



Town of Knightdale

Staff Report

Title: Code of Ordinance Text Amendment

Town Manager Signature: WRS

Staff: Lawrence Capps, Police Chief

Date: December 18, 2024

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Municipal ordinances are local legislation enacted by the elected bodies to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the people. The Town of Knightdale frequently adjusts the text of its ordinances to provide greater clarity for citizens and law enforcement. The Town's firearms ordinance is one such area where clarity is needed. Recent changes to Wake County's firearms ordinance provided citizens with an expanded definition of firearms. Adopting similar definitions would be helpful to citizens and law enforcement, especially considering the rapid pace at which the Town's limits are expanding into to once rural areas.

SUMMARY

The goal of the proposed text amendment is two-fold. First, it seeks to adopt firearms definitions that mirror the neighboring county ordinance. Second, it seeks to clarify which types of weapons/devices are prohibited from being discharged within Town limits.

The current ordinance language reads:

Sec. 84.08. - Discharge of firearms, fireworks, and the like.

No person shall discharge any firearms, fireworks, or any other explosive contrivance within the inhabited portion of the Town, without the Town Manager's consent. ('69 Code, 10-5)

It is recommended the language be amended to read:

Sec. 84.08. - Discharge of firearms, air guns, fireworks, and the like.

No person shall discharge any firearms, air guns, fireworks, pyrotechnics, or any explosive contrivance within Town limits except as permitted by law. For purposes of this section, a firearm is defined as any gun, rifle, pistol, or other barreled weapon capable of discharging projectiles such as shot, bullets, pellets, BBs, or other missiles at a muzzle velocity of at least 600 feet per second and actually loaded with such a projectile. For purposes of this section, an air gun is defined as any gun, rifle, pistol, or other barreled weapon that uses air to discharge projectiles such as shot, markers, pellets, BBs, or other missiles at a muzzle velocity of at least 350 feet per second and actually loaded with such projectiles. For the purpose of this section, the Town adopts the definition of fireworks and pyrotechnics as found in [NCGS Chapter 14, Article 54](#).



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The above language has been reviewed and vetted by the Town's Attorney.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Adopt Ordinance #24-12-18-001 authorizing the proposed ordinance text amendment.