

ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE

**INTENT**

It is the intent of this Ordinance to amend the existing Unified Development Ordinance of the Town of Pawleys Island, so as to prohibit Beach Vitex (*Vitex rotundifolia*) on Pawleys Island.

WHEREAS, it is necessary and advantageous to establish and adopt Ordinances to promote the public health, safety and general welfare of the residents of Pawleys Island, South Carolina;

WHEREAS, the beaches of Pawleys Island are among the Town's most valuable natural resources, providing areas for public recreation, attraction of tourists and other visitors, and providing a major boost to the Island's economy; and

WHEREAS, there are three species on the Federal Endangered List (loggerhead sea turtles, piping plovers, and seabeach amaranth) severely threatened by Beach Vitex; and

WHEREAS, there are other species including but not limited to Sea Oats, Bitter Panicum, Seashore Elder, and American Beachgrass that are also severely threatened; and

WHEREAS, Beach Vitex destroys these plants which protect dunes, and provides little if any protection for dunes, therefore significantly increasing the likelihood of damage to the dunes, the beaches, and therefore Island infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, Beach Vitex, a plant species that is not native to this country much less this Island, has been found growing in many places on this Island including the land side of beach dunes; and

WHEREAS, the spreading and persistence of Beach Vitex has caused harm and will continue to cause harm to native species.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF PAWLEYS ISLAND, SOUTH CAROLINA, PURSUANT TO THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS 1976 (AS AMENDED), THAT:

The existing Unified Development Ordinance of the Town of Pawleys Island, be amended, so as to include the following Article:

**ARTICLE 7-5.6-E**

- a. It shall be unlawful to introduce, plant or maintain Beach Vitex (*Vitex rotundifolia*) within the Town of Pawleys Island.

- b. The owner of any property containing Beach Vitex is encouraged to take all appropriate action to eradicate the plant. Under no circumstances shall they allow it to spread to adjacent properties or past the O.C.R.M. critical line. Vitex existing east of the O.C.R.M. critical line, as of the date of this ordinance, should be removed by the property owner.
  
- c. Eradication shall be in accordance with best agricultural practices as recommended by Clemson University or other comparable agency. The Town will maintain information in this regard and provide assistance where possible. The Town will cooperate with private land owners in this task but reserves the right to proceed with the eradication project even if the land owner objects.

Adoption of the foregoing Ordinance moved by \_\_\_\_\_ and seconded by \_\_\_\_\_ and after discussion and call to vote thereon, the vote was as follows:

Those in favor:

Those opposed:

Date of first reading: \_\_\_\_\_, 2005.

Date of second reading: \_\_\_\_\_, 2005.

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
 WILLIAM L. OTIS, JR., MAYOR

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
 DIANE ALLEN, TOWN CLERK