

AN ORDINANCE OF REGULATING ADULT ENTERTAINMENT ESTABLISHMENTS

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Statutory reference:

Authority to regulate sexually oriented businesses, see G.S. §160A-181.1

§ 1.01 DEFINITIONS

The following words, terms and phrases shall have the specific meaning ascribed to them herein. All other words, terms and phrases shall have their Ordinance meaning of common usage in the English language:

ADULT CABARET. A nightclub, bar, restaurant, or similar commercial establishment that on a regular or transient basis features:

- (1) Persons who appear in a state of nudity or semi-nudity; or
- (2) Live performances that are characterized by the exposure of “specified anatomical areas” or “specified sexual activities”; or
- (3) Films, motion pictures, video cassettes, slides, or other photographic reproductions that are characterized by the depiction or description of “specified sexual activities” or “specified anatomical areas”; or
- (4) Persons who engage in erotic dancing or performances that are intended for the sexual interests or titillation of an audience or customers.

ADULT ESTABLISHMENT. An adult cabaret, adult motel, adult motion picture theater, adult mini-motion picture theater, escort agency, exotic car wash, exotic maid service, nude modeling studios, sexual encounter center or any other sexually oriented business that is similar in nature or intent to any other adult entertainment business as defined in this section.

ADULT LIVE ENTERTAINMENT. Any performance of or involving the actual presence of real people which exhibits specified sexual activities or specified anatomical areas, as defined in this section.

ADULT LIVE ENTERTAINMENT BUSINESS. Any establishment or business wherein adult live entertainment is shown for observation by patrons. This shall apply whether the entertainment is presented on a regular or transient basis.

ADULT MOTEL. A hotel, motel or similar commercial establishment that:

- (1) Offers accommodation to the public for any form of consideration and provides patrons with closed-circuit television transmissions, films, motion pictures, video cassettes, slides, or other photographic reproductions that are characterized by the depiction or description of “specified sexual activities” or “specified anatomical areas”; and has a sign visible from the public right of way that advertises the availability of this adult type of photographic reproductions; or
- (2) Offers a sleeping room for rent for a period of time that is less than twenty-four (24) hours for any purpose in violation of this Ordinance or in violation of the North Carolina General Statutes; or
- (3) Allows a tenant or occupant of a sleeping room to sub-rent the room for a period of time that is less than twenty-four (24) hours.

ADULT MOTION PICTURE THEATER. An enclosed building or premises used for presenting motion pictures, a preponderance of which are distinguished or characterized by an emphasis on

the matter depicting, describing, or relating to specified sexual activities or specified anatomical areas, as defined in this section, for observation by patrons therein. "Adult motion picture theater" does not include any adult mini-motion picture theater as defined in this section.

ADULT MINI-MOTION PICTURE THEATER. An enclosed building with viewing booths designed to hold patrons which is used for presenting motion pictures, a preponderance of which are distinguished or characterized by an emphasis on matter depicting, describing or relating to specified sexual activities or specified anatomical areas as defined in this section, for observation by patrons therein.

EMPLOYEE. A person who performs any service on the premises of a sexually oriented business on a full-time, part-time, contract basis, or independent basis, whether or not the person is denominated an employee, independent contractor, agent, or otherwise, and whether or not the said person is paid a salary, wage, or other compensation by the operator of said business. "Employee" does not include a person exclusively on the premises for repair or maintenance of the premises or equipment on the premises, or for the delivery of goods to the premises, nor does "employee" include a person exclusively on the premises as a patron or customer.

ENLARGEMENT OF A SEXUALLY ORIENTED BUSINESS. The increase in floor areas occupied by the business by more than ten (10) percent, as the floor areas exist on the effective date of this ordinance.

ENTERTAINER. Any person who provides entertainment within or at an adult establishment, whether or not a fee is charged or accepted for entertainment and whether or not entertainment is provided by that person as an employee or an independent contractor.

EROTIC. Any seductive, titillating, lustful, immodest, indecent, suggestive, passionate, or similar reference, act, service or deed.

ESTABLISHMENT. Includes any of the following:

- (1) The opening or commencement of any sexually oriented business as a new business;
- (2) The conversion of an existing business, whether or not a sexually oriented business, to any sexually oriented business;
- (3) The additions of any sexually oriented business to any other existing sexually oriented business; or
- (4) The relocation of any sexually oriented business.

EXOTIC CAR WASH. A facility which offers a car cleaning or washing service performed by employees who are in a state of nudity or semi-nudity.

LICENSED DAY-CARE CENTER. A facility licensed by the state of North Carolina, whether situated within the city or not, that provides care, training, education, custody, treatment or supervision for more than twelve (12) children under fourteen (14) years of age, where such children are not related by blood, marriage or adoption to the owner or operator of the facility, for less than twenty-four (24) hours a day, regardless of whether or not the facility is operated for a profit or charges for the services it offers.

LICENSEE. A person in whose name a license has been issued, as well as the individual listed as an applicant on the application for a license.

NUDE MODEL STUDIO. Any place where a person who appears in a state of nudity or displays "specified anatomical areas" is provided to be observed, sketched, drawn, painted, sculptured, photographed, or similarly depicted by other persons for consideration.

NUDITY OR A STATE OF NUDITY. The appearance of a human bare buttock, anus, anal cleft or cleavage, pubic area, male genitals, female genitals, or vulva, with less than fully opaque covering; or human male genital in a discernibly turgid state even if completely and opaquely covered.

ORDINANCE ADMINISTRATOR. The person charged with administering and enforcing this Ordinance.

PERSON. An individual, proprietorship, partnership, corporation, association, or other legal entity.

PREMISES. The real property upon which the sexually oriented business is located, and all appurtenances thereto and buildings thereon, including, but not limited to, the sexually oriented business, the grounds, private walkways, and parking lots and/or parking garages adjacent thereto, under the ownership, control, or supervision of the licensee, as described in the application for a business license pursuant to § 1.05 of this Ordinance.

SEMI-NUDE. The appearance of the female breast below a horizontal line across the top of the areola at its highest point. This definition shall include the entire lower portion of the human female breast, but shall not include any portion of the cleavage of the human female breast exhibited by a dress, blouse, skirt, leotard, bathing suit, other wearing apparel provided the areola is not exposed in whole or in part.

SEXUAL ENCOUNTER CENTER. A business or commercial enterprise that, as one of its principal business purposes, offers for any form of consideration:

- (1) Physical contact in the form of wrestling or tumbling between persons of the opposite or same sex; or

(2) Activities between male and female persons and/or persons of the same sex when one or more of the persons is in a state of nudity or semi-nude.

SPECIFIED ANATOMICAL AREAS.

(1) Less than completely and opaquely covered:

(a) Human genital, pubic region,

(b) Buttock, or

(c) Female breast below a point immediately above the top of the areola; or

(2) Human male genitals in a discernibly turgid state, even if completely and opaquely covered.

SPECIFIED SEXUAL ACTIVITIES.

(1) Human genitals in a state of sexual stimulation or arousal,

(2) Acts of human masturbation, sexual intercourse or sodomy; or

(3) Fondling or other erotic touching of human genitals, pubic regions, buttocks or female breasts.

TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP OR CONTROL OF A SEXUALLY ORIENTED BUSINESS.

Includes any of the following:

(1) The sale, lease, or sublease of the business;

(2) The transfer of securities that form a controlling interest in the business, whether by sale, exchange, or similar means; or

(3) The establishment of a trust, gift, or other similar legal device that transfers the ownership or control of the business, except for the transfer by bequest or other operation of law.

(Ord. Passed 8-10-98)

§ 1.02 GENERAL PROVISIONS.

(A) Effective date. This Ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after the date the Ordinance is approved by the Cherokee County Board of Commissioners.

(B) Amendment. The Board of Commissioners may from time to time amend the terms of this

Ordinance after a public hearing as provided by applicable North Carolina General Statutes.

(C) Administrative review. Administrative review of any violation issued by the Ordinance Administrator under this Ordinance may be appealed to the Cherokee County Board of Commissioners within ten working days of the decision rendered by the Ordinance Administrator. The appeal must be in writing and state the reasons for such appeal. A request for a variance must be submitted to the Cherokee County Board of Commissioners in writing.

(D) Administrator. The County Manager of Cherokee County or his/her designee is designated as a public official of the county and shall administer and enforce this Ordinance.

(E) Statutory Reference. This Ordinance is enacted in part pursuant to the authority contained in N.C.G.S. 160A-181.1, "Regulation of Sexually Oriented Businesses".

§ 1.03 PURPOSE.

The purpose of this Ordinance shall be to set forth the regulatory and licensing requirements for adult establishments located within Cherokee County. Adult establishments, because of their very nature, are recognized as having serious objectionable operational characteristics. Studies and experiences that are relevant to North Carolina have shown that lower property values and increased crime rates tend to accompany and are brought about by adult establishments. The Cherokee County Board of County Commissioners finds that regulation of these uses is necessary to ensure that these adverse secondary effects do not contribute to the blighting of surrounding neighborhoods and to regulate acts, omissions or conditions detrimental to the health, safety or welfare and the peace and dignity of the County. Regulation to achieve these purposes can be accomplished by the procedures set forth hereinafter.

The provisions of this Ordinance have neither the purpose nor effect of imposing a limitation or restriction on the content of any communicative materials, including sexually oriented materials. Similarly, it is neither the intent nor effect of this Ordinance to restrict or deny access by adults to sexually oriented materials protected by the First Amendment, or to deny access by the distributors and exhibitors of sexually oriented entertainment to their intended market. This Ordinance represents a balancing of the legitimate ends of the community by imposing an incidental, content neutral place, time and manner regulation of sexually oriented businesses, without limiting alternative avenues of communication and at the same time, requiring the business to carry its share of financing administrative and enforcement activities.

§ 1.04 JURISDICTION OF ORDINANCE.

The provisions of this Ordinance shall be applicable to all unincorporated areas of Cherokee County, but shall not be applicable to and shall not be enforced within the corporate limits of jurisdiction of any municipality in the County.

§ 1.05 APPLICATION FOR LICENSES.

(A) Business license.

(1) It shall be unlawful for any person to operate or maintain an adult establishment in the County unless the owner or operator thereof has obtained an adult establishment license from the County. It shall also be unlawful for any person to operate such business after such license has been revoked or suspended by the County or has expired.

(2) It shall be unlawful for any entertainer to knowingly perform any work, service or entertainment directly related to the operation of an unlicensed adult establishment within the County.

(3) It shall be prima facie evidence that any adult establishment that fails to have posted, in the manner required by this Ordinance, an adult establishment license, has not obtained such a license. In addition, it shall be prima facie evidence that any entertainer who performs any service or entertainment in an adult establishment in which an adult establishment license is not posted, in the manner required by this Ordinance, had knowledge that such business was not licensed.

(B) License Classification and Fees.

(1) The term of all licenses required under this Ordinance shall be for a period of 12 months, commencing on the date of issuance of the license. This application for a license shall be accompanied by payment in full of the fees referred to in this Ordinance and established by the Board of Commissioners. Payment shall be made by certified or cashier's check or money order. No application shall be considered complete until all such fees are paid.

(2) All licenses shall be issued for a specific location and/or person and shall be nonrefundable and nontransferable.

(3) The license fees shall be as set by the Board of Commissioners from time to time and be recorded in the County Board of Commissioner Meeting Minutes at which they are set.

(4) A fee in the amount of two thousand, five hundred dollars (\$2,500.00) shall be paid by every adult establishment at the time the application for license is filed or with any application for renewal.

(5) A fee in the amount of one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) shall be paid by every entertainer at the time the application for license is filed or with any application for renewal. Any license for an entertainer issued pursuant to this Ordinance shall be valid for one (1) year from the date said license is issued.

§ 1.06 APPLICATION PROCEDURES.

(A) Adult establishment business license. All persons desiring to secure a license to conduct, operate or maintain an adult establishment under the provisions of this Ordinance shall make a verified application to the Ordinance Administrator. All applications shall be submitted in the name of the person proposing to conduct, operate or maintain the adult establishment. All applications shall be submitted on a form supplied by the enforcement officer and shall require the following information:

(1) The applicant's full name and any aliases or other names by which the applicant is known or which the applicant has used at any time, and the residence addresses for the past two years, the business and home telephone numbers, occupation, date and place of birth, a legally-acceptable government-issued photo identification, a drivers license number, and a recent photograph of the applicant.

(2) (a) The name of the adult establishment, a description of the adult entertainment to be performed on the licensed premises, the name of the owner of the premises where the adult establishment will be located, the business address and Cherokee County parcel identification number on which the business resides.

(b) If the persons identified as the fee owner(s) of the tract of land in item (a) is/are not also the owner(s) of the establishment, then the lease, purchase contract, purchase option contract, lease option contract or other document(s) evidencing the legally enforceable right of the owners or proposed owners of the adult establishment to have or obtain the use and possession of the tract or portion thereof that is to be used for the purpose of the operation of an adult establishment.

(c) A current certificate and straight-line drawing prepared within thirty (30) days prior to application by a registered land surveyor depicting the property lines and the structures containing any existing sexually oriented business within 2,640 feet (0.5 mile) of the property to be certified; the property lines of any established religious institution/synagogue, school, library, or public park or recreation area within 2,640 feet (0.5 mile) of the property to be certified. For purposes of this Section, a use shall be considered existing or established if it is in existence at the time an application is submitted.

(d) Any of the criteria above shall not be required for a renewal application if the applicant states that the documents previously furnished the Ordinance Administrator with the original application or previous renewals thereof remain correct and current.

(3) The names, residence addresses for the past two years, social security numbers and dates of births of all partners, if the applicant is a partnership; and if the applicant is a corporation, the same information for all corporate officers, directors, and individuals having a ten (10) percent or greater interest in the corporation.

(4) A statement from the applicant, or from each partner, or from each corporate officer, director, or ten (10) percent shareholder that each such person has not been convicted or, released from confinement for conviction of, or diverted from prosecution on:

(a) A felony criminal act within five years immediately preceding the application, or

(b) A misdemeanor criminal act within two years immediately preceding the application where such felony or misdemeanor criminal act involved sexual offenses, prostitution, promotion of prostitution, sexual abuse of a child, pornography or related offenses as defined in the laws of North Carolina or any other comparable violation of the laws of this state or the laws of any other state.

(5) If the applicant is a corporation, a current certificate of existence issued by the North Carolina Secretary of State.

(6) A statement signed under oath that the applicant has personal knowledge of the information contained in the application and that the information contained therein is true and correct and that the applicant has read the provisions of this Ordinance regulating adult establishments.

(7) All applicants shall submit to fingerprinting by a Cherokee County Sheriffs Deputy. The fingerprint cards shall be submitted to the S.B.I. for processing. Returned fingerprint cards and criminal histories shall be kept on file in the Cherokee County Sheriffs Office.

(8) A statement signed under oath that the applicant(s) consents to investigation of his/her background by the County to include fingerprinting and that the applicant(s) agrees to furnish within ten days at his/her expense, a criminal history from the Clerk of Court of any county in which the applicant has resided during the five (5) preceding years.

Failure to provide the information and documentation required by this subsection shall constitute an incomplete application and it shall not be processed until complete.

(B) Adult entertainer license. All persons desiring to secure a license under the provisions of this Ordinance to be an entertainer shall make a verified application to the Ordinance Administrator. All applications shall be made in person to the Ordinance Administrator or his designee. All applications shall be submitted on a form supplied by the Ordinance Administrator and shall require the following information:

(1) The applicant's full name and any aliases or other names by which the applicant is known or which the applicant has used at any time, and the residence addresses for the past two years, the business and home telephone numbers, date and place of birth, social security number, drivers license number, and any stage names or nicknames used in entertaining.

(2) The name and address of the adult establishment where the applicant intends to work as an entertainer.

(3) A statement from the applicant that the applicant has not been convicted of, released from confinement for conviction of, or diverted from prosecution on:

(a) A felony criminal act within five years immediately preceding the application, or

(b) A misdemeanor criminal act within two years immediately preceding the application where such felony or misdemeanor criminal act involved sexual offenses, prostitution, promotion of prostitution, sexual abuse of a child, pornography or related offenses as defined in the laws of the State of North Carolina or any other comparable violation of the laws of this state or the laws of any other state.

(4) Photographs shall be taken of the applicant by the Ordinance Administrator or his designee and the Ordinance Administrator shall have the photographs processed and retain the copies.

(5) All applicants shall submit to fingerprinting by a Cherokee County Sheriff's Deputy. The fingerprint cards shall be submitted to the S.B.I. for processing. Returned fingerprint cards and criminal histories shall be kept on file in the Cherokee County Sheriff's Office.

(6) The applicant shall present to the Ordinance Administrator for copying documentation that the applicant has attained the age of 21 years at the time the application is submitted. Any of the following shall be accepted as documentation of age:

(a) A motor vehicle operator's license issued by any state, bearing the applicant's photograph and date of birth;

(b) A state-issued identification card bearing the applicant's photograph and date of birth;

(c) An official and valid passport issued by the United States of America;

(d) A legitimate and legal immigration card issued by the United States of America;

(e) Any other form of picture identification issued by a governmental entity that is deemed reliable by the Ordinance Administrator; or

(f) Any other form of identification deemed reliable by the County Manager and/or Ordinance Administrator.

(7) A statement signed under oath that the applicant consents to investigation of his/her background by the County to include fingerprinting and that the applicant agrees to furnish within ten days at his/her expense, a criminal history from the Clerk of Court of any county in which the applicant has resided during the five (5) preceding years.

Failure to provide the information and documentation required by this subsection shall constitute an incomplete application and it shall not be processed until complete.

(C) Application processing. Upon receipt of a complete application for an adult establishment license or for an entertainer license, the Ordinance Administrator shall immediately commence investigation of the application as follows:

(1) In the case of an application for a license for an adult establishment, the Ordinance Administrator shall:

(a) Transmit a copy of the application to the Cherokee County Board of County Commissioners.

(b) The Director of the Inspections Department shall report to the Ordinance Administrator no later than 30 working days after the receipt of the application by the Ordinance Administrator whether or not a proposed adult establishment complies with the requirements of this Ordinance and all applicable building, fire, health or similar State or local code(s). In the event that the Director of the Inspections Department fails to report to the Ordinance Administrator within this time period, the Ordinance Administrator shall proceed with processing the application.

(c) The County Sheriff shall report to the Ordinance Administrator no later than thirty (30) working days after the receipt of the application by the County Sheriff the results of his/her investigation of the applicant. In the event that the County Sheriff fails to report to the Ordinance Administrator within this time period, the Ordinance Administrator shall proceed with processing the application.

(d) Upon completion of his/her investigation, payment of the applicable license fee, and upon receipt of the report of the Inspections Department and the County Sheriff (or upon expiration of the time periods referenced above without receiving a report), the Ordinance Administrator shall determine whether or not a license shall be issued. In no event shall the time period for determination by the Ordinance Administrator exceed sixty (60) working days from the date the application is received by the Ordinance Administrator, unless consented to by the applicant.

(2) In the case of an application for a license for an entertainer, the Ordinance Administrator shall:

(a) Transmit a copy of the application to the County Sheriff.

(b) The County Sheriff shall report to the Ordinance Administrator no later than 10 working days after receipt of the application by the County Sheriff the results of his/her investigation of the applicant. In the event that the County Sheriff fails to report to the Ordinance Administrator within this time period, the Ordinance Administrator shall proceed with processing the application.

(c) Upon completion of his/her investigation, payment of the appropriate license fee, and upon receipt of the report of the County Sheriff (or upon expiration of either or both time periods reference above without receiving a report), the Ordinance Administrator shall determine whether or not a license shall be issued. In no event shall the time period for determination by the Ordinance Administrator exceed 15 working days from the date the application is received by the Ordinance Administrator, unless consented to by the applicant.

(D) Reasons for disapproval. The Ordinance Administrator must deny the license application for one or more of the following reasons:

(1) The license application is incomplete so as to not contain all information required by this Ordinance.

(2) The applicant (including any partners, corporate officers, directors, and shareholders where applicable), has been convicted of a crime in the local, state or federal court systems for any violations listed in this section.

(3) The applicant (including any partners, corporate officers, directors, and shareholders where applicable), has made false or fraudulent statements in the application, evidence of which is disclosed by a County background investigation or by any other lawful means.

(4) The application for an adult establishment does not meet the requirements of this Ordinance.

(E) Notice of approval or disapproval.

(1) Upon a determination by the Ordinance Administrator of the disapproval or approval of the application, the Ordinance Administrator shall notify the applicant by personal delivery or certified mail, return receipt requested, to the address of the applicant as shown on the application. In the event that the application is disapproved, the notification shall state the basis for such disapproval.

(2) In the event an application is disapproved, the applicant shall have thirty (30) days from the receipt of the notice of disapproval to appeal that determination in writing and citing reasons for such appeal to the Cherokee County Board of Commissioners.

(F) Changes to application. All applicants shall notify the Ordinance Administrator of any changes to the application within five working days of the date the change occurs.

§ 1.07 PROHIBITED ACTS AND CONDUCT.

(A) No person under the age of 21 years shall be permitted on the premises of any adult establishment.

(B) No person under the age of 21 years shall be granted a license for an adult establishment

business or as an entertainer.

(C) No owner, operator, manager, employee or entertainer, nor any customer or patron shall appear “bottomless” or in a state of nudity while on the premises of the adult establishment.

(D) No owner, operator, manager, employee or entertainer, nor any customer or patron, shall perform any specified sexual activities as defined in this Ordinance, wear or use any device or covering exposed to view which simulates any specified anatomical area, use artificial devices or inanimate objects to perform or depict any of the specified sexual activities as defined in this Ordinance, or participate in any act of prostitution while on the premises of the adult establishment.

(E) No owner, operator, manager, employee, entertainer, customer or patron of an adult establishment shall knowingly touch, fondle or caress any specified anatomical area of another person, or knowingly permit another person to touch, fondle or caress any specified anatomical area of his or hers, whether such specified anatomical areas are clothed, unclothed, covered or exposed, while on the premises of the adult establishment.

(F) There shall be a minimum separation of 24 inches between any entertainer or performer and any patron or customer except to allow patrons or customers to insert paper money for tips partially underneath an entertainer or performer’s clothing but not directly on the genital area or the breast area.

(G) No owner, operator, manager or employee shall mix, dispense, or serve any alcoholic beverage while in a state of nudity or semi-nudity.

(H) No owner, operator, manager or employee shall solicit, receive, or accept nor shall any customer or patron give, offer, or provide any gratuity, tip, payment or any other form of compensation for entertainment for or while either or both is/are in a state of nudity or semi-nudity. This also pertains to the purchase of an unrelated item that includes a “free” dance, act or service.

(I) No owner, operator, manager or other person in charge of the premises of an adult entertainment premises shall knowingly allow or permit any person under the age of 21 years to be in or upon the premises or knowingly allow or permit a violation of this Ordinance.

§ 1.08 INSPECTIONS.

(A) Every person, corporation or partnership licensed under this Ordinance as an adult establishment shall post such license in a conspicuous place and manner of the adult establishment premises.

(B) Every person holding a license as an entertainer shall post his or her license in his or her

work area on the adult establishment premises so it shall be readily available for inspection by County authorities responsible for enforcement of this Ordinance.
(Ord. Passes 8-10-98)

§ 1.09 SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION OF LICENSES.

(A) The Ordinance Administrator shall conduct a hearing to determine whether or not a license should be suspended or revoked, with the hearing conducted within ten (10) working days of his/her knowledge that:

(1) The owner or operator of an adult establishment or the holder of a license as an entertainer has violated, or knowingly allowed or permitted the violation of any of the provisions of this Ordinance; or

(2) There have been recurrent violations of provisions of this Ordinance that have occurred under such circumstances that the owner or operator of an adult establishment knew or should have known that such violations were committed; or

(3) The license was obtained through false statements in the application for such license or renewal thereof; or

(4) The license has been materially altered or defaced or is being or was used by a person other than the license holder or at a location other than that identified on the license or for a use or type other than that for which the license was issued; or

(5) The licensee failed to make a complete disclosure of all information in the application for such license, or renewal thereof; or

(6) The owner or operator, or any partner, or any corporate officer or director holding an adult establishment license has become disqualified from having a license by a conviction as provided in this Ordinance; or

(7) The holder of an entertainer license has become disqualified from having a license by a conviction as provided in this Ordinance.

(B) At the hearing, the licensee shall have an opportunity to be heard, to present evidence and to be represented by an attorney. Based on the evidence produced at the hearing, the Ordinance Administrator shall take, within five (5) working days after the hearing, any of the following actions:

(1) Suspend the license for up to ninety (90) days; or

(2) Revoke the license; or

(3) Place the license holder on administrative probation for a period of up to one (1) year, on the conditions that no further violations of this Ordinance occur during the period of probation; or

(4) Take no action.

(C) The Ordinance Administrator shall provide written notice of his/her decision to the applicant by certified mail, return receipt requested. The notice shall be sent immediately after the Ordinance Administrator determines what action to take, as described above, but no later than ten (10) business days after the hearing.

(D) In the event of suspension or revocation of the license or the placement on administrative probation, the licensee shall have the right to appeal that determination to the Cherokee County Board of Commissioners within thirty (30) days of receipt of the notice of suspension, revocation or probation.

(E) The decision of the Cherokee County Board of Commissioners on the appeal from the Ordinance Administrator shall be by majority vote of the Board members present, provided that a quorum of at least three (3) Board members must be present to hear and consider any appeal. After the *de novo* hearing before the Cherokee County Board of Commissioners, the Board shall issue its decision in writing on the appeal within five (5) days of said hearing.

(F) A copy of the written decision of the Cherokee County Board of Commissioners shall be personally delivered to the license holder or mailed to the license holder by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the address of the applicant/license holder as shown on the application. The notice under this section shall be mailed on the date the decision is rendered to the mailing address set forth in the license holder's application, unless the notice is personally delivered to the license holder.

(G) Any appeal from the decision of the Cherokee County Board of Commissioners shall be in the form of a civil proceeding filed in the Superior Court Division of the General Court of Justice in and for Cherokee County, North Carolina.

§ 1.10 LICENSE RENEWAL

(A) A license may be renewed by making application to the Ordinance Administrator on application forms provided for that purpose. Any license issued under this Ordinance shall expire as of the end of the twelve (12) month period from the date of its issuance, and renewal applications for such licenses shall be submitted no sooner than forty-five (45) days prior to expiration and not later than the county business day immediately preceding the date of expiration of the license.

(B) Upon timely and proper application for renewal and the payment in full of the license fee, the

Ordinance Administrator shall issue to the applicant a receipt showing the date of the renewal application and granting to the applicant a temporary extension of the license for a period of forty-five (45) days or until the application for renewal is approved or disapproved. Any license issued under the provisions of this Ordinance may be renewed by issuance of a new license for an additional 12 month period. All applications for renewal of license shall be processed in the manner provided for the issuance of the initial license.

§ 1.11 TRANSFER OF LICENSE.

A licensee shall not transfer his/her license to another, nor shall a licensee operate a sexually oriented business under the authority of a license at any place other than the address designated in the application.

§ 1.12 LOCATIONAL RESTRICTIONS.

Sexually oriented businesses are permitted in Cherokee County provided that:

(A) The sexually oriented business may not be located or operated within 2,640 feet (0.5 mile) of:

- (1) A church, synagogue or house (regular place) of worship;
- (2) A public, charter or private elementary or secondary school, or a structure, i.e. private homes or other buildings, in which children are home-schooled
- (3) A public library;
- (4) A single-family, two family or multi-family dwelling;
- (5) A public park or playground;
- (6) A licensed day-care center;
- (7) Any business which is oriented primarily towards children (e.g. entertainment, children's restaurant, clothing, toy). The foregoing businesses are provided for illustrative purposes only and not for the purposes of limiting the businesses to which this section may be applicable.
- (8) Another sexually oriented business.

(B) For the purpose of this Ordinance, measurement shall be made in a straight line, without regard to intervening structures or objects, from the nearest portion of the building or structure used as part of the premises where a sexually oriented business is conducted, to the nearest property line of the premises of any use listed in § 1.12(A).

§1.13 NON-CONFORMING USE.

Any non-conforming use existing at the time of adoption of this Ordinance may not be enlarged, expanded or altered in any way without complying with the provisions of this Ordinance.

§ 1.14 ADDITIONAL REGULATIONS FOR ADULT MOTELS.

(A) Evidence that a sleeping room in a hotel, motel, or similar commercial enterprise has been rented and vacated two or more times in a period of time that is less than eight (8) hours creates a rebuttable presumption that the enterprise is an adult motel as that term is defined in this Ordinance.

(B) It is unlawful if a person, as the person in control of a sleeping room in a hotel, motel, or similar commercial enterprise that does not have a sexually oriented business license, rents or sub-rents a sleeping room to a person and, within eight (8) hours from the time the room is rented, he rents or sub-rents the same sleeping room again.

(C) For purposes of § 1.14(B), the terms “rent” or “sub-rent” mean the act of permitting a room to be occupied for any form of consideration.

§ 1.15 ADDITIONAL REGULATIONS FOR NUDE MODEL STUDIOS.

(A) A nude model studio shall not employ any person under the age of 21 years.

(B) A person under the age of 21 years is in violation of this Ordinance if the person appears semi-nude or in a state of nudity in or on the premises of a nude model studio. It is a defense to prosecution under this subsection if the person under 21 years was in a restroom not open to the public view or visible by any other person.

(C) It is a violation of this Ordinance if the person appears in a state of nudity, or knowingly allows another to appear in a state of nudity in an area of a nude model studio premises which can be viewed from the public right of way.

(D) A nude model studio shall not place or permit a bed, sofa, or mattress in any room on the premises, except that a sofa may be placed in a reception room open to the public.

§ 1.16 REGULATIONS PERTAINING TO EXHIBITION OF SEXUALLY EXPLICIT FILMS, VIDEOS, AND LIVE PERFORMANCES.

(A) A person who operates or causes to be operated a sexually oriented business, other than an adult motel which exhibits on the premises in a viewing room of less than one hundred fifty (150) square feet of floor space, a film, video cassette, other video reproduction, or live

performance that depicts specified sexual activities or specified anatomical areas, shall comply with the following requirements:

(1) Upon application for a sexually oriented business license, the application shall be accompanied by a diagram of the premises showing a plan thereof specifying the location of one or more manager's stations and the location of all overhead lighting fixtures and designating any portion of the premises in which patrons will not be permitted. A manager's station may not exceed thirty-two (32) square feet of floor area. The diagram shall also designate the place at which the business license will be conspicuously posted, if granted. A professionally prepared diagram in the nature of an engineer's or architect's blueprint shall not be required; however, each diagram should be oriented to the North or to some designed street or object and should be drawn to a designated scale or with marked dimensions sufficient to show the various internal dimensions of all areas of the interior of the premises to an accuracy of plus or minus six (6) inches. The Ordinance Administrator may waive the foregoing diagram for renewal applications if the applicant adopts a diagram that was previously submitted and certifies that the configuration of the premises has not been altered since it was prepared.

(2) The application shall be sworn to be true and correct by the applicant.

(3) No alteration in the configuration or location of a manager's station may be made without the prior approval of the Ordinance Administrator or his designee.

(4) It is the duty of the owners and operator of the premises to ensure that at least one employee is on duty and situated in each manager's station at all times that any patron is present inside the premises.

(5) The interior of the premises shall be configured in such a manner that there is an unobstructed view from a manager's station of the entire area of the premises to which any patron is permitted access for any purpose excluding restrooms. Restrooms may not contain video reproduction equipment. If the premises has two or more manager's stations designed, then the interior of the premises shall be configured in such a manner that there is an unobstructed view of the entire area of the premises to which any patron is permitted access for any purpose from at least one of the manager's stations. The view required in this subsection must be by direct line of sight from the manager's station.

(6) It shall be the duty of the owners and operator, and it shall also be the duty of any agents and employees present in the premises, to ensure that the view area specified in § 1.17(5) remains unobstructed by any doors, walls, merchandise, display racks or other materials at all times and to ensure that no patron is permitted access to any area of the premises that has been designated as an area in which patrons will not be permitted in the application filed pursuant to § 1.17(1).

(7) No viewing room may be occupied by more than one person at any time.

(8) The premises shall be equipped with overhead lighting fixtures of sufficient intensity to illuminate every place to which patrons are permitted access at an illumination of not less than five (5.0) foot-candle as measured at the floor level.

(9) It shall be the duty of the owners and operator, and it shall also be the duty of any agents and employees present in the premises, to ensure that the illumination described above is maintained at all times that any patron is present in the premises.

(10) No licensee shall allow an opening of any kind to exist between viewing rooms or booths.

(11) No person shall make or attempt to make an opening of any kind between viewing booths or rooms.

(12) The operator of the sexually oriented business shall, during each business day, inspect the walls between the viewing booths to determine if any openings or holes exist.

(13) The operator of the sexually oriented business shall cause all floor coverings in viewing booths to be nonporous, easily cleanable surfaces, with no rugs or carpeting.

(14) The operator of the sexually oriented business shall cause all wall surfaces and ceiling surfaces in viewing booths to be constructed of, or permanently covered by, nonporous, easily cleanable material. No wood, plywood, composition board or other porous material shall be used within forty-eight (48) inches of the floor.

(B) A person having a duty under § 1.17(1) through § 1.17(14) is in violation of this Ordinance if he/she knowingly fails to fulfill that duty.

§ 1.17 EXTERIOR PORTIONS OF SEXUALLY ORIENTED BUSINESSES.

(A) It shall be unlawful for an owner or operator of an adult entertainment business to allow the merchandise or activities of the establishment to be visible from a point outside the establishment.

(B) It shall be unlawful for the owner or operator of an adult entertainment business to allow the exterior portion of the adult entertainment business to have flashing lights, or any words, lettering, photographs, silhouettes, drawings, or pictorial representations of any manner except to the extent permitted by the provisions of this Ordinance.

(C) It shall be unlawful for the owner or operator of an adult entertainment business to allow exterior portions of the establishment to be painted any color other than a single achromatic color. This provision shall not apply to a sexually oriented business if the following conditions are met:

(1) The establishment is a part of a commercial multi-unit center; and

(2) The exterior portions of each individual unit in the commercial multi-unit center, including the exterior portions of the business, are painted the same color as one another or are painted in such a way so as to be a component of the overall architectural style or pattern of the commercial multi-unit center.

(D) Nothing in this Ordinance shall be construed to require the painting of an otherwise unpainted exterior portion of a sexually oriented business.

(E) A violations of any provision of this Section shall constitute a violation of this Ordinance.

§ 1.18 SIGNAGE.

(A) It shall be unlawful for the owner or operator an any sexually oriented business or any other person to erect, construct, or maintain any sign for the sexually oriented business other than the one (1) primary sign and one (1) attached sign, as provided herein.

(B) Primary signs shall have no more than two (2) display surfaces. Each such display surface shall:

(1) not contain any flashing lights;

(2) be a flat plane, rectangular in shape;

(3) not exceed thirty-two (32) square feet in area; and

(4) not exceed twenty (20) feet in height.

(C) Primary signs shall contain not photographs, silhouettes, drawings, or pictorial representations in any manner, and may contain only the name of the enterprise.

(D) Each letter forming a word on a primary sign shall be of solid color, and each such letter shall be the same print-type, size and color. The background behind such lettering on display surface of a primary sign shall be of a uniform and solid color.

(E) Attached signs shall have only one (1) display surface. Such display surface shall:

(1) be a flat plane, rectangular in shape;

(2) not exceed thirty-two (32) square feet in area;

(3) not exceed four (4) feet in height and eight (8) feet in width; and

(4) be directly affixed or attached to any wall or door of the enterprise.

(F) Adult entertainment businesses shall be permitted to advertise using any type of sign off the premises where the adult entertainment business is located.

(G) The provisions of § 1.19(B)(1) and § 1.19(C) and § 1.19(D) shall also apply to secondary signs.

§ 1.19 MASSAGES OR BATHS ADMINISTERED BY A PERSON OF THE OPPOSITE SEX. It shall be unlawful for any adult entertainment business, regardless of whether in a public or private facility, to operate as a massage salon, massage parlor or any similar type business where any physical contact with the recipient of such services is provided by a person of the opposite sex. Violation of this Section shall constitute a misdemeanor. This section does not apply to appropriately licensed personnel in therapeutic and rehabilitation facilities such as, but not limited to, hospitals, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and rest homes while performing medically-related and medically-indicated services.

§ 1.20 HOURS OF OPERATION.

A sexually oriented business, except for an adult motel, shall not remain open at any time between the hours of one o'clock (1:00) a.m. and eight o'clock (8:00) a.m. on weekdays and Saturdays, and between one o'clock (1:00) a.m. on Sundays and eight o'clock (8:00) a.m. on Mondays.

§ 1.21 EXEMPTIONS.

It is a defense to prosecution under this Ordinance that a person appearing in a state of nudity did so in a modeling class operated:

(A) by a proprietary school, licensed by the State of North Carolina, a college, junior college, or university supported entirely or partly by taxation;

(B) by a private college or university that maintains and operates educational programs in which credits are transferable to a college, junior college, or university supported entirely or partly by taxation.

§ 1.22 NOTICES.

(A) Any notice required or permitted to be given by the Ordinance Administrator or any other County office, division, department or other agency under this Ordinance to any applicant, operator or owner of an adult entertainment business may be given either by personal delivery or by certified United States mail, postage prepaid, return receipt requested, addressed to the most

recent address as specified in the application for the license, or any notice of address change that has been received by the Ordinance Administrator. Notices mailed as above shall be deemed given upon their deposit in the United States mail. In the event that any notice given by mail is returned by the postal service, the Ordinance Administrator or his designee shall cause it to be posted at the principal entrance to the establishment.

(B) Any notice required or permitted to be given to the Ordinance Administrator by any person under this Ordinance shall not be deemed given until and unless it is received in the office of the Ordinance Administrator.

(C) It shall be the duty of each owner who is designated on the license application and each operator to furnish notice to the Ordinance Administrator in writing of any change of residence or mailing address.

§ 1.23 INJUNCTION.

A person who operates or causes to be operated a sexually oriented business without a valid business license or in violation of this Ordinance is subject to a suit for injunction as well as prosecution for criminal violations. Each day a sexually oriented business so operates is a separate offense or violation.

§ 1.24 CONFLICTING ORDINANCES REPEALED.

All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed.

§ 1.25 ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

(A) Public entrances to adult entertainment businesses as defined in Section 1.01 shall be located only in the immediate front of the establishment and must be visible from a paved county road and/or the parking lot associated with the business. Allowing entry of patrons through fire exits, emergency exits or through any entry point not visible from a paved county road and/or parking lot is prohibited. This shall not preclude or prohibit emergency exits as required by applicable law and fire code.

(B) An adult entertainment business is required to have adequate parking for patrons in front of and/or on the sides of building. Patrons shall not be permitted to park behind business premises.

(C) Loitering and congregating behind an adult entertainment business outside of public view is strictly prohibited.

(D) To defray a portion of the costs and expenses incurred by Cherokee County in providing security and law enforcement patrols by the Cherokee County Sheriff's Department, each patron

and/or customer of an adult entertainment business shall be charged a tax of \$5.00 for each entry into the facility. This tax shall be collected by the adult entertainment business and forwarded to the Cherokee County Finance Office on a monthly basis by the tenth day following the last day of the month in which the tax is collected. The adult entertainment business collecting this tax shall keep accurate records with regard to the number of patrons and the amount of the tax collected which records shall be subject to inspection by the Ordinance Administrator during the normal business hours of operation of the adult entertainment business.

§ 1.26 EFFECTIVE DATE

The date of this Ordinance in Cherokee County shall be Monday, April 20, 2015.

This Ordinance is enacted, this the 20th day of April, 2015



C.B. McKinnon, Chairman
Cherokee County Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:



Maria Hass, Clerk
Cherokee County Board of County Commissioners