

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE IV, CHAPTER 2, PART II OF THE CODE OF ROCKDALE COUNTY, GEORGIA BY PROVIDING FOR THE ABOLISHING OF CERTAIN DEPARTMENTS, FOR THE CREATION OF CERTAIN DEPARTMENTS, FOR THE CONSOLIDATION OF CERTAIN DEPARTMENTS, AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF CHAPTER 70, PART II OF THE CODE OF ROCKDALE COUNTY, GEORGIA AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 2-201 of Article IV, Part I of the Rockdale County Code of Ordinances, the Board of Commissioners has the authority to create, abolish, or consolidate county departments as deemed necessary; and

WHEREAS, Article IV, Chapter 2, Part II of the Code of Rockdale County, Georgia, provides for the administration of departments and agencies of the Rockdale County Board of Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, upon review of the structure and function of the existing county departments, the Board of Commissioners finds that the following amendments are appropriate in order to advance the proper and efficient administration of county government for the benefit of the public which it serves.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Commissioners of Rockdale County, Georgia, and it is, hereby, ordained by the authority of same, as follows:

Section 1

Section 2-93 of Article IV, Chapter 2, Part II of the Rockdale County Code of Ordinances, as amended, is hereby amended as follows:

Sec. 2-93. – Department of Fire Rescue

- (a) The previous department of emergency services shall continue to be known as the department of fire rescue.
- (b) All references in the Code of Ordinances, wherever and in whatever context they may occur, to the emergency services department is hereby amended to read “department of fire rescue.”
- (c) The functions of performing the services of fire prevention and protection shall continue to be assigned to and/or performed by the department under its new department designation “the department of fire rescue”.
- (d) All employees of the department of fire rescue shall continue their assignment to the department of fire and rescue, with the exception of communications (E911).

Section 2

Section 2-94 of Article IV, Chapter 2, Part II of the Rockdale County Code of Ordinances, as amended, is hereby amended by deleting the current section in its entirety and replacing as follows:

Sec. 2-94.- Department of General Services

- (a) The existing department of recreation and maintenance is hereby renamed the department of general services.
- (b) All references in the Code of ordinances, wherever and in whatever context they may occur, to the department of recreation and maintenance is hereby amended to read “department of general services.”
- (c) This department shall be composed of a director and any other employees as may be deemed necessary. Subject to the direction of the county chairperson, the supervision and control of the department is vested in the director.
- (d) Said department shall be responsible for capital and community improvements; building and maintenance; solid waste and recycling administration, disposal, and operations; fleet maintenance and shop; recreation; arts and culture; Costley Mill; Tennis Center; park maintenance; senior services; and other matters as assigned by the county chairperson.

Section 3

Section 2-100 of Article IV, Chapter 2, Part II of the Rockdale County Code of Ordinances, as amended, is hereby amended to assign the functions of animal care and control, which shall hereby be known as animal services, and communications (E911) to the emergency management agency. All functions of the county’s government previously assigned to and/or performed by these divisions are hereby assigned to the emergency management agency. All of the employees of the county currently serving as employees of the division of animal services and communications (E911) shall be assigned to the emergency management agency effective as of the effective date of this ordinance.

Section 4

Chapter 70 of Part II of the Rockdale County Code of Ordinances, as amended, is hereby and amended by renaming and deleting said section in its entirety and replacing same as follows:

“Chapter 70 – Park and Recreation Facilities

Sec. 70-2. - Use of parks and recreation facilities.

- (a) *Penalty for violation of section.*
 - (1) Any person who is convicted of a violation of any of the provisions of this section shall be punished as provided in section 1-11 except that the maximum fine for littering shall be \$100.00 for each such conviction.
 - (2) Any person convicted of a violation of this section shall be denied any park permit or other permission to utilize the facilities of any public park or recreational area owned, operated or controlled by the county for a period of 60 days following any conviction for a violation of this section.
- (b) *Regulations.* The following regulations shall apply to all public parks and recreational areas owned or leased by the county:

- (1) *Hours of operation; overnight camping.*
 - a. No overnight camping shall be permitted in any public park or recreational area.
 - b. The hours of operation for all public parks and recreational areas shall be from sunrise until sundown; however, the hours may be adjusted for any facility by the director of the department of general services of the county. No person shall remain in or upon the grounds of any public park or recreation area during hours when such public park or recreation area is closed.
- (2) *Motor vehicles.* No person shall operate any motorized vehicle, including motorcycles, mopeds or any other similar vehicle, in any part of or upon any road in any public park or recreational area except upon roads within such public park or recreation area and in designated parking areas. No motorized vehicle described in this section shall be parked or left standing at any place in any public park or recreation area except in areas designated for such purpose. Motorized wheelchairs shall be permitted.
- (3) *Littering.* Garbage, trash, rubbish, litter, or any other waste material or waste liquid generated in any public park or recreation area and incidental to authorized uses shall be either removed from the site or deposited in receptacles for that purpose. No household, commercial, or industrial garbage, trash, rubbish, debris, dead animals or litter of any kind brought from outside the public park or recreational area shall be disposed of in the public park or recreational area. The spilling, pumping, or other discharge of contaminants, pollutants, or other wastes, including but not limited to, sewage, petroleum, industrial and commercial products and by-products on public park or recreational area lands or waters is prohibited.
- (4) *Open fires.* No open fires, except in county provided picnic grills and/or fire rings, shall be permitted at any time or at any place in any public park or recreational area.
- (5) *Firearms and explosives.* No person shall discharge any firearm or explosive, including firecrackers or fireworks, except with the express written permission of the director of general services department of the county, in any public park or recreational area.
- (6) *Possession of alcoholic beverages or drugs.* With the exceptions of the County Auditorium, the Black Shoals Retreat House and Costley Mill Park, no person shall sell, serve or consume alcoholic beverages, as defined in the laws of this state, in any public park or recreational area; nor shall any person possess, use, or consume any drug or any other controlled substance, as defined in the laws of this state, except as lawfully permitted by the laws of this state, in any public park or recreational area.
- (7) *Damaging vegetation prohibited.* It shall be unlawful for any person to cut trees, tree limbs, shrubbery, flowers or other vegetation or dig up or damage trees, flowers or shrubbery or other vegetation in any public park or recreational area. This section shall not apply to employees of the county or their designees while performing their official duties.

(8) *Profanity, loud or boisterous language prohibited.* It shall be unlawful for any person to use profanity or loud or boisterous language in any public park or recreational area.

(9) *Regulations specific to Randy Poynter Lake/Black Shoals Reservoir.* In addition to the foregoing subsections, the following regulations shall apply to all real property owned or leased by the county known as the Randy Poynter Lake/Black Shoals Reservoir, the following shall control as to the Randy Poynter Lake/Black Shoals Reservoir:

a. It shall be unlawful for any person to operate any motorized vehicle in or upon the Randy Poynter Lake/Black Shoals Reservoir within the designated pool area of 735 mean sea level (msl) unless such person is employed, under contract with Rockdale County Water Resources or the county or under subcontract with a person or entity under contract with such public entities.

b. It shall be unlawful for any person to enter, remain in or upon the Randy Poynter Lake/Black Shoals Reservoir within the designated pool area of 735 mean sea level (msl) unless such person is employed or under contract with Rockdale County Water Resources or the county or under subcontract with a person or entity under contract with such public entities.

c. It shall be unlawful for any persons seeking to launch a boat into the Randy Poynter Lake/Black Shoals Reservoir to do so at locations other than the boat ramps provided. Owners of property which adjoins the designated pool area of the reservoir who seek to launch a boat into the reservoir must either use the boat ramps as provided, or utilize the methods provided in section 62-37 of the Black Shoals Reservoir Management Plan.

d. It shall be unlawful for any person to use or engage in activities within the area of the Randy Poynter Lake/Black Shoals Reservoir designated and zoned as W-RB unless such area is specifically designated for such use or activity in section 62-37 of the Black Shoals Reservoir Management Plan.

e. It shall be unlawful for any person to use or engage in activities within the area of the Randy Poynter Lake/Black Shoals Reservoir designated and zoned as W-RP unless such specific use or activity has been approved in writing by the director of the general services department of the county.

f. It shall be unlawful for any person to place, permit or operate a boat with a gasoline-powered engine in the waters of the Randy Poynter Lake/Black Shoals Reservoir. Only sailboats, canoes, rowboats, or other boats propelled by electric motors shall be allowed. All boats on the reservoir shall be taken out one hour before closing of the reservoir. This section shall not apply to employees of the county or their designees while performing their official duties.

g. No person shall swim in the waters of the Randy Poynter Lake/Black Shoals Reservoir.

(10) *Animals.*

a. It shall be the duty of every animal owner or custodian whose animal is in a parks and recreation facility to have physical control of the animal by leash or lead line at all times unless in designated dog park areas where off leash is permitted or

approved otherwise, by permit, by the director or the director's designee. It shall be unlawful for any person with an animal, other than service animals (such as guide dogs), as necessary, to access areas of the parks and recreation facility which are restricted to animals. It shall be the duty of every animal owner or custodian of any animal whose animal is in a parks and recreation facility to immediately and properly dispose of solid waste deposited by the animal, except for horses on designated equestrian trails.

b. It shall be the duty of every animal owner or custodian of any animal whose animal is in a parks and recreation facility to have in their possession proof of a current rabies vaccination for their animal. It shall be the duty of every horse owner or custodian whose horse is in a recreation and maintenance facility to have in their possession, proof of a current negative Coggins test for their horse.

c. It shall be the duty of every animal owner or custodian of such animal in a parks and recreation facility to immediately remove from such facility said animal upon such animal exhibiting aggressive behavior toward any person or toward any other domesticated animal. For the purposes of this section, aggressive behavior includes, but is not limited to, barking, growling, baring of teeth or fangs, biting or attempts to bite, or any other behavior that could reasonably be expected to scare or intimidate any person or domesticated animal.

Section 5


All Ordinances or parts of Ordinances in conflict with this Ordinance are hereby repealed.

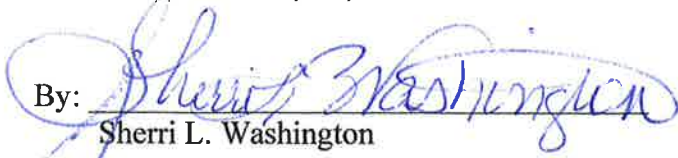
Section 6


This Ordinance shall become effective upon adoption.

This 11 day of may, 2021.

Rockdale County, Georgia
Board of Commissioners

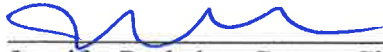
By: 
Osborn Nesbitt, Sr., Chairman

By: 
Sherri L. Washington

By: 
Doreen L. Williams

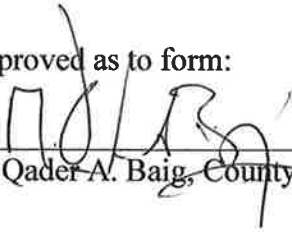
[SIGNATURES CONTINUED TO NEXT PAGE]

Attest:



Jennifer Rutledge, County Clerk

Approved as to form:



M. Qader A. Baig, County Attorney

First Reading: 4/27/2021

Second Reading: 5/11/2021