

**SECTION E. CRITICAL FACILITIES.**

Construction of new and substantially improved critical facilities shall be located outside the limits of the special flood hazard area (one percent chance floodplain). Construction of new critical facilities shall be permissible within the SFHA if no feasible alternative site is available. Critical facilities constructed within the SFHA shall have the lowest floor elevated three feet above the base flood elevation at the site (or to the 0.2 percent chance flood elevation whichever is greater). Floodproofing and sealing measures must be implemented to ensure that toxic substances will not be displaced by or released into floodwaters. Access routes elevated to or above the base flood elevation shall be provided to all critical facilities to the maximum extent possible. Critical facilities must not only be protected to the 0.2 percent chance flood, but must remain operable during such an event.

**ARTICLE 6. VARIANCE PROCEDURES.**

**SECTION A. DESIGNATION OF VARIANCE AND APPEALS BOARD.**

The Board of Supervisors of Lamar County shall hear and decide appeals and requests for variances from requirements of this ordinance.

**SECTION B. DUTIES OF VARIANCE AND APPEALS BOARD.**

The board shall hear and decide appeals when it is alleged an error in any requirement, decision, or determination is made by the Floodplain Administrator in the enforcement or administration of this ordinance. Any person aggrieved by the decision of the board may appeal such decision to the Circuit Court, as provided in Mississippi Code Section 11-51-75.

**SECTION C. VARIANCE PROCEDURES.**

In passing upon such applications, the Lamar County Board of Supervisors shall consider all technical evaluations, relevant factors, and standards specified in other sections of this ordinance, and:

- (1) The evaluation must be based on the characteristics unique to that property and not be shared by adjacent parcels. The characteristics must pertain to the land itself, not to the structure, its inhabitants, or its owners;
- (2) Variances should never be granted for multiple lots, phases of subdivisions, or entire subdivisions;
- (3) The danger that materials may be swept onto other lands to the injury of others;
- (4) The danger of life and property due to flooding or erosion damage;
- (5) The susceptibility of the proposed facility and its contents to flood damage and the effect of such damage on the individual owner and the community;
- (6) The importance of the services provided by the proposed facility to the community;
- (7) The necessity of the facility to be at a waterfront location, where applicable;
- (8) The availability of alternative locations for the proposed use which are not subject to flooding or erosion damage;
- (9) The compatibility of the proposed use with existing and anticipated development;
- (10) The relationship of the proposed use to the comprehensive plan and floodplain management program for that area;
- (11) The safety of access to the property in times of flood for ordinary and emergency vehicles;

- (12) The expected heights, velocity, duration, rate of rise, and sediment transport of the floodwaters and the effects of wave action, if applicable, expected at the site, and;
- (13) The costs of providing governmental services during and after flood conditions, including maintenance and repair of public utilities and facilities such as sewer, gas, electrical, and water systems, and streets and bridges and culverts.
- (14) Upon consideration of factors listed above, and the purpose of this ordinance, the Lamar County Board of Supervisors may attach such conditions to the granting of variances as it deems necessary to further the purposes of this ordinance.
- (15) Variances shall not be issued within any designated floodway if any increase in flood levels during the base flood discharge would result.

**SECTION D. CONDITIONS FOR VARIANCES.**

- (1) Variances shall only be issued when there is:
  - a.) A showing of good and sufficient cause;
  - b.) A determination that failure to grant the variance would result in exceptional hardship, and;
  - c.) A determination that the granting of a variance will not result in increased flood heights, additional threats to public expense, create nuisance, cause fraud on or victimization of the public, or conflict with existing local laws or ordinances.
- (2) The provisions of this ordinance are minimum standards for flood loss reduction; therefore any deviation from the standards must be weighed carefully. Variances shall only be issued upon a determination that the variance is the minimum necessary deviation from the requirements of this ordinance, considering the flood hazard, to afford relief. In the instance of a Historic Structure, a determination that the variance is the minimum necessary so as not to destroy the historic character and design of the building. (See Article 6, Section F.)
- (3) Any applicant to whom a variance is granted shall be given written notice specifying the difference between the base flood elevation and the elevation to which the lowest floor is to be built and stating that the cost of flood insurance will be commensurate with the increased risk resulting from the reduced lowest floor elevation.
- (4) The Floodplain Administrator shall maintain the records of all appeal actions and report any variances to the Federal Emergency Management Agency and Mississippi Emergency Management Agency upon request. (See Article 6 Section E.)
- (5) Upon consideration of the factors listed above and the purposes of this ordinance, the Lamar County Board of Supervisors may attach such conditions to the granting of variances as it deems necessary to further the purposes of this ordinance.
- (6) Variances shall not be issued “after the fact.”

**SECTION E. VARIANCE NOTIFICATION.**

Any applicant to whom a variance is granted shall be given written notice over the signature of a community official that:

- (1) The issuance of a variance to construct a structure below the base flood elevation will result in increased premium rates for flood insurance up to amounts as high as \$25 for \$100 of insurance coverage, and;

- (2) Such construction below the base flood level increases risks to life and property. A copy of the notice shall be recorded by the Floodplain Administrator in the Office of the Lamar County chancery Clerk and shall be recorded in a manner so that it appears in the chain of title of the affected parcel of land.

The Floodplain Administrator will maintain a record of all variance actions, including justification for their issuance, and report such variances issued in the community's biennial report submission to the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

**SECTION F. HISTORIC STRUCTURES.**

Variances may be issued for the repair or rehabilitation of "historic structures" only upon a determination that the proposed repair or rehabilitation will not preclude the structure's continued designation as a "historic structure" and the variance is the minimum to preserve the historic character and design of the structure.

**SECTION G. SPECIAL CONDITIONS.**

Upon consideration of the factors listed in Article 6, and the purposes of this ordinance, the Lamar County Board of Supervisors may attach such conditions to the granting of variances, as it deems necessary to further the purposes of this ordinance.

**SECTION H. FLOODWAY.**

Variances shall not be issued within any designated regulatory floodway if any increase in flood levels during the base flood discharge would result.

**ARTICLE 7. SEVERABILITY.**

If any section, clause, sentence, or phrase of the Ordinance is held to be invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, then said holding shall in no way effect the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance.

This ordinance having first been reduced to writing was adopted at a public meeting of the **Lamar County Board of Supervisors**, on January 21, 2010, which will go into full effect on March 2, 2010 wherein the vote was as follows:

Joe Bounds, President, District 3 \_\_\_\_\_  
Dale Lucas, Vice President, District 5 \_\_\_\_\_  
Mike Backstrom, District 1 \_\_\_\_\_  
Ben Winston, District 2 \_\_\_\_\_  
Fred Hatten, District 4 \_\_\_\_\_



**SIGNED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ATTESTED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_