

# ARTICLE 20. LEGISLATIVE PROCEDURES

(Amended 9/14/2021)

## Part I. Amendments.

### Section 20.1 Process for Adoption of Development Regulations.

(a) *Hearing with Published Notice.* Before adopting, amending, or repealing any ordinance or development regulation authorized by NCGS Chapter 160D, the Town Council shall hold a legislative hearing. A notice of the hearing shall be given once a week for two successive calendar weeks in a newspaper having general circulation in the area. The notice shall be published the first time not less than 10 days nor more than 25 days before the date scheduled for the hearing. In computing such period, the day of publication is not to be included but the day of the hearing shall be included.

(b) A development regulation adopted pursuant to NCGS Chapter 160D shall be adopted by ordinance.

(c) No amendment to zoning regulations or a zoning map that down-zones property shall be initiated nor shall it be enforceable without the written consent of all property owners whose property is the subject of the down-zoning amendment, unless the down-zoning amendment is initiated by the town.

### Section 20.2 Notice of Hearing on Proposed Zoning Map Amendments.

(a) *Mailed Notice.* This Ordinance provides for the manner in which zoning regulations and the boundaries of zoning districts are determined, established, and enforced, and from time to time may be amended, or changed, in accordance with the requirements of this Part. The owners of affected parcels of land and the owners of all parcels of land abutting that parcel of land shall be mailed a notice of the hearing on a proposed zoning map amendment by first-class mail at the last address listed for such owners on the county tax abstracts. For the purpose of this section, properties are “abutting” even if separated by a street, railroad, or other transportation corridor. This notice must be deposited in the mail at least 10 but not more than 25 days prior to the date of the hearing. If the zoning map amendment is being proposed in conjunction with an expansion of the town’s ETJ, a single hearing on the zoning map amendment and the boundary amendment may be held. In this instance, the initial notice of the zoning map amendment hearing may be combined with the boundary hearing notice and the combined hearing notice mailed at least 30 days prior to the hearing.

(b) *Optional Notice for Large Scale Zoning Amendments.* The first-class mail notice required under subsection (a) of this section shall not be required if the zoning map amendment proposes to change the zoning designation of more than 50 properties, owned by at least 50 different property owners, and the town elects to use the expanded published notice provided for in this subsection. In this instance, the town may elect to make the mailed notice provided for in subsection (a) of this section or, as an alternative, elect to publish notice of the hearing as required by Section 20.1, provided that each advertisement shall not be less than on-half of a newspaper page in size. The advertisement shall only be effective for property owners who reside in the area of general circulation of the newspaper that publishes the notice. Property owners who reside outside of the newspaper circulation area, according to the address listed on the most recent property tax listing for the affected property, shall be notified according to the provisions of subsection (a) of this section.

(c) *Posted Notice.* When a zoning map amendment is proposed, the town shall prominently post a notice of the hearing on the site proposed for the amendment or on an adjacent public street or highway right-of-way. The notice shall be posted within the same time period specified for mailed notices of the hearing. When multiple parcels are included within a proposed zoning map amendment, a posting on each individual parcel is not required but the town shall post sufficient notices to provide reasonable notice to interested persons.

(d) *Actual Notice.* Except for town-initiated zoning map amendment, when an application is filed to request a zoning map amendment and that application is not made by the landowner or authorized agent, the applicant shall certify to the town that the owner of the parcel of land as shown on the county tax listing has received actual notice of the proposed amendment and a copy of the notice of the hearing. Actual notice shall be provided in any manner permitted under NCGS 1A-1, Rule 4(j). If notice cannot with due diligence be achieved by personal delivery, certified mail, or by a designated delivery authorized pursuant to 26 U.S.C. § 7502(f)(2), notice may be given by publication consistent with NCGS 1A-1, Rule 4(j1). The person or persons required to provide notice shall certify to the town that actual notice has been provided, and such certificate shall be deemed conclusive in the absence of fraud.

### **Section 20.3 Citizen Comments.**

Subject to the limitations of this Ordinance, zoning regulations may from time to time be amended, supplemented, changed, modified, or repealed. If any resident or property owner in the town submits a written statement regarding a proposed amendment, modification, or repeal to a zoning regulation, including a text or map amendment, to the Town Clerk at least two business days prior to the proposed vote on such change, the Town Clerk shall deliver such written statement to the Town Council. If the proposed change is the subject of a quasi-judicial proceeding under NCGS Chapter 160D-705 or any other statute, the Town Clerk shall provide only the names and addresses of the individuals providing written comment, and the provision of such names and addresses to all members of the Board shall not disqualify any member of the Board from voting.

### **Section 20.4 Planning Board Review and Comment.**

(a) *Zoning Amendments.* Subsequent to initial adoption of a zoning regulation, all proposed amendments to the zoning regulations or zoning map shall be submitted to the Planning Board for review and comment. If no written report is received from the Planning Board within 30 days of referral of the amendment to that Board, the Town Council may act on the amendment without the Planning Board report. The Town Council is not bound by the recommendations, if any, of the Planning Board.

(b) *Review of Other Ordinances and Actions.* Any development regulations other than a zoning regulation that is proposed to be adopted pursuant to NCGS Chapter 160D may be referred to the Planning Board for review and comment. Any development regulation other than a zoning regulation may provide that future proposed amendments of that ordinance be submitted to the Planning Board for review and comment. Any other action proposed to be taken pursuant to NCGS Chapter 160D may be referred to the Planning Board for review and comment.

(c) *Plan Consistency.* When conducting a review of proposed zoning text or map amendments pursuant to this section, the Planning Board shall advise and comment on whether the proposed action is consistent with any comprehensive plan that has been adopted and any other officially adopted plan that is applicable. The Planning Board shall provide a written recommendation to the Town Council that addresses plan consistency and other matters as

deemed appropriate by the Planning Board, but a comment by the Planning Board that a proposed amendment is inconsistent with the comprehensive plan shall not preclude consideration or approval of the proposed amendment by the Town Council. If a zoning map amendment qualifies as a “large-scale rezoning” under NCGS 160D-602(b), the Planning Board statement describing plan consistency may address the overall rezoning and describe how the analysis and policies in the relevant adopted plans were considered in the recommendations made.

(d) *Separate Board Required.* Notwithstanding the authority to assign duties of the Planning Board to the Town Council as provided by this Ordinance, the review and comment required by this section shall not be assigned to the Town Council and must be performed by a separate board.

### **Section 20.5 Town Council Statement.**

(a) *Plan Consistency.* When adopting or rejecting any zoning text or map amendment, the Town Council shall approve a brief statement describing whether its action is consistent or inconsistent with an adopted comprehensive plan. The requirement for a plan consistency statement may also be met by a clear indication in the minutes of the Town Council that at the time of action on the amendment the Board was aware of and considered the Planning Board’s recommendations and any relevant portions of an adopted comprehensive plan. If a zoning map amendment is adopted and the action was deemed inconsistent with the adopted plan, the zoning amendment shall have the effect of also amending any future land use map in the approved plan, and no additional application or fee for a plan amendment shall be required. A plan amendment and a zoning amendment may be considered concurrently. The plan consistency amendment is not subject to judicial review. If a zoning map amendment qualifies as a “large scale rezoning” under Section 20.2(b), the Town Council statement describing plan consistency may address the overall rezoning and describe how the analysis and policies in the relevant adopted plans were considered in the action taken.

(b) *Additional Reasonableness Statement for Rezoning.* When adopting or rejecting any petition for a zoning map amendment, a statement analyzing the reasonableness of the proposed rezoning shall be approved by the Town Council. This statement of reasonableness may consider, among other factors, (i) the size, physical condition, and other attributes of the area proposed to be rezoned, (ii) the benefits and detriments to the landowners, the neighbors, and the surrounding community, (iii) the relationship between the current actual and permissible development on the tract and adjoining areas and the development that would be permissible under the proposed amendment, (iv) why the action taken is in the public interest; and (v) any changed conditions warranting the amendment. If a zoning map amendment qualifies as a “large-scale rezoning” under Section 20.2(b), the Town Council statement on reasonableness may address the overall rezoning.

(c) *Single Statement Permissible.* The statement of reasonableness and the plan consistency statement required by this section may be approved as a single statement.

### **Section 20.6 through 20.10 Reserved.**

## **Part II. Vested Rights and Permit Choice.**

### **Section 20.11 Findings.**

Town approval of development typically follows significant investment in site evaluation, planning, development costs, consultant fees, and related expenses. Therefore, it is necessary and desirable to provide for the establishment of certain vested rights in order to ensure reasonable certainty, stability, and fairness in the development regulation process, secure reasonable expectations of landowners, and foster cooperation between the public and private sectors in land-use planning and development regulation.

### **Section 20.12 Permit Choice.**

If an application made in accordance with local regulation is submitted for a development approval required pursuant to this Ordinance and a development regulation changes between the time the application was submitted and a decision is made, the applicant may choose which version of the development regulation will apply to the application. If the development permit applicant chooses the version of the rule or ordinance applicable at the time of the permit application, the development permit applicant shall not be required to await the outcome of the amendment to the rule, map, or ordinance prior to acting on the development permit. This section applies to all development approvals issued by the State and by local governments. The duration of vested rights created by development approvals are as set forth in Section 20.11.

### **Section 20.13 Process to Claim Vested Right.**

A person claiming a statutory or common law vested right may submit information to substantiate that claim to the UDO Administrator, who shall make an initial determination as to the existence of the vested right. The UDO Administrator's determination may be appealed under G.S. 160D-405. On appeal the existence of a vested right shall be reviewed de novo. In lieu of seeking such a determination, a person claiming a vested right may bring an original civil action as provided in G.S. 160D-405(c).

### **Section 20.14 Types and Duration of Statutory Vested Right.**

Except as provided by this section and subject to Section 20.15, amendments to this Ordinance shall not be applicable or enforceable with regard to development that has been permitted or approved pursuant to this Ordinance so long as one of the approvals listed in this subsection remains valid and unexpired. Each type of vested right listed below is defined by and is subject to the limitations provided in this section and the cited statutes. Vested rights established under this section are not mutually exclusive. The establishment of vested right under one subsection does not preclude vesting under one or more other subsections or by common law principles.

(a) *Six-Months – Building Permits.* Pursuant to NCGS 160D-1110, a building permit expires six (6) months after issuance unless work under the permit has commenced. Building permits also expire if work is discontinued for a period of twelve (12) months after work has commenced.

(b) *One Year – Other Local Development Approvals.* Pursuant to NCGS 160D-403(c), unless otherwise specified by this section, statute, or local ordinance, all other local development approvals expire one year after issuance unless work has substantially commenced. Expiration of a

local development approval does not affect the duration of a vested right established as a site-specific vesting plan, a multiphase development plan, a development agreement, or vested rights established under common law.

(c) *Two to Five Years – Site Specific Vesting Plans.*

- (1) *Duration.* A vested right for a site-specific vesting plan shall remain vested for a period of two years. This vesting shall not be extended by any amendments or modifications to a site-specific vesting plan unless expressly provided by the town. The town may provide that rights regarding a site-specific vesting plan shall be vested for a period exceeding two years, but not exceeding five years if warranted by the size and phasing of development, the level of investment, the need for the development, economic cycles, and market conditions or other considerations. This determination shall be made in the discretion of the town and shall be made following the process specified by subsection (c)(3) below for the particular form of a site-specific vesting plan involved.
- (2) *Relationship to Building Permits.* A right vested as provided in this subsection shall terminate at the end of the applicable vesting period which respect to buildings and uses for which no valid building permit applications have been filed. Upon issuance of a building permit, the provisions of NCGS 160D-1110 and 160D-1113 shall apply, except that the permit shall not expire or be revoked because of the running of time while a vested right under this section exists.
- (3) *Requirements for Site-Specific Vesting Plans.* For the purposes of this section, a “site-specific vesting plan” means a plan submitted to the town describing with reasonable certainty the type and intensity of use for a specific parcel or parcels of property. The plan may be in the form of, but not be limited to, any of the following plans or approvals: a planned unit development plan, a subdivision plat, a site plan, a preliminary or general development plan, a special use permit, a conditional zoning, or any other development approval as may be used by the town. Unless otherwise expressly provided by the town, the plan shall include the approximate boundaries of the site; significant topographical and other natural features effecting development of the site; the approximate location on the site of the proposed buildings, structures, and other improvements; the approximate dimensions, including height, of the proposed buildings and other structures; and the approximate location of all existing and proposed infrastructure on the site, including water, sewer, roads, and pedestrian walkways. The Town of Edenton uses existing development approvals, such as a preliminary plat, a special use permit, or a conditional zoning, to approve a site-specific vesting plan. A variance shall not constitute a “site specific vesting plan,” and approval of a site-specific vesting plan with the condition that a variance be obtained shall not confer a vested right unless and until the necessary variance is obtained. If a sketch plan or other document fails to describe with reasonable certainty the type and intensity of use for a specified parcel or parcels of property, it may not constitute a site-specific vesting plan.

- (4) *Process for Approval and Amendment of Site-Specific Vesting Plans.* If a site-specific vesting plan is based on an approval required by a local development regulation, the town shall provide whatever notice and hearing is required for that underlying approval. If the duration of the underlying approval is less than two years, that shall not affect the duration of the site-specific vesting established by this subsection. If the site-specific vesting plan is not based on such an approval, a legislative hearing with notice as required by NCGS 160D-602 shall be held. The town may approve a site-specific vesting plan upon such terms and conditions as may reasonably be necessary to protect the public health, safety, and welfare. Such conditional approval shall result in a vested, although failure to abide by such terms and conditions will result in a forfeiture of vested rights. The town shall not require a landowner to waive vested rights as a condition of developmental approval. A site-specific vesting plan shall be deemed approved upon the effective date of the town's decision approving the plan or such other date as determined by the Town Council upon approval. An approved site-specific vesting plan and its conditions may be amended with the approval of the owner and the town as follows: Any substantial modification must be reviewed and approved in the same manner as the original approval; minor modifications may be approved by staff, if such are defined and authorized by local regulation.

(d) *Seven Years – Multi-Phase Developments.* A multi-phased development shall be vested for the entire development with the Unified Development Ordinance in place at the time a site plan approval is granted for the initial phase of the multi-phased development. This right shall remain vested for a period of seven years from the time a site plan approval is granted for the initial phase of the multi-phased development. For the purposes of this subsection, "multi-phased development" means a development containing 100 acres or more that (i) is submitted for site plan approval for construction to occur in more than one phase and (ii) is subject to a master development plan with committed elements, including a requirement to offer land for public use as a condition of its master development plan approval.

(e) *Indefinite – Development Agreements.* A vested right of reasonable duration may be specified in a development agreement approved under Part III of this Article.

#### **Section 20.15 Continuing Review.**

Following approval or conditional approval of a statutory vested right, the town may make subsequent reviews and require approvals by the town to ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of the original approval, provided that such reviews and approvals are not inconsistent with the original approval. The town may revoke the original approval for failure to comply with applicable terms and conditions of the original approval or the applicable local development regulations.

#### **Section 20.16 Exceptions.**

(a) A vested right, once established as provided for by subsections 20.14(b) and (c), precludes any zoning action by a local government that would change, alter, impair prevent, diminish, or otherwise delay the development or use of the property as set forth in an approved vested right, except:

- (1) With the written consent of the affected landowner;

- (2) Upon findings, after notice and an evidentiary hearing, that natural or man-made hazards on or in the immediate vicinity of the property, if uncorrected, would pose a serious threat to the public health, and safety, and welfare if the project were to proceed as contemplated in the approved vested right;
- (3) To the extent that the affected landowner receives compensation for all costs, expenses, and other losses incurred by the landowner, including, but not limited to, all fees paid in consideration of financing, and all architectural, planning, marketing, legal, and other consultant's fees incurred after approved by the town, together with interest as is provided in Section 1.13. Compensation shall not include any diminution in the value of the property that is caused by such action;
- (4) Upon findings, after notice and an evidentiary hearing, that the landowner or his representative intentionally supplied inaccurate information or made material misrepresentations that made a difference in the approval by the town of the vested right; or
- (5) Upon the enactment or promulgation of a State or Federal law or regulation that precludes development as contemplated in the approved vested right, in which case the town may modify the affected provisions, upon a finding that the change in State or Federal law has a fundamental effect on the plan, after notice and an evidentiary hearing.

(b) The establishment of a vested right under subsections 20.14(b) and (c), shall not preclude the application of overlay zoning or other development regulation that imposes additional requirements but does not affect the allowable type or intensity of use, or ordinances or regulations that are general in nature and are applicable to all property subject to development regulation by the town including, but not limited to, building, fire, plumbing, electrical, and mechanical codes. Otherwise, applicable new regulations shall become effective with respect to property that is subject to a vested right established under this section upon the expiration or termination of the vested rights period provided for in this section.

(c) Notwithstanding any provision of this section, the establishment of a vested right under this section shall not preclude, change or impair the authority of the town to adopt and enforce development regulation provisions governing nonconforming situations or uses.

#### **Section 20.17 Miscellaneous Provisions.**

(a) A vested right obtained under this section is not a personal right, but shall attach to and run with the applicable property. After approval of a vested right under this section, all successors to the original landowner shall be entitled to exercise such rights.

(b) Nothing in this section shall preclude judicial determination, based on common law principles or other statutory provisions, that a vested right exists in a particular case or that a compensable taking has occurred. Except as expressly provided in this section, nothing in this section shall be construed to alter the existing common law.

#### **Section 20.18 through 20.20 Reserved.**

### **Part III. Development Agreements.**

#### **Section 20.21 Authorization.**

- (a) In accordance with NCGS 160D-1002, the Town of Edenton finds:
- (1) Development projects often occur in multiple phases over several years, requiring a long-term commitment of both public and private resources.
  - (2) Such developments often create community impacts and opportunities that are difficult to accommodate within traditional zoning processes.
  - (3) Because of their scale and duration, such projects often require careful coordination of public capital facilities planning, financing, and construction schedules and phasing of the private development.
  - (4) Such projects involve substantial commitments of private capital which developers are usually unwilling to risk without sufficient assurances that development standards will remain stable through the extended period of the development.
  - (5) Such developments often permit communities and developers to experiment with different or nontraditional types of development concepts and standards, while still managing impacts on the surrounding areas.
  - (6) To better structure and manage development approvals for such developments and ensure their proper integration into local capital facilities programs, the town needs flexibility to negotiate such developments.

(b) The town may enter into development agreements with developers, subject to the procedures of this Part. In entering into such agreements, the town may not exercise any authority or make any commitment not authorized by general or local act and may not impose any tax or fee not authorized by otherwise applicable law.

(c) This Part is supplemental to the powers conferred upon the town and does not preclude or supersede rights and obligations established pursuant to other law regarding development approvals, site-specific vesting plans, phased vesting plans, or other provisions of law. A development agreement shall not exempt the property owner or developer from compliance with the State Building Code or State or local housing codes that are not part of the town's development regulations. When the Town Council approves the rezoning of any property associated with a development agreement executed and recorded pursuant to this Part, the provisions of Section 20.5 apply.

(d) Development authorized by a development agreement shall comply with all applicable laws, including all ordinances, resolutions, regulations, permits, policies, and laws affecting the development of property, including laws governing permitted uses of the property, density, intensity, design, and improvements.



## **Section 20.22 Definitions.**

The following definitions apply in this Part:

(a) *Development.* The planning for or carrying out of a building activity, the making of a material change in the use or appearance of any structure or property, or the dividing of land into two or more parcels. When appropriate to the context, “development” refers to the planning for or the act of developing or to the result of development. Reference to a specific operation is not intended to mean that the operation or activity, when part of other operations or activities, is not development. Reference to particular operations is not intended to limit the generality of this item.

(b) *Public Facilities.* Major capital improvements, including, but not limited to, transportation, sanitary sewer, solid waste, drainage, potable water, educational, parks and recreational, and health systems and facilities.

## **Section 20.23 Approval of Town Council Required.**

(a) The Town of Edenton may establish procedures and requirements, as provided in this Part, to consider and enter into development agreements with developers. A development agreement must be approved by the Town Council following the procedures specified in Section 20.23.

(b) The development agreement may, by ordinance, be incorporated, in whole or in part, into any development regulation adopted by the town. A development agreement may be considered concurrently with a zoning map or text amendment affecting the property and development subject to the development agreement. A development agreement may be concurrently considered with and incorporated by reference with a sketch plan or preliminary plat required under a subdivision regulation or a site plan or other development approval required under a zoning regulation. If incorporated into a conditional district, the provisions of the development agreement shall be treated as a development regulation in the event of the developer's bankruptcy.

## **Section 20.24 Size and Duration.**

The Town of Edenton may enter into a development agreement with a developer for the development of property as provided in this Part for developable property of any size. Development agreements shall be of a reasonable term specified in the agreement.

## **Section 20.25 Public Hearing.**

Before entering into a development agreement, the town shall conduct a legislative hearing on the proposed agreement. The notice provisions of Section 20.2 applicable to zoning map amendments shall be followed for this hearing. The notice for the public hearing must specify the location of the property subject to the development agreement, the development uses proposed on the property, and must specify a place where a copy of the proposed development agreement can be obtained.

## **Section 20.26 Content and Modification.**

- (a) A development agreement shall, at a minimum, include all of the following:
- (1) A description of the property subject to the agreement and the names of its legal and equitable property owners.
  - (2) The duration of the agreement. However, the parties are not precluded from entering into subsequent development agreements that may extend the original duration period.
  - (3) The development uses permitted on the property, including population densities, and building types, intensities, placement on the site, and design.
  - (4) A description of public facilities that will serve the development, including who provides the facilities, the date any new public facilities, if needed, will be constructed, and a schedule to assure public facilities are available concurrent with the impacts of the development. In the event that the development agreement provides that the town shall provide certain public facilities, the development agreement shall provide that the delivery date of such public facilities will be tied to successful performance by the developer in implementing the proposed development, such as meeting defined completion percentages or other performance standards.
  - (5) A description, where appropriate, of any reservation or dedication of land for public purposes and any provisions agreed to by the developer that exceed existing laws related to protection of environmentally sensitive property.
  - (6) A description, where appropriate, of any conditions, terms, restrictions, or other requirements for the protection of public health, safety, or welfare.
  - (7) A description, where appropriate, of any provisions for the preservation and restoration of historic structures.

(b) A development agreement may also provide that the entire development or any phase of it be commenced or completed within a specified period of time. If required by ordinance or in the agreement, the development agreement shall provide a development schedule, including commencement dates and interim completion dates at no greater than five-year intervals; provided, however, the failure to meet a commencement or completion date shall not, in and of itself, constitute a material breach of the development agreement pursuant to Section 20.28 but must be judged based upon the totality of the circumstances. The developer may request a modification in the dates as set forth in the agreement.

(c) If more than one local government is made party to an agreement, the agreement must specify which local government is responsible for the overall administration of the development agreement. A local or regional utility authority may also be made a party to the development agreement.

(d) The development agreement also may cover any other matter, including defined performance standards, not inconsistent with this Ordinance. The development agreement may include mutually acceptable terms regarding provision of public facilities and other amenities and

the allocation of financial responsibility for their provision, provided any impact mitigation measures offered by the developer beyond those that could be required by the local government pursuant to G.S. 160D-804 shall be expressly enumerated within the agreement, and provided the agreement may not include a tax or impact fee not otherwise authorized by law.

(e) Consideration of a proposed major modification of the agreement shall follow the same procedures as required for initial approval of a development agreement. What changes constitute a major modification may be determined by ordinance adopted pursuant to Section 20.23 or as provided for in the development agreement.

(f) Any performance guarantees under the development agreement shall comply with Section 4.38.

### **Section 20.27 Vesting.**

(a) Unless the development agreement specifically provides for the application of subsequently enacted laws, the laws applicable to development of the property subject to a development agreement are those in force at the time of execution of the agreement.

(b) Except for grounds specified in Section 20.28(e), the town may not apply subsequently adopted ordinances or development policies to a development that is subject to a development agreement.

(c) In the event State or Federal law is changed after a development agreement has been entered into and the change prevents or precludes compliance with one or more provisions of the development agreement, the town may modify the affected provisions, upon a finding that the change in State or Federal law has a fundamental effect on the development agreement.

(d) This section does not abrogate any vested rights otherwise preserved by law.

### **Section 20.28 Breach and Cure.**

(a) Procedures established pursuant to Section 20.23 may require periodic review by the UDO Administrator or other appropriate officer of the town, at which time the developer shall demonstrate good-faith compliance with the terms of the development agreement.

(b) If the town finds and determines that the developer has committed a material breach of the agreement, the town shall notify the developer in writing setting forth with reasonable particularity the nature of the breach and the evidence supporting the finding and determination and providing the developer a reasonable time in which to cure the material breach.

(c) If the developer fails to cure the material breach within the time given, then the town unilaterally may terminate or modify the development agreement, provided the notice of termination or modification may be appealed to the Board of Adjustment in the manner provided by Section 5.1.

(d) An ordinance adopted pursuant to Section 20.23 or the development agreement may specify other penalties for breach in lieu of termination, including, but not limited to, penalties allowed for violation of a development regulation. Nothing in this Article shall be construed to abrogate or impair the power of the town to enforce applicable law.

(e) A development agreement shall be enforceable by any party to the agreement notwithstanding any changes in the development regulations made subsequent to the effective date of the development agreement. Any party to the agreement may file an action for injunctive relief to enforce the terms of a development agreement.

**Section 20.29 Amendment or Termination.**

Subject to the provisions of Section 20.26(e), a development agreement may be amended or terminated by mutual consent of the parties.

**Section 20.30 Change of Jurisdiction.**

(a) Except as otherwise provided by this Article, any development agreement entered into by the town before the effective date of a change of jurisdiction shall be valid for the duration of the agreement or eight years from the effective date of the change in jurisdiction, whichever is earlier. The parties to the development agreement and the town assuming jurisdiction have the same rights and obligations with respect to each other regarding matters addressed in the development agreement as if the property had remained in the previous jurisdiction.

(b) The town, in assuming jurisdiction, may modify or suspend the provisions of the development agreement if the town determines that the failure of the town to do so would place the residents of the territory subject to the development agreement or the residents of the town, or both, in a condition dangerous to their health or safety, or both.

**Section 20.31 Recordation.**

The developer shall record the agreement with the Chowan County Register of Deeds within 14 days after the town and developer execute an approved development agreement. No development approvals may be issued until the development agreement has been recorded. The burdens of the development agreement are binding upon, and the benefits of the agreement shall inure to, all successors in interest to the parties to the agreement.

**Section 20.32 Applicability of Procedures to Approve Debt.**

In the event that any of the obligations of the town in the development agreement constitute debt, the town shall comply, at the time of the obligation to incur the debt and before the debt becomes enforceable against the town, with any applicable constitutional and statutory procedures for the approval of this debt.

**Section 20.33 through 20.35 Reserved.**

## **Part IV. Moratoria.**

### **Section 20.36 Authority.**

In accordance with NCGS 160D-107, the Town of Edenton may adopt temporary moratoria on any development approval required by law, except for the purpose of developing and adopting new or amended plans or development regulations governing residential uses. The duration of any moratorium shall be reasonable in light of the specific conditions that warrant imposition of the moratorium and may not exceed the period of time necessary to correct, modify, or resolve such conditions.

### **Section 20.37 through 20.40 Reserved.**