

ALEXANDER COUNTY ROAD NAMING ORDINANCE

ADOPTED:
MONDAY, JANUARY 18, 1988

AMENDED:
TUESDAY, JULY 10, 2001

AMENDED:
MONDAY, OCTOBER 06, 2008

AMENDED:
MONDAY, JUNE 21, 2010

AMENDED:
MONDAY, MAY 6, 2019

BY
THE ALEXANDER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

ARTICLE I

PURPOSE AND AUTHORITY

Section 10. Purpose.

The Alexander County Board of Commissioners recognize a vital need to establish and erect uniform road signs throughout Alexander County and to eliminate further duplication of road names and to promote the safety and well-being of citizens. It is furthermore designed to assist in the timely and efficient provision of services to residents and businesses of Alexander County. Herein policies and procedures for road naming are outlined.

Section 11. Authority.

The Board of Commissioners of the County of Alexander enacts this ordinance in pursuance of the authority granted by the General Statutes of North Carolina (G.S. Chapter 153A-240).

ARTICLE II

Section 20. Jurisdiction.

The Road Naming Policies set forth in this ordinance shall be applicable within the County of Alexander and its municipalities upon adoption by the municipality.

ARTICLE III

DEFINITIONS OF TERMS USED IN THIS ORDINANCE

For the purpose of this ordinance, certain words or terms used herein are defined. Except as defined herein, all other words used in this ordinance shall have their customary dictionary definition.

Section 30. Interpretation of Certain Terms and Words.

30.1 Words used in the present tense include the future tense.

30.2 Words used in the singular number include the plural and words used in the plural include the singular.

30.3 The word "person" includes a firm, association, organization, corporation, trust and company, as well as an individual.

- 30.4 The word “shall” is always mandatory and not merely directory.
- 30.5 The word “County Commissioners” shall mean the Governing Board of Alexander County as stated in North Carolina General Statutes 153A-4.

Section 31. Definitions.

- 31.1 Circles. Streets that begin and return to themselves
- 31.2 Courts. Permanently closed streets; dead-end roads and cul-de-sacs.
- 31.3 Dead-Ends. Permanently closed roads.
- 31.4 Highways. Designated state or federal highways.
- 31.5 Lane. Roads of less than 1,000 feet in length or an uninterrupted street ending in a cul-de-sac.
- 31.6 Loop. Roads that begin and circle back to terminate at a point different than the beginning point
- 31.7 Private Road. Any road or other way of passage that has not been irrevocably dedicated to the public or in which the public has not acquired rights by prescription, without regard to whether it is open for travel.
- 31.8 Public Road. As defined by N.C. General Statutes 153A-239: any road, street, highway, thoroughfare, or other way of passage that has been irrevocably dedicated to the public or in which the public has acquired rights by prescription, without regard to whether it is open for travel.
- 31.9 State Road. Roads accepted and maintained by the North Carolina Department of Transportation and assigned an official secondary road number for identification.

ARTICLE IV

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
AND THE PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR

Section 40. Board of Commissioners.

Board of Commissioners’ role shall be as follows:

- adopts Road Naming Ordinance which outlines general policies and procedures
- conducts public hearings
- adopts official road names
- allocates funds for road naming project

41. Program Administrator
- develops general policies and procedures
 - identifies roads and intersections
 - coordinates public information program
 - administers circulation of petitions
 - prepares progress reports for the Board of Commissioners
 - places order for road name signs
 - coordinates posting of road name signs

ARTICLE V

Section 50. Selection of Official Road Names.

- 50.1 All public roads shall have an official name.
- 50.2 Private roads with three or more residences shall have an official name and road ownership shall be given exclusive naming rights. The Board of Commissioners shall have the final authority in adopting road names.
- 50.3 Efforts shall be made to avoid duplication of road names among governmental jurisdictions in Alexander County.
- 50.4 Reserved.
- 50.5 Road names which are similar in sound shall be avoided.
- 50.6 In cases where duplication of road names exist priority shall be given in the following order:
- a. Existing road names;
 - b. A municipality (i.e. in cases where a road name is duplicated among jurisdiction, the County shall adopt a new official name).
 - c. Historic road names.
 - d. Road names that identify institutions.
 - e. Road names serving the greatest number of dwelling units, businesses and institutions.
 - f. Roads with a greater distance.

50.7 A continuous public road, running primarily in one direction, should have only one name.

50.8 The following standard thoroughfare designations shall be used:

Alley (Aly) - A narrow lane between or behind a row of buildings.

Avenue (Ave) - A roadway or thoroughfare in a densely populated area.

Boulevard (BLVD) - A street with a median reflecting the boulevard character.

Circle (Cir) - A cul-de-sac or looped street that begins and circles back to terminate on the same road.

Court (Ct) - A permanently closed street, not exceeding 1,000ft. , such as a cul-de-sac.

Drive (Dr) - A curvilinear street

Highway (Hwy) - A primary state or federal route, suitable for heavy traffic volume.

Lane (Ln) - A minor dead-end street or private lane.

Loop (Lp) - A minor road that circles back to terminate on the same road.

Place (Pl) - A cul-de-sac or permanent dead end road.

Road (Rd) - A common roadway, usually in less densely populated areas.

Street (St) - A common roadway, usually in more densely populated areas.

Trail (Tr) - A local private road that can serve as a connector for larger roads.

Way (Way) - A minor roadway.

Section 51. Multi-Jurisdictional Roads. Roads, which pass through, more than one jurisdiction should bear the same name throughout the county wherever possible. Street and roadway name changes will only occur at street intersections.

Section 52. Municipal Annexation of Streets. When the municipality annexes an existing roadway, and there is a street name conflict, the municipality will change the name of the annexed roadway to conform with the guidelines outlined herein.

Section 53. Reserving New Subdivision Street Names.

At the time of filing an application for subdivision, the developers or property owners shall submit to Alexander County Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Department a written request to reserve new street names, so that the names can be reviewed and approved to avoid possible duplication. Failure to do so will result in disapproval of the final map by the affected jurisdiction.

- 53.1 Street names become final upon recording of the final subdivision plan.
- 53.2 Street name(s) may be reserved for two years. If final recording of the preliminary subdivision plan does not occur within two years, a written request for a two-year extension of the street name reservation may be submitted to Alexander County Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Department. If such a request is not received, the name(s) will no longer be reserved.
- 53.3 Alexander County Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Department will review all subdivisions for conformance with this street naming policy at the time of preliminary plan review.

Section 54. Adjacent County Coordination. Alexander County Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Department will coordinate road names and address numbers with adjacent counties so that road names and addresses at county boundaries are logical. Roads that traverse county boundary lines should have one name for the continuous length of the road. If road names change at county boundaries, they should change at a prominent landmark or intersection. Address ranges near county boundaries should also change at intersections or landmarks where feasible.

ARTICLE VI

Section 60. Responsibility for Naming Roads and Installing Signs

- 60.1 The Alexander County Board of Commissioners adopts all official road names for roads in the unincorporated areas of Alexander County. The Governing Body of a municipality adopts all official road names within the municipal limits. This includes newly named roads and road name changes by petition.
- 60.2 At any time after the final list of road names are adopted, subdivisions or other said dedicators of public roads shall reimburse Alexander County for the expense to make and to install road name signs at the intersections of all streets within their subdivision or property. Any petition submitted to name a private road shall include a reimbursement to Alexander County for the expense to make and to install the road name sign.

ARTICLE VII

SIGN STANDARDS

Section 70. The County's road name signs shall meet the following standards:

- 70.1 Two vertical sizes of road name signs will be used. A nine-inch vertical dimension sign shall be used on a road having a speed limit greater than 35 mph to identify a side road. If the speed limit of the two intersecting roads is 35 mph or less, a six-inch vertical may be used to identify the roads.
- 70.2 Signs naming both roads shall be erected at each intersection. They shall be mounted with their faces parallel to the roads they name.
- 70.3 Road names signs shall be placed at least two feet behind the face of a curb with a minimum clearance of seven feet from the bottom of the sign to the projected edge of pavement. If there is no curb and gutter, the signs shall be placed behind the ditch line, out of the maintenance area. In such case, the lateral clearance from the road's edge should be six feet.
- 70.4 Whenever physical conditions permit, signs shall be located on the right hand side of the road as one approaches the intersection.
- 70.5 Signs shall be located to optimize night-time visibility.
- 70.6 Signs shall be set in the center of the turning radius in such a way as to be visible from both intersecting roads.
- 70.7 Signs shall be placed across the ditch line and shall not block regulatory or warning signs. Signs shall be located in conformance with safety factors related to fixed obstacles near the roadway.

ARTICLE VIII

ADDRESSING POLICY

Section 81. Addressing Agency.

The Program Administrator shall establish and assign street address numbers in accordance with the guidelines set forth herein. All buildings used for residential, commercial, institutional or governmental purposes shall be provided with an address identifying the building.

Section 82. Addressing Methodology (Frontage Interval Addressing System).

The Frontage Interval Addressing System is based on the measurement of the intervals between the beginning of a road and the structures along the road. The frontage interval system will follow an interval guideline or measurement increments, which will yield approximately 500 possible numbers per mile.

82.1 The Frontage Interval. Numbers are assigned every 10.56 feet. This will yield approximately 500 numbers per mile, 250 odd and 250 even.

82.2 Odd/Even Number Location. Even numbers are assigned on the right side, from the point of beginning and odd numbers on the left side, from the point of beginning.

82.3 Beginning Point. Numbering should begin at the intersection of the subject road with the primary or secondary road as defined by department policy. When the subject road does not intersect the primary or secondary road, the numbering shall begin at the closest point to the primary or secondary road.

82.4 Fractional and Hyphenated Addresses. There shall be no use of fractional addresses or hyphenated address numbers.

82.5 Corner Lots. When assigning numbers to corner lots, the intersection of the driveway is used. When two driveways are utilized, the intersection of the driveway and the secondary road will be addressed.

82.6 Crossing County Lines. When crossing county lines, consideration will be given to an existing numbering system in that county. If no system exists, the numbering will stop at the county line. If a system does exist in that county, those numbers may continue, following these rules for distance and direction.

82.7 Apartments and Duplexes. Apartments and other multi-tenant structures should be numbered with the main building and then assigned apartment numbers as secondary location indicators. If possible, use apartment numbers to indicate the floor location (i.e., Apt 303 is the third apartment on the third floor). Furthermore, all apartment buildings shall display address numbers above or to the side of the primary entrance to the building.

Section 83. Exempt Buildings and Uses.

The following buildings and uses will be exempt from the addressing system, but may be addressed at the request of the property owner.

- (a) Accessory Buildings which have uses that are accessory to the primary use of an agricultural, residential, commercial, industrial, institutional or governmental buildings; and

Section 84. Addressing New Structures.

Prior to beginning new construction, property owners shall submit an application for zoning approval and a building permit. In addition, a driveway must be established or marked on the property. Once both of these steps are complete, the Program Administrator will assign the address. A certificate of occupancy shall not be issued unless and until the street address numbers are posted.

Section 84.1 Addressing New Subdivisions.

Upon recording an approved plat for a major subdivision, all lots one acre or less will be pre-addressed by the Alexander County Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Department according to the street centerline file ranges. A copy of the plat will be provided to the GIS Department by the Mapping Department upon completion of parcel edits. All corner lots will be given two numbers until the driveway location is determined at which time the unused number will be deleted.

Section 85. Responsibility for Display of Address Numbers.

It shall be the responsibility of each and every property owner, trustee, lessee, agent and occupant of each residence, apartment building, business or industry to purchase, post and maintain address numbers as required under this ordinance.

Buildings shall be provided with approved address identification. The address identification shall be legible and placed in a position that is visible from the street or road fronting the property. Where required by the fire code official, address identification shall be provided in additional approved locations to facilitate emergency response. Where access is by means of a private road and the building address cannot be viewed from the public way, a monument, pole, or other sign or means shall be used to identify the structure.

Section 86. Address Display Requirements

Address identification characters shall contrast with their background. Address numbers shall be Arabic numbers or alphabetical letters. Numbers shall not be spelled out.

Residential Buildings:

Each character shall be not less than 4 inches (102 mm) in height with a stroke width of not less than 0.5 inch (12.7mm).

Commercial Buildings:

Each character shall be not less than 6 inches (153 mm) in height with a minimum stroke width of .75 inches (20 mm).

Section 87. Secondary Structures

If a secondary structure used for a business purpose, such as a home occupation or agricultural farm, is located more than 1000 feet from the principal structure on the same lot, it must also obtain an address. The address must be posted in accordance with this ordinance.

ARTICLE IX

MAINTENANCE

Alexander County will assume responsibility for continuous maintenance of the road name signs to protect and insure that signs remain in good condition.

ARTICLE X

Section 90. Legal Status Provisions

- 90.1 It shall be unlawful for any person to erect any road sign that does not comply with the standards accepted by Alexander County.
- 90.2 It shall be unlawful for any person to name or designate the name of any private road, street, drive, cartway, easement, right-of-way, access area or any other thoroughfare by any name which duplicates the name of any other thoroughfare in Alexander County.
- 90.3 Any person who shall violate any provision of this ordinance or destroy, mar, or deface any street sign, shall upon conviction, pay a fee as adopted by the Board of County Commissioners and set forth in the Department of Planning and Development Fee Schedule or by imprisonment of not more than thirty (30) days, and each day's failure of compliance with any such provision shall constitute a separate violation. Furthermore, the person in violation of this provision shall reimburse Alexander County for the cost of replacement and installation. Nothing herein contained shall prevent the County of Alexander from taking other such lawful action as is necessary to prevent or remedy any violation.
- 90.4 Should any section or provisions of this ordinance be declared by the courts to be unconstitutional or invalid, such decisions shall not affect the validity or the ordinance as a whole, or any part thereof other than the part so declared to be unconstitutional or invalid.
- 90.5 This ordinance shall be in effect from and after Monday, January 18, 1988, amended July 10, 2001, amended October 6, 2008, amended June 21, 2010, and amended this 6th day of May, 2019.