

ALBEMARLE COUNTY CODE

CHAPTER 18

ZONING

SECTION 1

AUTHORITY, ESTABLISHMENT, PURPOSE AND OFFICIAL ZONING MAP

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1.1 AUTHORITY AND ENACTMENT

This ordinance, to be cited as the Zoning Ordinance of Albemarle County, is hereby ordained, enacted and published by the Board of Supervisors of Albemarle County, Virginia, pursuant to the provisions of Title 15.2, Chapter 22, Article 7, Code of Virginia, 1950, and amendments thereto.

(§ 1.1, 12-10-80)

1.2 AMENDMENT TO ADOPT

An ordinance to reenact and readopt the Albemarle County Zoning Ordinance and the Albemarle County Zoning Map.

Be it ordained by the Board of Supervisors of Albemarle County, Virginia: That the following ordinance known as the Zoning Ordinance of Albemarle County, Virginia, together with the Zoning Map attached thereto, be and the same are, readopted and reenacted effective immediately upon adoption of this ordinance.

(§ 1.2, 12-10-80)

1.3 EFFECTIVE DATE, REPEAL OF CONFLICTING ORDINANCES

This Zoning Ordinance of Albemarle County, Virginia, shall be effective at and after 5:15 P.M., the 10th day of December, 1980 and at the same time the Albemarle County "Zoning Ordinance" adopted December 22, 1969, as amended, is hereby repealed.

(§ 1.3, 12-10-80)

1.4 PURPOSE AND INTENT

This ordinance, insofar as is practicable, is intended to be in accord with and to implement the Comprehensive Plan of Albemarle County adopted pursuant to the provisions of Title 15.2, Chapter 22, Article 3, Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, and has the purposes and intent set forth in Title 15.2, Chapter 22, Article 7.

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As set forth in section 15.2-2200 of the Code, this ordinance is intended to improve public health, safety, convenience and welfare of citizens of Albemarle County, Virginia, and to plan for the future development of communities to the end that transportation systems be carefully planned; that new community centers be developed with adequate highway, utility, health, educational and recreational facilities; that the needs of agriculture, industry and business be recognized in future growth; that residential areas be provided with healthy surroundings for family life; that agricultural and forestal land be preserved; and that the growth of the community be consonant with the efficient and economical use of public funds.

Therefore be it ordained by the Board of Supervisors of Albemarle County, Virginia, for the purposes of promoting the health, safety, convenience and general welfare of the public and of planning for the future development of the community, that the zoning ordinance of Albemarle County, together with the official zoning map adopted by reference and declared to be a part of this ordinance, is designed:

- 1.4.1 To provide for adequate light, air, convenience of access and safety from fire, flood and other dangers;
- 1.4.2 To reduce or prevent congestion in the public streets;
- 1.4.3 To facilitate the creation of a convenient, attractive and harmonious community;
- 1.4.4 To facilitate the provision of adequate police and fire protection, disaster evacuation, civil defense, transportation, water, sewerage, flood protection, schools, parks, forests, playgrounds, recreational facilities, airports and other public requirements;
- 1.4.5 To protect against destruction of or encroachment upon historic areas;
- 1.4.6 To protect against one or more of the following: overcrowding of land, undue density of population in relation to the community facilities existing or available, obstruction of light and air, danger and congestion in travel and transportation, or loss of life, health, or property from fire, flood, panic or other dangers;
- 1.4.7 To encourage economic development activities that provide desirable employment and enlarge the tax base;
- 1.4.8 To provide for the preservation of agricultural and forestal lands and other lands of significance for the protection of the natural environment;
- 1.4.9 To protect approach slopes and other safety areas of licensed airports, including United States government and military air facilities;
- 1.4.10 To include reasonable provisions, not inconsistent with the applicable state water quality standards to protect surface water and groundwater defined in section 62.1-44.85(8) of the Code of Virginia; and
- 1.4.11 To promote affordable housing.

(§ 1.4, 12-10-80, 11-1-89; 9-9-92)

1.5 RELATION TO ENVIRONMENT

This ordinance is designed to treat lands which are similarly situated and environmentally similar in like manner with reasonable consideration for the existing use and character of properties, the Comprehensive Plan, the suitability of property for various uses, the trends of growth or change, the current and future land and water requirements of the community for various purposes as

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determined by population and economic studies and other studies, the transportation requirements of the community, and the requirements for airports, housing, schools, parks, playgrounds, recreation areas and other public services; for the conservation of natural resources; and preservation of flood plains, the preservation of agricultural and forestal land, the conservation of properties and their values and the encouragement of the most appropriate use of land throughout the county.

(§ 1.5, 12-10-80; 11-1-89)

1.6 RELATION TO COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

In drawing the zoning ordinance and districts with reasonable consideration of the Comprehensive Plan, it is a stated and express purpose of this zoning ordinance to create land use regulations which shall encourage the realization and implementation of the Comprehensive Plan. To this end: development is to be encouraged in Villages, Communities and the Urban Area; where services and utilities are available and where such development will not conflict with the agricultural/forestal or other rural objectives; and development is not to be encouraged in the Rural Areas which are to be devoted to preservation of agricultural and forestal lands and activities, water supply protection, and conservation of natural, scenic and historic resources and where only limited delivery of public services is intended.

(§ 1.6, 12-10-80; 11-1-89)

1.7 ZONING MAP

The zoning map is identified, and shall be interpreted, as follows:

- a. *Zoning map identified.* The zoning map is composed of the several maps and digital source files, and all dimensions, symbols, notations, and designations shown on the maps and in the digital source files, is maintained by the department of community development, and is incorporated by reference as part of this chapter. The zoning map is the digital form of the zoning map adopted on December 10, 1980, as amended by all zoning map amendments after that date. The zoning map also may exist in an analog zoning map book.
- b. *Zoning map establishes the location and boundaries of districts.* The location and boundaries of the districts created by this chapter are hereby established as shown on the zoning map. The zoning map also includes symbols that represent the existence of conditions, including proffers, attaching to the zoning of a parcel on the zoning map.
- c. *Interpretation.* The zoning map shall be interpreted as follows:
 - 1. *District lines follow lot lines and center lines; boundary designated.* The district boundaries shown on the zoning map are intended to follow the lot lines and the center lines of streets or alleys as they existed on December 10, 1980 and as hereafter amended; provided that where a district boundary obviously does not follow any such line, and is not depicted on an approved subdivision plat or site plan or described by dimensions or other means, the district boundary shall be determined by measurement using a scale.
 - 2. *Waterways, roads, streets, highways, railroads, and other rights-of-way; boundary not designated.* All waterways, alleys, roads, streets, highways, railroads, and other rights-of-way (collectively, “features”), if not otherwise specifically designated and if not part of a parcel abutting the feature, shall be deemed to be in the same district as the immediately abutting parcels, and the departing boundary lines from those abutting parcels shall be deemed to extend to the centerline of the feature. If the center line of a feature serves as a parcel boundary, the zoning of the feature, if not otherwise specifically designated, shall be deemed to be the same as that of the parcel to which it is a part.

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3. *Areas not otherwise designated.* The intent of this chapter is to have the entire unincorporated territory of the county within a district. Except for those features identified in subsection (c)(2), any area shown on the zoning map having a white background shall be deemed to be in the rural areas (RA) district.
 4. *Inconsistencies.* If there is an inconsistency between any information shown on the zoning map and any decision made by the board of supervisors or an interpretation of the zoning map made by the board of zoning appeals after December 10, 1980, then the decision of the board of supervisors or the interpretation of the board of zoning appeals shall govern.
- d. *Alterations and amendments.* The zoning map shall not be altered or amended in any way except in compliance with the procedures and standards established by this chapter for a zoning map amendment.

(§ 1.7, 12-10-80; Ord. 12-18(7), 12-5-12, effective 4-1-13)

State law reference – Va. Code §§ 15.2-2285(A), 15.2-2286(A)(7), 15.2-2300.

1.8 CERTIFIED COPY, FILING

A certified copy of the Zoning Ordinance and Zoning Map of Albemarle County, Virginia, shall be filed in the office of the zoning administrator and in the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Albemarle County, Virginia.

(§ 1.8, 12-10-80)

1.9 (Repealed 12-5-12, effective 4-1-13)