

CHEROKEE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA  
ADDRESSING AND ROAD NAMING  
ORDINANCE

Enactment

This Ordinance establishes a uniform system for addressing, and road naming, and for the enforcement thereof.

Preamble

WHEREAS, in the opinion of the Cherokee County Board of Commissioners, a uniform system for addressing and road naming is required to promote the health, safety, and general welfare of the citizens of Cherokee County, and

WHEREAS, the Cherokee County Board of Commissioners are desirous that this approach reflect the County's emphasis upon minimizing problems of identification for emergency and other services, and

WHEREAS, all applicable requirements of the General Statutes of North Carolina have been met.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CHEROKEE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

SECTION 110. Authority:

The provisions of this Ordinance are adopted under authority granted by the N.C.G.S. §153A-240.

SECTION 20. Purpose and Intent:

The purpose and intent of this Ordinance is to provide a uniform system of addresses for all properties and building throughout the County's jurisdiction in order to facilitate adequate public safety and decrease emergency response time.

SECTION 30. Jurisdiction:

The jurisdiction of this Ordinance includes the entire geographic area of Cherokee County. The municipal areas within Cherokee County are included in this Ordinance as evidenced by a resolution from each town requesting to be included in this Ordinance.

SECTION 40. Numbering System:

Frontage Unit (standard interval) shall be assigned for every 5.28 feet of ground whether improved property or vacant lot on every road/street within the entire geographical area of Cherokee County. Even numbers must always be on the right side and odd on the left side of the street/road.

## SECTION 50. Road Name Signs:

### 1. Assignment, Installation and Maintenance of Road Name Signs:

Road name signs shall be assigned and installed for all roads, whether public or private, and at all intersections throughout the unincorporated areas of Cherokee County, in accordance with N.C.G.S. §153A-240. Road name sign maintenance within municipalities will remain the responsibility of the municipality. Road name sign maintenance within the unincorporated areas of Cherokee County, including subdevelopments, will be the responsibility of Cherokee County.

### 2. Installation - Road Name Signs - Subdevelopments - After January 1, 1997:

All subdevelopment construction which begins on or after January 1, 1997, must purchase and install road name signs in accordance with this Ordinance in the subdevelopment. The signs purchased and installed in subdevelopments on or after January 1, 1997 must meet the requirements and specifications of the Cherokee County 911 Office and must be purchased through the Cherokee County 911 Office.

### 3. Ownership of Road Name Signs:

All road name signs, posts and hardware installed pursuant to the Ordinance is and shall remain the sole property of Cherokee County regardless of where said signs, posts or hardware may be installed.

## SECTION 60. Definitions:

### 1. Base Line:

Can be defined as those lines which divide the County into identifiable sectors and which follow prominent major thoroughfares. In each case, one base line runs EAST/WEST and the other one, NORTH/SOUTH. Base lines intersect at a reference point.

### 2. Reference Point:

The reference point for the Cherokee County Addressing System is hereby designated at the point of the intersection of Tennessee Street, Hiwassee Street, Valley River Avenue, and Peachtree Street in Murphy, Cherokee County, North Carolina.

### 3. Frontage Unit:

A frontage unit is a standard interval in feet used to assign consecutive property numbers on a street or road. The standard front unit adopted for use throughout Cherokee County is

5.28 feet.

4. Road:

A public or private one-way or two-way road for ingress and/or egress. Such roads may be of various types including frontage roads, rear access roads, roads with cul-de-sacs, and dead-end roads. This definition includes secondary roads, but does not include driveways.

5. Private Road:

Any road which is not maintained by the N.C. Department of Transportation and/or municipality through the use of public funds.

6. Official Road Names:

The road list name and the road map name on file with the Cherokee County 911 Office is hereby declared the official road names and map for Cherokee County Roads, unless changed by action of the County Commissioners.

7. Road Address:

The combination of numbers and road names assigned to a particular location by the Cherokee County 911 Office, according to this Ordinance, which uniquely identifies a particular location.

8. Driveways:

A private way, beginning at the property line of a lot abutting a public road, private road, easement or private right-of-way, giving access from that public road, private road, or private right-of-way, leading to a building, use or structure on that lot.

SECTION 70. Naming or renaming County Road:

1. Request for new names and name changes must include a completed petition signed by at least 50% plus one of the residents along the affected road.

2. Petition to change a road name must include a fee of \$25.00 per sign blade to cover cost of replacing signs in addition to \$100.00 to advertise public hearings. If the County Commissioners do not approve the request, only the sign cost will be refunded.

3. There is no fee for requesting names for unnamed public or private roads, however the procedure is the same.

4. Petition applications may be obtained from the County

Manager's Office, Cherokee County Courthouse, Murphy, NC.

5. Petitions for road name change shall be considered annually during the 1st quarter by County Commissioners. Petitions for naming unnamed roads shall be considered as needed.

6. Petitions to name unnamed roads or to change a road name must be approved by the Cherokee County 911 Advisory Committee prior to being forwarded to the Cherokee County Board of Commissioners.

7. The Cherokee County 911 Coordinator will review requests to determine if all procedures are met, and to ascertain that the proposed names do not duplicate an existing name and also to ensure that the petition meets all other requirements of this Ordinance.

#### SECTION 80. New Road Names:

The Cherokee County 911 Advisory Committee is hereby authorized to prepare and present to the County Commissioners recommendations for the naming of all unnamed roads both public and private within the unincorporated area of Cherokee County and to propose new names to eliminate duplications and sound alike road names, and to present all petitions received to change the names of an existing road.

#### SECTION 90. Addressing:

1. All roads, both public and private, shall be named and addressed if three or more addressable structures, including mobile homes, are located on and accessed by them.

2. When each house or building has been assigned its respective address, the County, in cooperation with the U.S. Postal Service shall notify the owners, or occupants, agents of affected house or building, by letter, advising of their new address.

#### SECTION 100. Display of Address Numbers:

1. The official address number must be displayed on the front of a building or at the entrance to a building which is most clearly visible from the street or road during both day and night.

2. If a building is more than 100 feet from any road, the address number shall be displayed at the end of the driveway or easement nearest the road which provides access to the building.

3. Numerals indicating the address number of a single family dwelling shall be at least three (3) inches in height and shall be posted and maintained so as to be legible from the road.

county, state or federal regulations, the most restrictive or that imposing the highest standard shall govern.

SECTION 170. Enforcement:

After the effective date of this Ordinance, any person, firm or agent thereof who intentionally violates this Ordinance shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, for the conviction of which, the maximum penalty by law may be imposed. Each day's continuing violation is a separate and distinct offense.

SECTION 180. Limitation of Liability:

The County, directors, officers and agents, are not liable for any damages in a civil action for injuries, death, or loss to persons or property incurred by any person as a result of any act or omission of any of its employees, directors, officer, or agents, except for willful or wanton misconduct, in connection with developing, adoption, implementing, maintaining, or operating any 911 system.

SECTION 190. Separability:

Should any section or provision of this Ordinance be declared by the courts to be invalid for any reason, such declaration shall not affect the Ordinance as a whole, or any part thereof other than the part so declared to be invalid.

Effective Date

This Ordinance shall become effective and be in full force from and after the 4th day of November, 1996. Adopted by the Cherokee County Board of County Commissioners this the 4th day of November, 1996.



Charles W. Laney, Chairman  
Cherokee County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

  
Clerk to the Board