



CITY OF PORT WENTWORTH

CITY COUNCIL

MAY 21, 2026

Council Meeting Room

Regular Session

7:15 PM

**7224 GA HIGHWAY 21
PORT WENTWORTH, GA 31407**

- 1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**
- 2. ROLL CALL - CLERK OF COUNCIL**
- 3. PRAYER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- 4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
- 5. RECOGNITION OF SPECIAL GUESTS & Elections and Appointments**

- 6. COMMUNICATIONS & PETITIONS**
 - A. National Nurses Month Proclamation**
 - B. National Teacher Appreciation Proclamation**
 - C. National Small Business Month Proclamation**
 - D. National Mental Health Awareness Month Proclamation**
 - E. National Foster Care Month Proclamation**
 - F. Port Wentworth Police Department Recognition**

- 7. PUBLIC COMMENTS - REGISTERED SPEAKERS**
- 8. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**
 - A. Regular Council Meeting Minutes- April 16, 2026**

- 9. CONSENT AGENDA**
 - A. Adoption of the Chatham County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan
 - B. City of Savannah Agreement Benton Boulevard/Highland Widening Project

- 10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
 - A. Consideration of the 2nd Reading of a Zoning Map Amendment Application has been submitted by Whitney L. Williams, requesting to rezone 2.73 acres from R-1 to C-1, to allow for office use. PIN # 70978 04001, located in the 3rd Council District, at 640 Meinhard Road. 2nd Reading

11. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Revising Portions of Chapter 13, Motor Vehicle and Traffic, of the City of Port Wentworth Code of Ordinances, Regarding Speed Limit and Trucks on Coastal Highway 1st Reading
 - Public Hearing

- B. Revising Portions of Chapter 13, Motor Vehicle and Traffic, of the City of Port Wentworth Code of Ordinances, Regarding Too Fast For Conditions and Fines 1st Reading
 - Public Hearing

12. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- A. Litigation**
- B. Personnel**
- C. Real Estate**

13. ADJOURNMENT



City Council
7224 GA Highway 21
Port Wentworth, GA 31407

Meeting: 05/21/26
Department: Fire Department
Category: Agreement
Prepared By: Zahnay Smoak
Department Head:

SCHEDULED

AGENDA ITEM (ID)

DOC ID:

Adoption of the Chatham County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan

Issue/Item: Adoption of Chatham County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan

Background: The purpose of the 2025 Chatham County Multi-Jurisdictional Pre-Disaster Hazard Mitigation Plan Update is to identify, assess, and develop a strategy to mitigate hazard risk to people and property within Chatham County. This plan documents progress on existing hazard mitigation planning efforts, updates the plan to reflect current conditions in the planning area including relevant hazards and vulnerabilities, increases public education and awareness about the plan and planning process, maintains grant eligibility for participating jurisdictions, maintains compliance with state and federal requirements for local hazard mitigation plans, and identifies and outlines strategies the County and participating jurisdictions will use to decrease vulnerability and increase resiliency.

Facts and Finding:

This plan update was prepared in coordination with FEMA Region IV and the Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA) to ensure that it meets all applicable federal and state planning requirements. A Local Mitigation Plan Review Tool, found in Appendix A, provides a summary of FEMA's current minimum standards of acceptability and notes the location within this plan where each planning requirement is met.

This plan was developed in a joint and cooperative manner by members of a Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee (HMPC) which included representatives of County, City, and Town departments, federal and state agencies, citizens, and other stakeholders. This plan will ensure that Chatham County and its incorporated municipalities remain eligible for federal disaster assistance including the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), the Flood Mitigation Assistance Program (FMA) program, and other Pre-Disaster Mitigation grant programs that may become available.

Funding: The adoption of this Mitigation Plan allows Port Wentworth to apply for and receive grants related to mitigation actions, as well as benefit from Chatham County funding with regards to mitigation.

Recommendation:

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ADOPTION OF
THE CHATHAM COUNTY
MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN**

WHEREAS, the citizens and property within Chatham County and its municipal governments are subject to the effects of natural and human-caused hazards which may result in loss of life and property, economic hardship, and threats to public health and safety; and

WHEREAS, Section 322 of the Federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 states that local governments must develop an All-Hazards Mitigation Plan in order to be eligible to receive future Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Funds and other disaster-related assistance funding and that said Plan must be updated and adopted within a five year cycle; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the Port Wentworth Council to fulfill this obligation in order that the jurisdiction will be eligible for federal and state assistance following a declared disaster for a hazard event affecting the County; and

WHEREAS, Chatham County and its municipal governments have completed a comprehensive review of the previously approved Hazard Mitigation Plan and have updated said plan as required under regulations at 44 CFR Part 201 in accordance with requirements of 44 CFR Part 201 and guidance issued by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency; and

WHEREAS, the Port Wentworth Council desires to implement strategies to mitigate the impact of identified hazard risks and the Chatham County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan recommends mitigation activities that will reduce losses to life and property affected by both natural and human-caused hazards that may impact the jurisdiction.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Port Wentworth Council hereby:

1. Adopts the *Chatham County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (2026 Update)* in its entirety, including all appendices, which is hereby incorporated by reference.
2. Commits to the implementation of mitigation actions identified in the Plan, as appropriate, and to continued participation in the regional hazard mitigation planning process.
3. Agrees to review, maintain, and update the Plan in accordance with the requirements of 44 CFR Part 201 to ensure continued eligibility for federal and state hazard mitigation funding.

Adopted this _____ day of _____, 2026.

Signed: Tracy Saunders, Mayor, City of Port Wentworth

Attest: Zahnay Smoak, Port Wentworth Clerk of Council

(Seal)



City Council
7224 GA Highway 21
Port Wentworth, GA 31407

Meeting: 05/21/26
Department: Administration
Category: Agreement
Prepared By: Zahnay Smoak
Department Head:

SCHEDULED

AGENDA ITEM (ID)

DOC ID:

City of Savannah Agreement Benton Boulevard/Highland Widening Project

Issue/Item: This is an intergovernmental agreement with the Savannah to jointly fund major transportation improvements in the Benton Boulevard and Highlands corridor. This area is experiencing significant residential and commercial growth, making roadway upgrades essential to maintain traffic flow, support emergency services, and accommodate future development.

Background:

The Benton/Highlands corridor serves as a critical connector between:

- Port Wentworth
- Savannah
- Highlands Boulevard
- Jimmy DeLoach Parkway
- State Route 30
- Effingham County

Because growth and traffic impacts extend across municipal boundaries, a regional partnership is the most effective and efficient means of delivering infrastructure improvements.

Facts and Finding:

Savannah will serve as the project manager and lead agency.

- Port Wentworth will reimburse Savannah for its share of costs as invoices are submitted.
- Both cities are responsible for ensuring SPLOST funds are used and documented in accordance with state law.

Funding:

This project is included on the City's SPLOST VIII project list, and Port Wentworth's \$10 million contribution will be funded entirely from voter-approved SPLOST VIII proceeds. As a result, no General Fund revenues will be used for this project.

Funding Partner Contribution

GDOT \$62,800,000

Savannah \$24,000,000

Port Wentworth \$10,000,000

Total Investment \$96,800,000

Recommendation:

AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE MAYOR AND ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF
SAVANNAH AND THE CITY OF PORT WENTWORTH FOR REGIONAL
BENTON/HIGHLANDS INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

THIS AGREEMENT is made and entered into on this the _____ day of _____, in the year 2026 by and between the MAYOR AND ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF SAVANNAH (hereinafter referred to as “COS”) and the CITY OF PORT WENTWORTH (hereinafter referred to as “PW”)(collectively the “Parties.”)

WHEREAS, COS and PW have identified the Benton/Highlands area as one experiencing tremendous growth necessitating commitments for infrastructure improvements; and

WHEREAS, the Parties believe that coordinated regional planning and cooperation are required to ensure appropriate design and construction of the necessary infrastructure improvements; and

WHEREAS, the Parties have included Benton/Highlands infrastructure improvements on their respective SPLOST VIII project lists; and

WHEREAS, the Parties intend to partner in funding and administering Benton/Highland regional system improvements; and

WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Transportation has agreed to commit \$62,800,000 to fund improvements from State Route 30 to Highlands and Highlands Boulevard street widening from Benton Boulevard to Jimmy DeLoach Parkway; and

WHEREAS, COS has agreed to commit \$24,000,000 and PW has agreed to commit \$10,000,000 to widen all other portions of Benton Boulevard south and west of Highlands to the respective limits of each partner jurisdiction (“Phases 1 and 2”) to complete area-wide system improvements; and

WHEREAS, the total investment in area improvements is valued at \$96,800,000;

WHEREAS, the Parties agree that COS shall act as the project manager and project lead on Phases 1 and 2 of infrastructure improvements.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants contained herein, and specifically incorporating the above recitals into this agreement, the Parties hereto agree as follows:

SPECIFIC PROVISIONS:

1. RESPONSIBILITIES OF COS: COS shall have the following responsibilities:

- a. COS shall dedicate \$24,000,000 to the Benton/Highlands infrastructure improvements conditioned on receipt of sufficient SPLOST VIII proceeds.
 - b. COS shall act as the project manager and project lead for Phases 1 and 2 of the project.
 - c. COS shall invoice PW for costs incurred on a periodic basis.
2. RESPONSIBILITIES OF PW: PW shall have the following responsibilities:
 - a. PW shall dedicate \$10,000,000 to the Benton/Highlands infrastructure improvements conditioned on receipt of sufficient SPLOST VIII proceeds.
 - b. PW shall cooperate with COS to facilitate COS's role as project manager and project lead. All requests by COS will be performed by PW in a timely manner and in the prescribed fashion.
 - c. Within 30 days of receipt of an invoice, PW shall reimburse COS on a *pro rata* percentage of total (29.41%) share basis. Such *pro rata* percentage to be calculated after application of applicable GDOT funds, as a percentage of cost(s) borne between COS and PW for the project.
3. MUTUAL RESPONSIBILITIES: CITY and PW shall both have the following responsibilities:
 - a. Each party shall be wholly responsible for using their respective portion of the SPLOST VIII proceeds.
 - b. Each party shall be wholly responsible for managing and documenting use of their respective portion of the SPLOST VIII proceeds as provided by state law and the operative SPLOST VIII distribution certificates.
4. INDEMNITY/LIABILITY: To the extent permitted by law, the Parties each respectively agree to accept all responsibility for loss or damage to any person or entity, and defend, indemnify, hold harmless, and release each other from against and all actions, claims, damages, disabilities or expenses that may be asserted by and person or entity, including themselves, resulting from COS or PW's own respective negligence or willful misconduct arising out of or in connection with the performance of this Agreement. This indemnification obligation is not limited in any way by limitation on the amount or types of damages or compensation payable benefits acts, or other employee benefits acts.
5. MODIFICATION: This Agreement shall not be modified except in writing executed by all parties who sign the Agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this Agreement as of the day, month and year indicated below:

[Signatures on Following Page]

[Signature Page]

THE MAYOR AND ALDERMEN OF THE
CITY OF SAVANNAH

By: _____
Savannah Mayor

By: _____
Savannah City Manager

SEAL

Attest: _____
Savannah Clerk of Council

PORT WENTWORTH

By: _____
Port Wentworth Mayor

By: _____
Port Wentworth City Manager

SEAL

Attest: _____
Port Wentworth Clerk of Council



City Council
7224 GA Highway 21
Port Wentworth, GA 31407

Meeting: 05/21/26
Department: Development Services
Category: Ordinance
Prepared By: Katie Dunnigan
Department Head: Katie Dunnigan

SCHEDULED

AGENDA ITEM (ID)

DOC ID:

Consideration of the 2nd Reading of a Zoning Map Amendment Application has been submitted by Whitney L. Williams, requesting to rezone 2.73 acres from R-1 to C-1, to allow for office use. PIN # 70978 04001, located in the 3rd Council District, at 640 Meinhard Road. 2nd Reading

Issue/Item: A Zoning Map Amendment Application has been submitted by Whitney L. Williams, requesting to rezone 2.73 acres from R-1 to C-1, to allow for office use. PIN # 70978 04001, located in the 3rd Council District, at 640 Meinhard Road.

Background:

- The applicant wishes to rent the existing dwelling as office and to allow for future sale of the property as commercial.
- The adjacent property at 630 Meinhard Rd was approved for rezoning to C-1 on February 19, 2026.
- 640 Meinhard Rd was granted a variance by the Zoning Board of Appeals on May 5, 2025 to operate WCE, a Contractor Facility on site. WCE has since discontinued operations at this location and the proposed office represents a lower intensity use than allowed under the variance.

Facts and Finding:

- Table 4.30 of the City of Port Wentworth Code of Ordinances, Zoning Ordinances shows that General Office and Services are permitted uses within the C-1 (Neighborhood Commercial) zoning district.
- The Future Land Use Map identifies this parcel as "Mixed Use" which promotes: "... lower intensity services and retail which support them. Emphasis is placed on interconnectivity, multi-use buildings, or walkability between uses and, ideally, mixed use areas. Additional amenities for passive or active recreation and greenspace should be strongly considered."
- Adjacent properties are zoned C-1 to the East, R-1 to the West. There is a railway along the Northern boundary and the property is within close proximity to the Meinhard Road entrance of Anchor Park.
- Approval of this rezoning would represent a shift of .029% from R-1 to C-1 zoning.

Funding: N/A

Recommendation:

APPLICATION TO AMEND THE ZONING MAP OF PORT WENTWORTH, GEORGIA

Applicant: Whitney L. Williams Phone # 912.677.2402

Mailing Address: 640 Meinhard Rd, Port Wentworth, GA 31407

Property Owner: WCE ENTERPRISES, INC, Phone # 912.677.2402

Use back if more than one owner

Owner Address: 640 Meinhard Rd, Port Wentworth, GA 31407

PIN #(s): 7097804001 # of Acres 2.73

Zoning Classification: Present R-1 Single Family Residential Requested C-1 Commerical

Residential with Variance Office/Retail/Multi-

Use of Property: Present Construction & Trucking Requested Family/Restaurant

 x If the requested change is to extend an existing adjacent zoning district to include this property, explain below why the proposed change should be made.

 If the requested change is not to extend an adjacent zoning district, explain below why this property should be placed in a different zoning district than all adjoining properties. (How does it differ from adjoining properties and why should it be subject to different restrictions than those applying to adjoining properties?)

The adjacent property (630 Meinhard Rd) is being zoned Commercial with the same usage.

Attach the following documents:

1. Written legal description of the property (e.g. copy of deed) – full metes and bounds description rather than plat reference.
2. Name, PIN #, property address and mailing address of property owners withing 300 feet of this property.
3. Plat showing property lines with lengths and bearings, adjoining streets, locations of existing buildings, north arrow and scale. Submit three (3) copies of in 11" x 17", one 1 copy in 8.5" x 11", and a PDF on a flash drive.
4. Site Plan of proposed use of property. Submit three (3) copies in 11" x 17", one 1 copy in 8.5" x 11", and a PDF on a flash drive.
5. Disclosure of Campaign Contributions and Gifts form.
6. Disclosure of Financial Interests form
7. If property owner and applicant are not the same, Authorization by Property Owner form or Authorizations of Attorney form.
8. Filing fee of **Zoning Map Amendment Fee + per acre + Administrative Fee = Total**, payable to the City of Port Wentworth. (Please refer to the Business User Fee Schedule for the current year)

APPLICATION MUST BE FILED 20 BUSINESS DAYS PRIOR TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING AT WHICH THEY ARE TO BE CONSIDERED.

I hereby authorize the staff of the City of Port Wentworth to inspect the premises of the above described property and to post this property with the duly required notices. I hereby depose and say that all statements herein and attached statements submitted are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 12th day of February, 2020

James W. Ring II
Notary Public



[Signature]
Signature of Applicant

AUTHORIZATION OF PROPERTY OWNER

Application for Rezoning or Variance

I swear that I am the owner of the property which is the subject matter of the attached application, as is shown in the records of Port Wentworth, Georgia.

I authorize the person named below to act as applicant in the pursuit of a variance or for the rezoning of this property.

Name of Applicant: Whitney L. Williams

Address: 640 Meinhard Rd, Port Wentworth, GA 31407

Telephone Number: 912.677.2402



Signature of Owner

Personally appeared before me

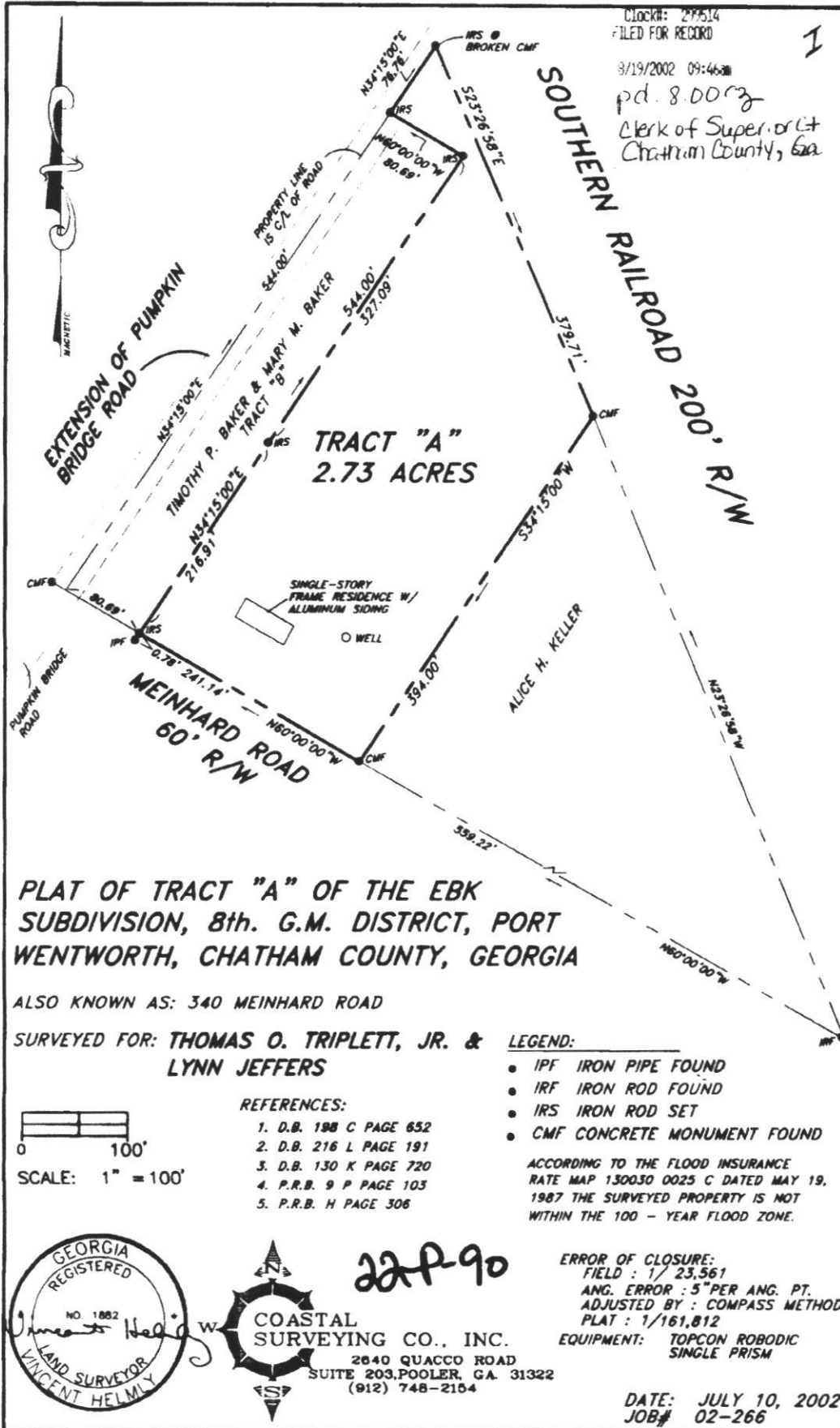
Whitney L. Williams

who swears that the information contained in this authorization is true and correct to the best of his or her knowledge and belief.

James W. Ring II
Notary Public

2/12/26
Date





Clock# 299514
 FILED FOR RECORD
 9/19/2002 09:46:00
 pd. 8.00 r3
 Clerk of Superior Ct
 Chatham County, Ga

PLAT OF TRACT "A" OF THE EBK SUBDIVISION, 8th. G.M. DISTRICT, PORT WENTWORTH, CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA

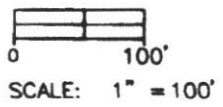
ALSO KNOWN AS: 340 MEINHARD ROAD

SURVEYED FOR: **THOMAS O. TRIPLETT, JR. & LYNN JEFFERS**

- LEGEND:**
- IPF IRON PIPE FOUND
 - IRF IRON ROD FOUND
 - IRS IRON ROD SET
 - CMF CONCRETE MONUMENT FOUND

- REFERENCES:**
1. D.B. 198 C PAGE 652
 2. D.B. 216 L PAGE 191
 3. D.B. 130 K PAGE 720
 4. P.R.B. 9 P PAGE 103
 5. P.R.B. H PAGE 306

ACCORDING TO THE FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAP 130030 0025 C DATED MAY 19, 1987 THE SURVEYED PROPERTY IS NOT WITHIN THE 100 - YEAR FLOOD ZONE.



ERROR OF CLOSURE:
 FIELD : 1/23.561
 ANG. ERROR : 5" PER ANG. PT.
 ADJUSTED BY : COMPASS METHOD
 PLAT : 1/161,812
 EQUIPMENT: TOPCON ROBODIC SINGLE PRISM



COASTAL SURVEYING CO., INC.
 2840 QUACCO ROAD
 SUITE 203, POOLER, GA. 31322
 (912) 748-2154

228-90

DATE: JULY 10, 2002
 JOB# 02-266





City Council
7224 GA Highway 21
Port Wentworth, GA 31407

Meeting: 05/21/26
Department: All
Category: Ordinance
Prepared By: Zahnay Smoak
Department Head:

SCHEDULED

AGENDA ITEM (ID)

DOC ID:

Revising Portions of Chapter 13, Motor Vehicle and Traffic, of the City of Port Wentworth Code of Ordinances, Regarding Speed Limit and Trucks on Coastal Highway 1st Reading

Public Hearing

Issue/Item: Coastal Highway between Grange Road and Bonnybridge Road was recently deeded to the City by GDOT. The City is working to improve safety and support revitalization of that area, and setting a new Speed Limit and prohibiting Commercial Trucks to go along with other measures is needed.

Background: The City is currently producing a Public Information Campaign regarding improved safety and to support revitalization of the downtown corridor, which runs through the newly acquired City road Coastal Highway, aka Highway 25. In addition to limiting commercial truck traffic, the speed limit needs to be addressed.

Facts and Finding:

There are multiple homes along the road, as well as shops and commercial areas with direct access, with limited or challenging parking conditions along this stretch of Coastal Highway between Grange Road and Bonnybridge Road.

Lowering the speed limit to 25 MPH will help facilitate a safer environment for residents and visitors, and aid and support revitalization efforts by giving partners the opportunity to create the downtown revitalization and collaboration the City, staff, residents, and business partners are working towards.

Restricting vehicles with more than 6 wheels and commercial traffic will facilitate the same ends of being safer and helping to revitalize downtown.

Funding:

Recommendation:

STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF CHATHAM
CITY OF PORT WENTWORTH

AN ORDINANCE TO REVISE PORTIONS OF CHAPTER 13, MOTOR VEHICLE AND TRAFFIC, OF THE CITY OF PORT WENTWORTH CODE OF ORDINANCES, REGARDING SPEED LIMIT ON COASTAL HIGHWAY

WHEREAS, it is necessary from time to time to modify the City’s ordinances; and

WHEREAS the Mayor and City Council is tasked with the authority to adopt and provide for such ordinances, resolutions, rules, and regulations which it deems necessary, expedient, or helpful for the peace, good order, protection of life and property, health, welfare, sanitation, comfort, convenience, prosperity, and well-being of the inhabitants of the City; and

WHEREAS, the City of Port Wentworth is granted the power to regulate the operation of motor vehicles and public parking and to exercise control over all traffic, upon or across the highways, streets, roads, alleys, and walkways of the city; and

WHEREAS, the City of Port Wentworth desires to update its Chapter 13, Motor Vehicles and Traffic to ensure safety and free movement upon the roadways of the city; and

NOW, THEREFORE, that while in regular session THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PORT WENTWORTH HEREBY ORDAIN as follows:

The Code of Ordinance, Chapter 13, Motor Vehicles and Traffic, is amended as follows:

- I. Sec. 13-1 is amended to add Coastal Highway, aka Highway 25, to the “Off-System” list of streets and speed limits, as follows:

Road Name	Within the City/Town Limits of and/or School Name	From	To	Length in Miles	Speed Limit [MPH]
Coastal Highway, aka Highway 25	Port Wentworth	Grange Road	Bonnybridge Road	1.5	25

II. Sec. 13-6 is amended to read as follow:

“Sec. 13-6. – Motor Vehicle Restrictions on Use of Controlled Highway Access

Any motor vehicle with more than six wheels and commercial motor vehicles as defined by O.C.G.A. § 40-1-1 shall not travel on any portions of the following streets, as noted:

Road Name	From	To	Length in Miles
Coastal Highway, aka Highway 25	Grange Road	Bonnybridge Road	1.5

The Mayor and Council find this prohibition to road(s) within their jurisdiction and authority with this class of vehicle(s) to be incompatible with the normal and safe movement of traffic and people. State law reference O.C.G.A. § 40-6-51.”

III. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are hereby repealed.

IV. This Ordinance upon its passage, shall become effective on July 1, 2026.

SO ORDAINED this the _____ day of _____, 2026.

Approved:

Tracy Saunders, Mayor

Attest:

Zahnay Smiley, City Clerk

First reading: _____ (date)

Second reading: _____ (date)



City Council
 7224 GA Highway 21
 Port Wentworth, GA 31407

Meeting: 05/21/26
 Department: Administration
 Category: Ordinance
 Prepared By: Zahnay Smoak
 Department Head:

SCHEDULED

AGENDA ITEM (ID)

DOC ID:

Revising Portions of Chapter 13, Motor Vehicle and Traffic, of the City of Port Wentworth Code of Ordinances, Regarding Too Fast For Conditions and Fines 1st Reading

Public Hearing

Issue/Item: City staff continually review and recommend changes to the City’s Codes, to maintain current with State law and to support our growing City.

Background: The City’s Chapter 13 deals with Traffic and Motor Vehicles, including violations and penalties for violations. Updating the Code to include codification of the TVB and of a City Code violation for Too Fast For Conditions will give our solicitor and judges more tools to better serve our residents and to consider and treat each individual coming in front of them fairly and independently.

Facts and Finding:

Although permitted via State law, the Traffic Violations Bureau is not codified in our City Code. Such codification supports transparency in showing residents and those in our Municipal Court the basis for fines and State law support for same.

Updating our Penalties code section brings it in line with our City Charter, as well as lowering the minimum fine to again give our solicitor and judges the ability to independently consider each person in front of them.

Adding a City Code violation for Too Fast For Conditions will again give out solicitor and judges the ability to independently consider each person in front of them, as another tool to work towards overall public safety.

Funding:

Recommendation:

**STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF CHATHAM
CITY OF PORT WENTWORTH**

AN ORDINANCE TO REVISE PORTIONS OF CHAPTER 13, MOTOR VEHICLE AND TRAFFIC, OF THE CITY OF PORT WENTWORTH CODE OF ORDINANCES, REGARDING TOO FAST FOR CONDITIONS AND FINES

WHEREAS, it is necessary from time to time to modify the City’s ordinances; and

WHEREAS the Mayor and City Council is tasked with the authority to adopt and provide for such ordinances, resolutions, rules, and regulations which it deems necessary, expedient, or helpful for the peace, good order, protection of life and property, health, welfare, sanitation, comfort, convenience, prosperity, and well-being of the inhabitants of the City; and

WHEREAS, the City of Port Wentworth is granted the power to regulate the operation of motor vehicles and public parking and to exercise control over all traffic, upon or across the highways, streets, roads, alleys, and walkways of the city; and

WHEREAS, the City of Port Wentworth desires to update its Chapter 13, Motor Vehicles and Traffic to ensure safety and free movement upon the roadways of the city; and

NOW, THEREFORE, that while in regular session THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PORT WENTWORTH HEREBY ORDAIN as follows:

The Code of Ordinance, Chapter 13, Motor Vehicles and Traffic, is amended as follows:

- I. Sec. 13-10, shall be renamed “Penalty for violation of Chapter 13”
- II. Sec. 13-10, is hereby repealed and shall be replaced with as follows:

“Violation of Chapter 13 of this Code shall be punished by a fine of not less than seventy five dollars (\$75.00) nor more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00), unless otherwise noted.”
- III. Sec. 13-14 shall be created, and read as follows:

“Sec. 13-14. – Traffic Violations Bureau

Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 40-13-50 et seq., the judge(s) of the Port Wentworth Municipal Court are authorized to provide by written order the establishment of a traffic violations bureau for the handling and disposition of certain traffic offenses, in substantial compliance with state law.

IV. Sec. 13-15 shall be created, and read as follows:

“Sec. 13-15. – Too Fast For Conditions

No person shall drive a vehicle at a speed greater than is reasonable and prudent under the conditions and having regard for the actual and potential hazards then existing. Consistent with the foregoing, every person shall drive at a reasonable and prudent speed when approaching and crossing an intersection or railroad grade crossing, when approaching and going around a curve, when approaching and traversing a hill crest, when traveling upon any narrow or winding roadway, and when special hazards exist with respect to pedestrians or other traffic or by reason of weather or highway conditions.”

V. Secs. 13-16 through 13-49 shall remain “Reserved”.

VI. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are hereby repealed.

VII. This Ordinance shall become effective upon its passage and adoption.

SO ORDAINED this the _____ day of _____, 2026.

Approved:

Tracy Saunders, Mayor

Attest:

Zahnay Smiley, City Clerk

First reading: _____ (date)

Second reading: _____ (date)