

ORDINANCE 2024 – 06
AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND TITLE 6 HEALTH AND SANITATION, CHAPTER 2
ANIMALS, ARTICLE A GENERAL PROVISIONS TO INCLUDE PROHIBITIONS
AGAINST FEEDING WILDLIFE

WHEREAS, the City of Isle of Palms has a significant and growing wildlife population within City Limits; and

WHEREAS, the intentional feeding of wildlife can lead to various ecological and public health issues, including increased human-wildlife conflicts, the spread of disease, and encourages concentration and growth of animals in urbanized areas, which poses a hazard to humans, pets and plant life; and

WHEREAS, the improper and intentional feeding of wildlife disrupts animal's natural habitats as well as their feeding and foraging habits, as they become dependent upon human provided food sources; and

WHEREAS, the Isle of Palms City Council finds that regulating the feeding of wildlife is imperative to the health, safety and welfare of the animals and to the City of Isle of Palms and its residents; and

WHEREAS, Isle of Palms City Council has the authority to enact new sections of its Code of Ordinances when deemed to be in the best interest of the citizens of the City, and now desires to do so as displayed below.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Councilmembers of the City of Isle of Palms, in Council assembled, that Section 6-2-8 and 6-2-9 be included under Title 6, Chapter 4, Article A of the City of Isle of Palms Code of Ordinances as follows:

SECTION 1. That Section 6-2-8 "Definitions" and Section 6-2-9 "Feeding Wildlife" be included to state as follows:

Section 6-2-8 Definitions

As used in this Ordinance, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

Wildlife – Animals that have not been domesticated or tamed and are usually living in a natural environment, including both game and nongame species such as deer, coyotes, opossums, raccoons, skunks and waterfowl.

Waterfowl – Any bird that frequents the water; an aquatic fowl, including but not limited to ducks, geese, swans, heron and egrets.

Feeding – The act of providing food, whether intentionally or unintentionally, to wildlife.

Feral Cats – Cats that are domesticated but have reverted to a wild state and live independently of human care.

Bird Feeders – Devices specifically designed for the purpose of providing food to birds.

6-2-9 Feeding Wildlife

- (a) No person shall purposely feed or make food available for consumption by wildlife on private or public property within the City.
- (b) No person shall recklessly feed or make food available for consumption by wildlife on private or public property within the City.
- (c) Each property owner or person having control of the property shall have the duty to remove any materials or devices placed on the owner's property in violation of this section.
- (d) Nothing in this section shall apply to any agent of the City, County, State of South Carolina or Federal Agency lawfully engaged in a wildlife management program.

6-2-10 Exemptions

- a) The feeding of feral cats is exempt from the provisions of this ordinance, provided that the feeding is conducted in a responsible manner that minimizes the attraction of other wildlife.
- b) Bird feeders are also exempt from the provisions of this ordinance, provided that the feeders are maintained in a clean and sanitary manner and any spilled or excess seed is promptly cleaned to avoid attracting wildlife.

SECTION 2. That should any part of this Ordinance be held invalid by a Court of competent jurisdiction, the remaining parts shall be severable therefrom and shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 3. That all ordinances or parts of ordinances conflicting with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed insofar as the same affect this Ordinance.

SECTION 4. That this Ordinance take effect and be in full force immediately.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF ISLE OF PALMS, ON THE 24 DAY OF September, 2024.


Phillip Pounds, Mayor

(Seal)
Attest:


Nicole DeNeane, City Clerk



First Reading: July 23, 2024

Public Hearing: _____

Second Reading: September 24, 2024

Ratification: September 24, 2024