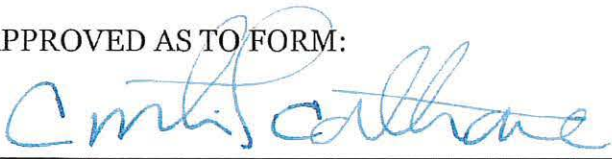
MOVED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL FOR THE TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND, SOUTH CAROLINA, ON THIS 4TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2025.

  
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Alan R. Perry, Mayor


ATTEST:

  
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Kimberly Gammon, Town Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

  
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Curtis L. Coltrane, Town Attorney

**EXHIBIT A TO RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SIGNING AND  
ACCEPTANCE OF PERMITS FOR 2025 BEACH NOURISHMENT  
PROJECT**

 Revised Area Proposed for Restrictions



**Town of Hilton Head Island**  
Beach Areas Restricted as a Condition of the Beach Renourishment Permit  
January 2025



Source: GIS/2024/07

