

ARTICLE 2

GENERAL STANDARDS & SPECIFICATIONS

2.1 General Requirements

Upon the adoption of this Ordinance, no structure shall be erected nor use established in conflict with:

- (A.) The general standards & specifications of Article 2;
- (B.) The district standards & specifications of Article 8;
- (C.) The building and lot standards & specifications of Article 9;
- (D.) The landscape standards & specifications of Article 11;
- (E.) The off-street parking standards & specifications of Article 12;
- (F.) The street standards & specifications of Article 13;
- (G.) The sign standards & specifications of Article 17;
- (H.) The flood damage prevention standards & specifications of Article 18; or
- (I.) The open space standards & specifications of Article 21.

2.2 Street Frontage Required

Any lot on which a building (or buildings) is to be erected, or use is to be established shall abut a public street with the following exceptions:

- (A.) Any lot for which a residential use has been legally established prior to the effective date of this Ordinance provided the lot is served by a private and exclusive recorded easement of at least fifteen (15') feet in width connecting said lot to a public street, may be used as if it abutted a street, provided that it is served by a driveway located on said easement. A driveway accessible by emergency equipment must be located on said easement. Lots created under these provisions shall be known as "easement-access lots."
- (B.) Any lot for which a non-residential use has been legally established prior to the effective date of this Ordinance, provided the lot is served by a private, exclusive recorded easement of at least fifteen (15') feet in width connecting said lot to a public street, may be construed in the same manner as a lot abutting a street provided that it is served with a driveway built to appropriate standards located on the permanent, recorded easement.
- (C.) Up to four (4) residential lots may be served by a private street meeting the standards for private streets set forth in the Town of Stallings Technical Standards & Specifications Manual.
- (D.) A site specific development plan may be considered for approval in the Town Center (TC) District, Multi-Family Residential Transitional (MFT) District, or Traditional

Neighborhood Development Overlay (TNDO) District where residential and/or non-residential lots and/or structures front upon a private courtyard, carriageway, mid-block private alleyway with courtyard, or pedestrian way, or urban open space as defined in Article 3, where adequate access by emergency vehicles is maintained by way of a street or *alley* and where the off-street placement of uses does not diminish the orientation of building fronts to the public street.

- (E.) A site-specific development plan may be considered for approval in the Multi-Family Residential Transitional (MFT) District, Town Center (TC) District, Mixed-Use (MU) Districts, US Highway 74 Commercial (C-74) District, Interstate Highway 485 Corporate Park (CP 485) District, Vehicle Service and Repair (VSR) District, Mixed Use (MU) Districts, Civic (CIV) District, or Industrial (IND) District to permit interior lot access by private drives so long as business and emergency access is furnished to all interior building sites and proposed buildings at the perimeter of the development front upon a public street or are buffered in accordance with this Ordinance. Non-residential subdivisions should be primarily served by public streets and use of private drives should be minimal. Private drives may be appropriate where property configuration or environmental constraints make their use a practical alternative. Private drives serving uses in the Multi-Family Residential Transitional (MFT) District, Town Center (TC) District, Mixed-Use (MU) Districts, US Highway 74 Commercial (C-74) District, Interstate Highway 485 Corporate Park (CP 485) District, Vehicle Service and Repair (VSR) District, Civic (CIV) District, or Industrial (IND) District shall be constructed in accordance with the standards for streets as found in the Town of Stallings Standards and Specifications Manual and sidewalks shall be provided on at least one (1) side of the private drive.
- (F.) To access a lot or lots in the Multi-Family Residential Transitional (MFT) District, Town Center (TC) District, Mixed-Use (MU) Districts, US Highway 74 Commercial (C-74) District, Interstate Highway 485 Corporate Park (CP 485) District, Vehicle Service and Repair (VSR) District, Civic (CIV) District, or Industrial (IND) District where factors beyond developer control, such as a “limited access” highway along the divided cross-sections, an existing development, or the location of an existing intersection prohibit completing a street connection, a private drive may be substituted for the interior street which cannot be connected to the public network.

2.2-1 Floodplains. Floodplains may not be Counted Towards Minimum Lot Size Calculations/Remain Open Space. Lot lines for newly created single family detached lots, created through the requirements established by Article 16 of the Stallings Development Ordinance, shall not be platted to include any designated floodplain areas. Floodplain located within a single-family detached subdivision containing four (4) or more lots will remain as common space, (*Amended May 10, 2021*).

2.3 One Principal Building on a Lot; Exceptions

Only one (1) principal building and its customary *accessory building(s)* may be erected on any lot, except that multiple buildings which, taken together, compose a single principal use may be erected on a single lot as permitted by the district regulations and described by building and lot type.

2.4 Lot Size

No lot, even though it may consist of one (1) or more adjacent lots of record, shall be reduced in size such that the requirements for building and lot type cannot be met, or the standards for spacing of structures and street frontage cannot be respected. This prohibition shall not be construed to prevent the purchase, dedication, or condemnation of narrow strips of land for public utilities and/or street and/or sidewalk right-of-way purposes.

2.5 Lot Width

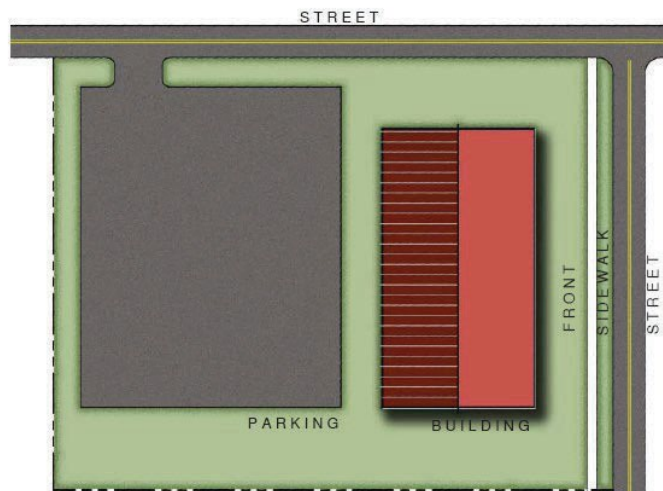
The required width of a lot, as set forth in Article 8 of this Ordinance, shall be measured at the required front setback line.

2.6 Yard Designation

- 2.6-1 Lots Abutting More Than One Street. On lots that abut more than one (>1) street, the building and lot shall generally front upon the more pedestrian oriented street, given the arrangement of existing and proposed streets and drives, and the orientation of buildings on adjoining lots.

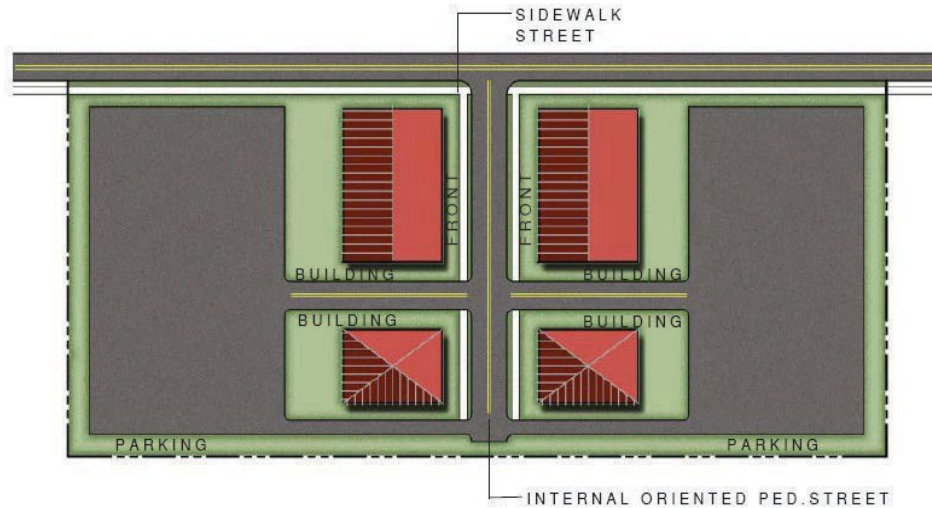
LOTS ABUTTING MORE THAN ONE STREET

One Building Lot



- 2.6-2 Multiple Buildings on a Lot. Where multiple buildings are permitted on a single platted lot, each building shall generally front upon a pedestrian oriented street, external or internal to the development; side and rear yard designations shall be determined on the basis of building orientation.

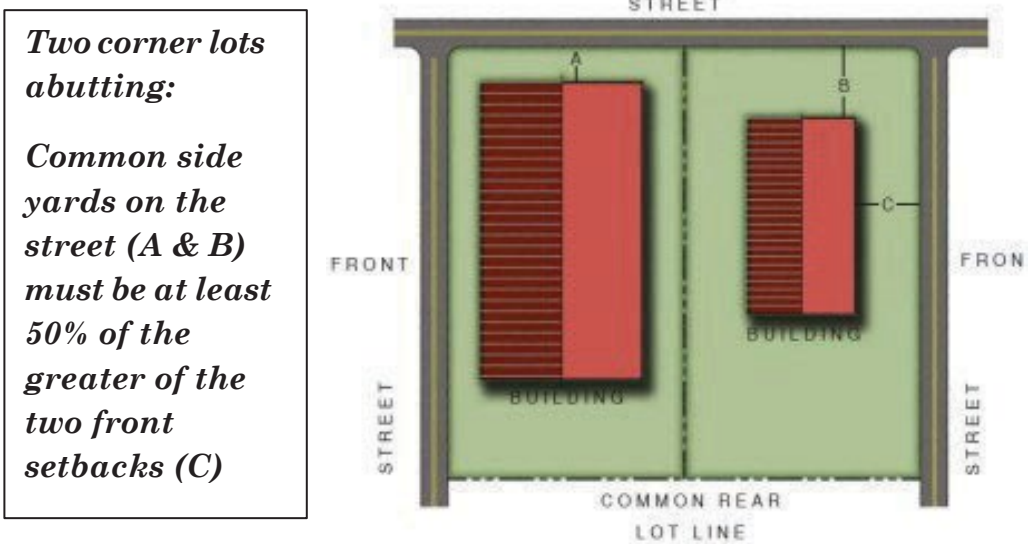
Multiple Buildings on a Lot



2.6-3 Irregularly Shaped Lots. On irregularly shaped lots, the location of required front, side, and rear yards will be determined by the *Development Ordinance Administrator*. The determination will be based on the spirit and intent of this Ordinance to achieve an appropriate spacing of buildings and orientation to the street(s).

2.7 Yard Dimensions for Corner Lots

2.7-1 Two Corner Lots Abutting at Rear. If two (2) corner lots are separated by a common rear lot line, the common side yards of the lots on the street must be at least fifty (50%) percent of the greater of the two (2) front setbacks, existing or required.



***Two corner lots abutting:
Common side yards on the street (A & B) must be at least 50% of the greater of the two front setbacks (C)***

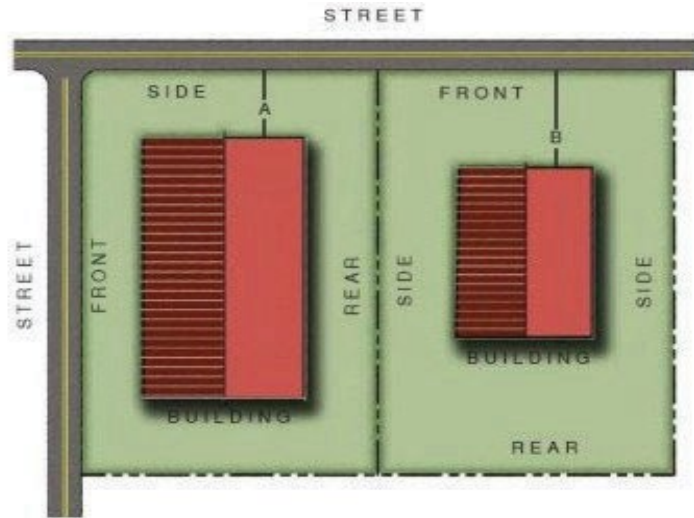
2.7-2 Side Lot Line a Continuation of Adjacent Lot Front Lot Line. In any district, where the side lot line of a corner lot is substantially a continuation of the front lot line of the lot to its rear, the required side yard of the corner lot shall:

- (A.) Be at least fifty (50%) percent of the established front setback of the adjacent lot; or
- (B.) Establish a transition between existing buildings by stepping toward the street or back

from the street a distance equal to the lesser building setback + one-half (½) of the difference between the setbacks of the adjoining buildings.

Side Lot Line a Continuation of Adjacent Front Lot Line:

Side-yard setback of a corner lot (A) shall be at least 50% of established set-back of adjacent lot (B)



- 2.7-3 Buildings on Corner Lots. Buildings on corner lots shall be positioned on the corner as required by the building and lot type standards for the zoning district in which the lot is located.

2.8 Through Lots

If both the front and rear yards of a lot abut public streets, then the rear building line shall respect the alignment of buildings on the back street while the front building line shall respect the alignment of buildings on the fronting street.

2.9 Height Limitation

- 2.9-1 Building Type Controls. The height of habitable buildings and components is controlled by building type (see Article 9).
- 2.9-2 Building Components Exceeding Height Limitation. Structures and structural components not intended for human occupancy (including towers, steeples, flagpoles, chimneys, water tanks, or similar structures) may exceed the height limit of buildings. Components of civic buildings which extend above the height limit shall follow the standards for the civic building type (see Article 9). When adjacent to a lot or lots located in a residential district, any part of a non-civic structure that extends above the height limit must be separated from the residential lot by a distance equal to its height measured from the ground.
- 2.9-3 Exceptions to Height Limitation. The height limitations of this section shall not apply to public utility poles and lines, skylights, and roof structures for elevators, stairways, tanks, heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning equipment, solar panels appurtenant to the principal structure, or similar equipment for the operation and maintenance of a building, and any device used to screen such structures and equipment.
- 2.9-4 Height of Communication Towers. Commercial communication towers, where permitted, may exceed the height limit for structures when the standards for these towers are met,

as set forth in Article 10.

2.10 Structures and Uses Limited in Yards

- 2.10-1 No Principal Structure in Setback. No principal building or structure shall be located within any required setback or yard, forward of the build-to line for a principal structure, within any setback or yard established by a recorded plat, nor in any required buffer or screen.
- 2.10-2 Accessory Structures located in Setback. Except as otherwise provided in this article, accessory structures located within an established setback or required side yard can be no closer than five (5') feet of a side or rear lot line and meet requirements established in Article 9 for Building Type. Accessory structures on corner lots must meet the established side yard setbacks and accessory structures in double frontage lots must meet established rear yard setback. Where permitted, accessory dwellings may be located no closer than four (4') feet to the right-of-way or easement of an abutting mid-block *alley*, nor closer than five (5') feet to an abutting rear property line. Fences, walls, security gates, paths, walkways, mailboxes, utility poles, lighting fixtures, patios at grade, and similar features may be located in an established setback or required yard, so long as the sight triangle on corner lots is protected according to the provisions of section 2.11 of this Ordinance. (*Amended September 10, 2018*)
- 2.10-3 Fences and walls (walls not associated with buildings). Fences and walls may be located in any yard, established or required, according to the standards of section 2.13-2 of this Ordinance except that fences and/or walls extending within the minimum required front yard shall be of decorative material either concealing or in lieu of wire fencing (strand or fabric) when located within any Single Family Residential (SFR-1, 2, 3, or MH) District, Multi-Family Residential Transitional (MFT) District, Town Center (TC) District, Mixed-Use (MU) districts, or Traditional Neighborhood Development Overlay (TNDO) District.
- 2.10-4 Signs. Signs may be located in an established front setback or a side- yard abutting a public street as permitted by the provisions of Article 17, Sign Regulations.
- 2.10-5 Public Transit Shelters. Public transit shelters may be located in any setback or yard which abuts a street provided the sight triangle on corner lots is protected according to the provisions of section 2.11 of this Ordinance.
- 2.10-6 Off-street Parking. Off-street parking areas, maneuvering areas for parking, and loading areas are prohibited in the established front building setback, which shall be landscaped, in any established side yard abutting a street, which shall be landscaped, and in any required buffer or screen. This restriction shall not apply to:
- (A.) A driveway which crosses a front yard to provide access from the street to a parking area;
 - (B.) An individual driveway, including conventional appurtenances thereto such as basketball goals, designed to also serve as a parking area for a detached or duplex dwelling;
 - (C.) Plazas associated with civic buildings that have been designed and approved for occasional use as secondary parking areas;
 - (D.) The frontage along a Town street for which a specific streetscape plan and section have been adopted by the Town Council to include limited parking and access in a series of

fronting yards;

- (E.) Maneuvering areas for loading or delivery activities in the established setbacks and yards of buildings in non-residential zoning districts where the location of buildings that were legally constructed without the provision of these areas preclude them from being located out of established setbacks and yards. Maneuvering areas for parking, loading, or delivery activities are prohibited in the public right-of-way in residential and commercial districts.

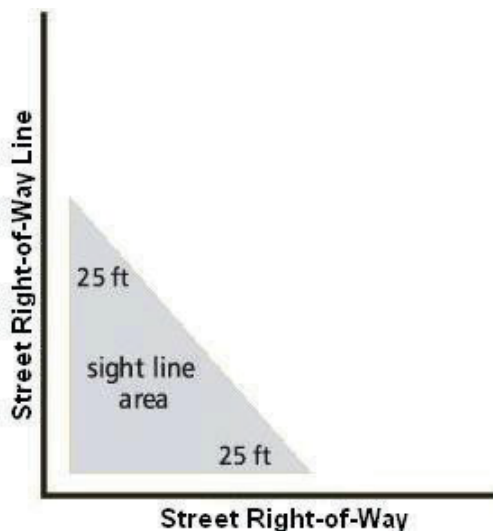
- 2.10-7 Outdoor Storage. The accessory use of outdoor storage of goods, materials, equipment, or refuse containers shall not be permitted within any established setback, side yard abutting a street, or any required buffer or screening area, unless otherwise permitted by this ordinance; this excludes the temporary placement of refuse for scheduled curbside collection. (*Amended May 12, 2025*)
- 2.10-8 Architectural Features. Notwithstanding other provisions of this section, architectural features such as cornices, eaves, bays, *awnings*, steps, gutters, and fire escapes may project up to three (3') feet into an established or required yard; additional encroachment is permitted for certain buildings and lot types established in Article 9.
- 2.10-9 Subordinate Structures. Subordinate structures attached to single-family homes, such as decks, garages, porches, utility rooms, and similar features, may extend into the required rear yard up to twenty-five (25%) percent of the rear yard's depth, and may consume up to twenty (20%) percent of the rear yard's area. Attached rear loading garages accessed from rear *alleys* may extend into the required rear yard to within eighteen (18') feet of the *alley* right-of-way or easement; however, side loading garages accessed from rear *alleys* may extend into the required rear yard to within three (3') feet of the *alley* right-of-way or easement, and may consume up to fifty (50%) percent of the rear yard's area. Such extensions may not exceed fifty (50%) percent of the width of the dwelling at the rear building line except in attached residential structures.
- 2.10-10 Backflow Preventers. Above ground backflow preventers are expressly prohibited in the established front yards of buildings where underground backflow preventers or a location outside of the established front yard is technically feasible according to the standards and requirements of Stallings Public Works Department. Where there is no reasonable alternative to locating an above ground backflow preventer in the established front yard, the structure housing the device shall be covered in a non-reflective material and shall be surrounded, on all sides visible from public streets and abutting properties, by a landscaped opaque screen that matches that architectural style of the primary building.
- 2.10-11 Attached Garages Not Accessed by an Alleyway. An attached garage must meet the following requirements:
 - (A.) An attached garage must be physically connected to the principal structure by either an enclosed passage or a covered breezeway, both with a minimum width of six feet attached to the principal structure. The connection and the garage must have a permanent roof that matches the primary structure in both color and style to maintain architectural consistency.

- (B.) An attached garage may only be constructed on a lot where a principal structure already exists. Attached garages are permitted only in the rear or side yard, must comply with all applicable setback requirements, and shall not exceed 50% of the ground floor area of the principal structure. The design, materials, and appearance of the attached garage must be in harmony with the principal structure and compatible with the surrounding neighborhood in terms of design, materials, and appearance.
- (C.) Any connection to the principal structure must be structurally secure, utilizing bolted ledger boards, post connections, or other approved methods, with proper flashing to prevent water infiltration.
- (D.) The Minor Site Development Review process is required for residential development projects for Attached garages. All attached garages must comply with the North Carolina Residential Code and obtain the necessary zoning and building permits before construction. *(Amended March 24, 2025)*

2.11 Clear Sight Triangle at Street Intersection

- 2.11-1 Sight Triangle Required. Unless provided otherwise, a clear view at each corner of an intersection shall be maintained by establishing an unobstructed “sight triangle.” The extent of the required sight triangle varies according to the speed limit of streets forming the intersection. For streets signed for greater than 35 MPH, the area to be clear of view obstructions at un-signalized intersections is the triangular area formed by the point of intersection of street right-of-way lines and a point located along each right-of-way line at a distance of thirty-five (35) feet from the point of intersection. For intersecting streets signed for 35 MPH or less, the area to be clear of view obstructions at un-signalized intersections is the triangular area formed by the point of intersection of street right-of-way lines and a point located along each right-of-way line at a distance of twenty-five (25’) feet from the point of intersection.

Site Triangle Illustration for Streets Signed for 35 MPH or less:



- 2.11-2 No Obstruction in Sight Triangle. No planting, structure, sign, fence, wall, man-made berm, or other obstruction to vision shall be installed, constructed, set out, or maintained so as to obstruct cross-visibility in the sight triangle between thirty (30”) inches and

ninety-six (96”) inches above the level of the center of the street intersection.

2.11-3 Modifications to Limitations. The limitations of this section may be modified in the instances noted below, so long as adequate visibility is maintained relative to intended speed limit:

- (A.) Existing natural grades;
- (B.) Trees trimmed such that no limbs or foliage extend into the area between thirty (30”) inches and ninety-six (96”) inches above the level of the adjacent intersection;
- (C.) Fire hydrants, public utility poles, street markers, government signs, electrical junction boxes, and traffic control devices;
- (D.) Buildings located in the Town Center District, or the mixed-use center of the Traditional Neighborhood Overlay (TNDO) District;
- (E.) The approved and intentional use of traffic calming techniques to reduce speed; these include but are not limited to: a series of hill crests, neck-downs, intersection diverters, and curb bulbs.

2.12 Building Separation

All detached principal structures in all districts shall preserve a minimum building separation of ten (10’) feet, except for Urban Workplace, Shop-front Commercial, and Attached House Lot/Building Types in the Town Center (TC) District, Mixed- Use (MU) Districts, or the mixed-use center of the Traditional Neighborhood Overlay (TNDO) District. All detached accessory structures in all districts shall maintain a minimum building separation of four (4’) feet, as measured from the overhang.

2.13 Permitted Accessory Uses and Fixtures in All Districts

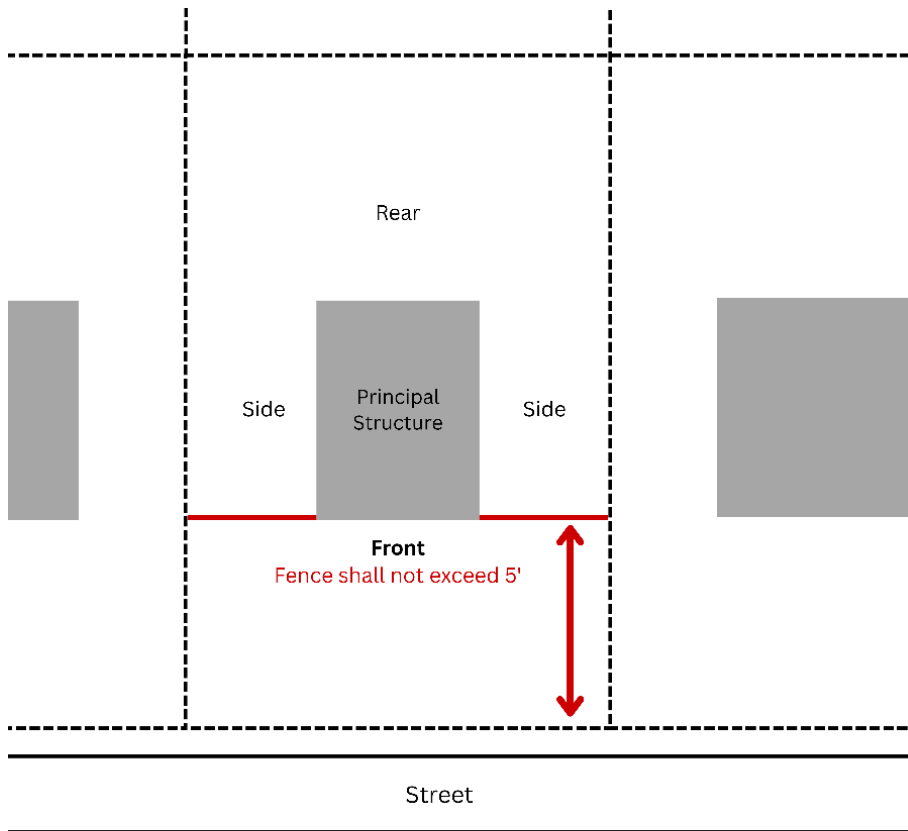
2.13-1 Accessory uses and Structures. *Accessory uses* and structures that are clearly related to and incidental to the permitted principal use or structure on the lot. If the accessory structure exceeds the height of the principal structure, it must meet the minimum side yard setback and be at least fifteen (15’) feet from the rear lot line.

2.13-2 Fences and Walls. Fences and walls meeting the requirements of sections 2.10-2 and 2.10-3 are permitted in all districts in accordance with the following specifications:

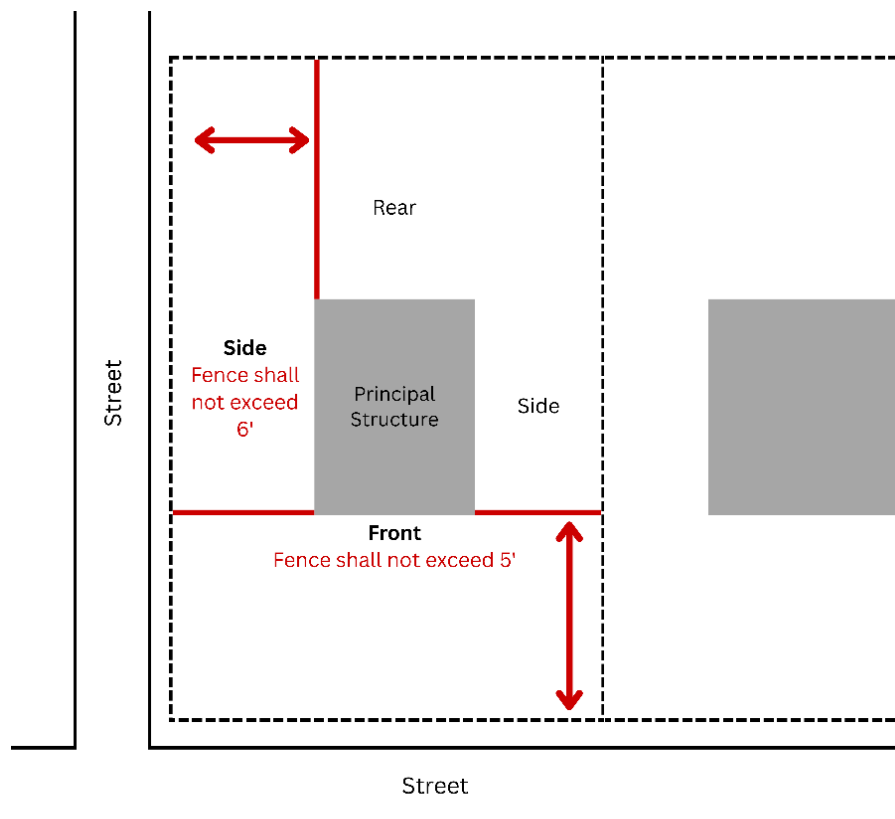
- (A.) A zoning permit issued by the *Development Ordinance Administrator* shall be required for all fences and walls. The process for obtaining a zoning permit is set forth in Article 7 of this Ordinance.
- (B.) Decorative elements such as caps or spires that extend above the top rail are not included in height measurements. Chain-link fencing, vinyl-coated chain-link fencing, or any fence of similar appearance or construction shall not be permitted. If welded wire or similar fencing materials are used, they must be placed on the inside of a masonry wall, solid wood fence, or decorative wood/vinyl fence of equal or greater height that provides effective screening. For example, a four-foot (4’) welded wire fence installed behind a

decorative split-rail or board fence of equal or greater height meets these standards. All finished sides of a fence shall face off-site.

- (C.) In a residential, mixed-use, or commercial district, a fence or wall located in the front yard shall not exceed five feet (5') in height, unless otherwise regulated by 2.13-2 (D) below or Article 9 (Building or Lot Type Standards).
- (D.) Fences along interior side property lines in a residential, mixed-use, or commercial district abutting a street shall not exceed five (5') feet in height in front of a line drawn parallel to the front of the principal structure on the lot.



- (E.) In a residential or mixed-use district (SFR, MU, TC, or TNDO), a fence or wall in an established rear yard that abuts an alley may shall not exceed six (6') feet in height unless placed fifteen (15') feet or more inside property boundary.
 - a. Within the first fifteen (15') feet, fences of chain link or similar material are permitted only if screened on the exterior side by evergreen shrubs planted no farther apart than six (6') feet on center, minimum height three (3') feet at installation, or if obscured from view by the screening method(s) set out in the paragraph immediately above 2.13-2 (B).
- (F.) In a residential or mixed-use district, a fence or wall in an established front yard that abuts a street or alley on a corner lot shall be a maximum of five feet (5') in height. A fence or wall in an established side yard that abuts a street or alley on a corner lot shall be a maximum of six feet (6') in height.



(G.) In a residential or mixed-use district, a fence or wall in an established rear or side yard that does not abut a street or alley may shall not exceed eight (8') feet in height, measured as the average over any one hundred (100') linear foot run of said fence or wall.

(H.) In a residential or mixed-use district, a fence or wall in an established rear or side yard that does not abut a street or alley may shall not exceed eight (8') feet in height, measured as the average over any one hundred (100') linear foot run of said fence or wall. In a commercial or industrial district where the side or rear yard abuts a residential or mixed-use district, chain link, welded wire, or similar fencing materials, if used, shall be placed located on the interior side of a masonry wall, solid wood fence, or decorative wood fence that is equal to or greater in height than the secure fencing and demonstrates provides effective screening capability. Additionally, a semi-opaque vegetative screen shall be required on the exterior side of the fence.

a. Fences shall not be erected over easements such as including, but not limited to, access easements, utility easements, drainage easements, or any other public easement, without the explicit approval of the Public Works and Planning Departments. If fences or other barriers are allowed a fence or barrier is permitted to cross such easements, the Town Engineer may require the installer or landowner to install gates or other access points per standards and specifications set by the Town Engineer to ensure access to such easements in the future as necessary and to minimize damage to private property.

(I.) In a commercial district, a fence or wall located outside the established front yard, side yard, and rear yard of a building abutting a street may have a height of up to eight (8')

feet, measured as the average over any one hundred (100') linear foot run of said fence or wall. Fences of chain link or similar material are permitted in the first fifteen (15') feet of an established yard abutting a street or alley only if placed on the interior side of a masonry wall or solid wood fence and planted with a semi-opaque vegetative screen between wall or fence and street or alley. Beyond the first fifteen (15') feet abutting a street or alley, such materials may be used if screened on the exterior side by evergreen shrubs planted no farther apart than six (6') feet on center, minimum height two and one half (2 ½') feet installed, or if obscured from view by other screening method(s) which perform at the same or a higher level and are approved by the Development Ordinance Administrator.

- (J.) In a commercial or industrial district where the side or rear yard abuts a residential or mixed-use district, chain link, welded wire, or similar fencing materials, if used, shall be placed on the interior side of a masonry wall, solid wood fence, or decorative wood fence that is equal to or greater in height than the secure fencing and demonstrates effective screening capability. Additionally, a semi-opaque vegetative screen shall be required on the exterior side of the fence. Fences shall not be erected over easements such as, but not limited to, access easements, utility easements, drainage easements, or any other public easement, without the explicit approval of the Public Works and Planning Departments. If fences or other barriers are allowed to cross such easements, the Town Engineer may require the installer or landowner to install gates or other access points per standards and specifications set by the Town Engineer to ensure access to such easements in the future as necessary and to minimize damage to private property.

(Amended April 27, 2026)

2.13-3 Parking Lots. For parking lots as principal or *accessory uses*, the landscape and buffering standards of Article 11 shall control.

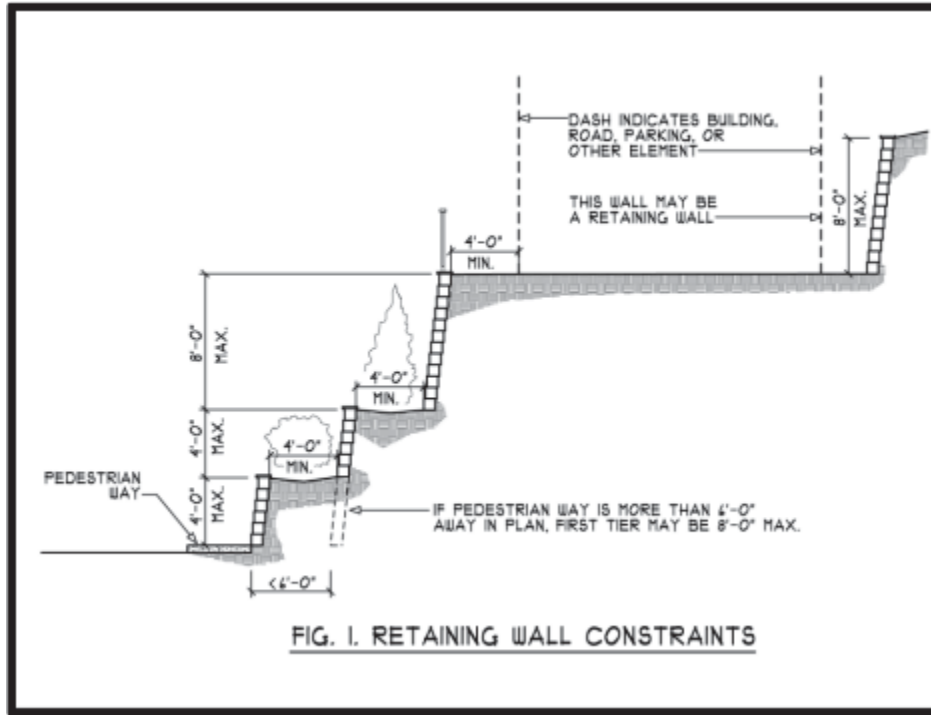
2.13-4 On-site Land Clearing and Inert Debris (LCID) Landfill.

- (A.) Any on-site LCID landfill must obtain a permit from and comply with the standards of the Town of Stallings, Union County, and the State of North Carolina per G.S. § 130A-301.1.
- (B.) Any such landfill must be closed in an approved fashion within six months of completion of construction or within twelve (12) months of cessation of construction if the development project has not been completed.
- (C.) The location of any such landfill must be indicated on the sketch site development plan and the final site development plan. Further, any parcel or lot which contains any part of any such landfill must have notification of the existence and extent of the landfill recorded as part of the deed for the lot or parcel.
- (D.) No portion of any such landfill may be located within fifty (50') feet of any property line which constitutes the external boundary of the project. This includes structures, equipment storage, parking areas, and fill areas, except that access drives may cross this area.
- (E.) A surety guarantee or irrevocable letter of credit in an amount to be determined by the

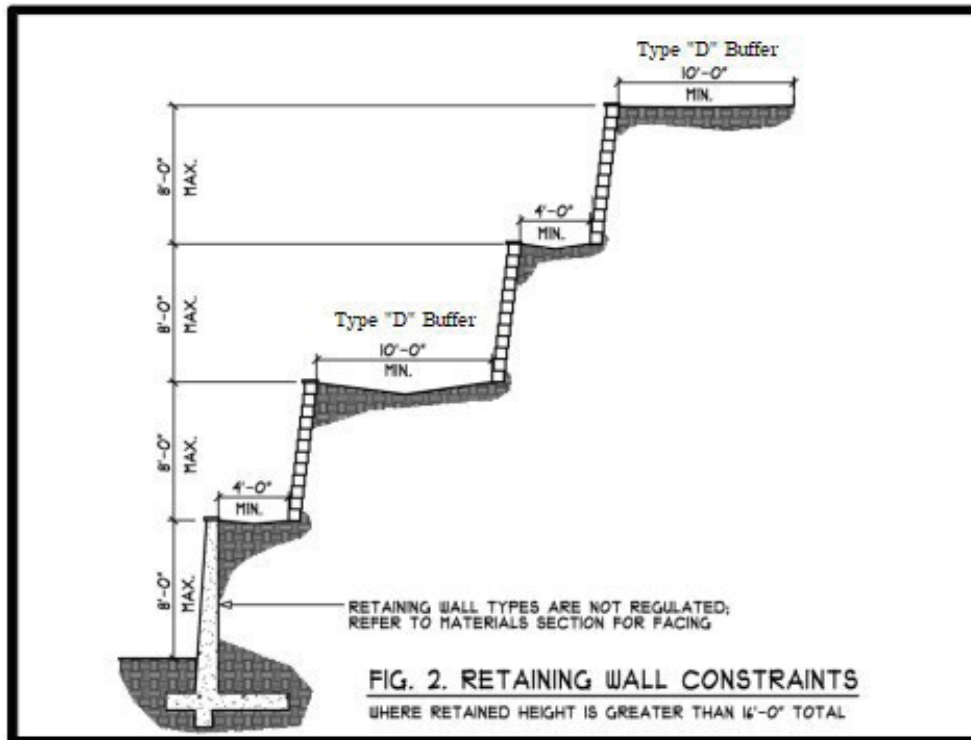
consulting engineer must be provided to ensure that any active landfill area will be closed in an approved fashion. The amount of the guarantee will be based upon the maximum acreage expected to be in use at any given time.

- 2.13-5 Petroleum Storage. Petroleum storage, accessory to a permitted principal use or building, shall comply with the Fire Prevention Code of the National Board of Fire Underwriters.
- 2.13-6 Temporary Construction-Related Uses. Temporary buildings and storage of materials, provided the use is in conjunction with the construction of a building on the same lot or on an adjacent lot, shall be terminated upon completion of construction.
- 2.13-7 Swimming Pools. Swimming pools located on any site, including single-family residential sites, shall be:
- (A.) Located in a side or rear yard only;
 - (B.) Located a minimum of fifteen (15') feet from any property line;
 - (C.) Completely enclosed by a fence or wall no less than four (4') feet but no more than eight (8') feet, except when a wall is component to the dwelling or accessory structure, in accordance with the provisions of sub-section 2.13-2 Fences and Walls herein. Height shall be measured above grade on the side of the fence or wall which faces away from the swimming pool. This fence or wall shall fully enclose the pool itself and is permitted to extend around the entire yard or other portions of the lot, provided the pool remains entirely within the enclosed area. Fence design shall not be climbable or of a ladder pattern. Fences shall not be located in a way that allows any permanent structure, equipment, or similar object to be used for climbing. The fence shall not have any gaps, opening, indentations, protrusions, or structural components that allow a young child aged six (6) years or less to crawl under, squeeze through, or climb over the fence or adjacent barrier. All fence or wall openings into the pool area shall be equipped with a gate that opens outward away from the pool and shall be self-closing and have a self-latching device located on the poolside of the gate and be placed so that a young child aged six (6) years or less cannot reach over the top or through any opening or gap and operate the latch. *(Amended July 28, 2025)*
- 2.13-8 Retaining Walls.
- (A.) No retaining wall may be more than eight feet (8') in height. This height does not include decorative caps that are less than eight inches (8") in height. Screen walls shall not be taller than necessary to conceal the item screened (such as a dumpster, HVAC equipment, etc.)
 - (B.) Lot lines for newly created residential lots, created through the requirements established by Article 16 of the Stallings Development Ordinance, shall not be platted to include any part of a retaining wall. Retaining walls located within a residential subdivision shall remain as common space, to be maintained by the owner or Owner's Association. Retaining walls in a non-residential development shall be maintained by the owner.
 - (C.) Residential property lines located near the top of a retaining wall shall be a minimum of four (4') feet horizontally from the top of the retaining wall. Non-residential buildings shall be a minimum of four (4') feet horizontally from the top of the retaining wall.

- (D.) A safety fence must be provided at the top of a retaining wall series. The safety fence should be a minimum of forty-two (42") inches tall. If constructed of opaque materials, the safety fence height shall be included in the eight (8') foot maximum retaining wall height. The safety fence should not be designed in a way that is climbable or would allow a child to crawl under or around.
- (E.) Any portion of a retaining wall which is within six feet (6') of a sidewalk or pedestrian way shall not exceed four (4') feet in height. Subsequent walls must be offset a minimum of four (4') feet in plan. See Fig. 1. below.



- (F.) The space between retaining walls in series shall include a swale for appropriate stormwater conveyance and landscaped with appropriate grasses, vines, or other ground cover selected for stormwater management purposes. This space may contain shrubs and trees not to exceed thirty-five (35') feet in height at maturity and shall be spaced to provide visual screening of the retaining wall. This area shall be maintained in accordance with the provisions of Article 11.
- (G.) Retaining walls in series which collectively exceed sixteen (16') feet in height shall have a ten (10') foot wide buffer at each sixteen (16') foot interval, following the planting rate of a Type "D" buffer (see Article 11). Retaining walls which are separated by a building, a road, or a parking area of at least ten (10') shall be exempt from the planting requirements. See Fig. 2 below.



*Landscape requirements from Section 2.13-8 (F.) not shown on Figure 2 but do apply.

(H.) Publicly visible site wall material and color shall be architecturally compatible with the principal building(s) on site. *(Amended November 22, 2021)*

2.14 Standards for Construction; Developer Responsibility

Where standards and responsibility for infrastructure construction, including but not limited to streets, sidewalks, and landscaping, are specified in this Ordinance or other Ordinances of the Town of Stallings, those standards shall control. Where standards are not specified, construction shall be in conformance with the standards set forth in the Town of Stallings Technical Standards & Specifications Manual.

2.15 Guarantee in Lieu of Construction of Improvements

- 2.15-1 Provision of Guarantee. In lieu of completion of construction of the required improvements, including but not limited to streets, sidewalks, landscaping, parking, and utilities, prior to issuance of a Certificate of Completion, the property owner or developer may provide to the Town a performance guarantee in accordance with state law and section 16.1-9.
- 2.15-2 Construction Easement. The Town of Stallings, in its sole discretion, may require a temporary construction easement permitting the Town of Stallings or its designee(s) to access the property for the purpose of constructing/installing the guaranteed improvements. Such an instrument shall be provided with the performance guarantee. The temporary construction easement shall be valid until all guaranteed improvements have been constructed/installed and approved or accepted by the Town. The temporary construction easement shall pass to all successive owners until the guaranteed improvements have been constructed/installed and approved or accepted by the Town

and shall be recorded in the office of the Union County Register of Deeds with recording fees to be paid by the applicant/landowner.

- 2.15-3 Failure to Perform. Failure to initiate construction of the improvements within one (1) year of the date the performance guarantee was accepted by the Town of Stallings may result in the Town constructing the improvements, with the cost to be paid from the performance guarantee account. The surety or the financial institution holding the escrow account shall, if requested by the Town, pay all or any portion of the performance guarantee to the Town up to the amount needed to complete the improvements based on an estimate by the Town, including associated costs to administer and implement the completion of the guaranteed improvements. The Town, at its discretion, may spend such portion of said funds as deemed necessary to complete all or any portion of the required improvements. The Town shall return to the property owner/developer any funds not spent in completing the improvements. Default on a project does not release the developer from responsibility for the completion of the improvements. The Town may release a portion or all of any security posted as the improvements are completed and approved by the Town. In the event that the amount of the performance guarantee on hand is insufficient to pay for the completion of the improvements, the property owner shall pay to the Town of Stallings the total amount of the insufficiency. If the Town is not paid, the amount of the insufficiency shall constitute a lien on the property in favor of the Town. The provisions of this section shall not invalidate any and all requirements for the guaranteed improvements to be covered by warranty or other form of security against material and workmanship deficiencies.

2.16 Regulation of Nuisances

- 2.16-1 Noise. No use shall be operated so as to generate recurring noises that are unreasonably loud, cause injury, or create a nuisance to any person of ordinary sensitivities. No nonresidential use shall be operated so as to generate any noise in an adjacent residential or mixed-use district (SFR, TC, MU, or TNDO), as detected in that district without instruments, that is louder than the noise which could be generally expected from uses permitted in that district.
- 2.16-2 Fumes and Odors. No use shall emit fumes, gasses, or odors in concentrations or amounts that cause injury or create a nuisance to any person of ordinary sensitivities on another property.
- 2.16-3 Vibration. No use shall be operated so as to generate inherent or recurring ground vibrations detectable at the property line without instruments.

2.17 General Standards for Driveway Permitting

- 2.17-1 Driveway Permit Required. No driveway or other point of access to a street maintained by either the Town of Stallings or the North Carolina Department of Transportation shall be constructed, relocated, or altered unless a driveway permit or other approval is obtained from either the Town of Stallings or the North Carolina Department of Transportation. The applicant shall comply with the standards for driveways established by the North Carolina Department of Transportation. All driveway plans shall be reviewed by the Town of Stallings prior to construction of the driveway. All driveways

shall be paved surfaces within the public right-of-way.

- 2.17-2 Projects Composed of Multiple Buildings and Lots. For development projects composed of multiple buildings and lots, access to the predevelopment existing public street system shall be determined by the location of proposed intersecting streets. No parcel of land which is a functional part of the overall development, even though it may be removed by the developer from the rest of the project area by subdivision or by metes and bounds description, shall be permitted to have driveway access to the public streets bounding the project area without first having secured the approval in sub-section 2.17-1 above.
- 2.17-3 Access to Subdivision Lots. In a residential major subdivision, access to individual lots from streets constructed as part of the subdivision shall be reviewed and approved at the time each Zoning Compliance Permit is issued.
- 2.17-4 Location and Design of Access. Determination of the location and design of access to the public street system shall be made by the *Development Ordinance Administrator, Town Engineer* and other regulatory and professional reviewers based on a contextual examination of the site, surrounding development, potential traffic generated on the site, current and future surface transportation system needs, special polices that might exist for the corridor being accessed, and/or state of the practice principles for access management as promulgated by the Institute of Transportation Engineers and the Transportation Research Board.

2.18 Special Requirements for Lots Along Thoroughfares

- 2.18-1 Authorization. Pursuant to North Carolina General Statutes 160D (which state that cities and counties shall have authority to:
- (A.) classify all or a portion of the streets within their jurisdictions according to their size, present and anticipated traffic load, and other characteristics relevant to the achievement of the purposes of this section, and
 - (B.) establish by Ordinance minimum distances that buildings and other permanent structures or improvements constructed along each class or type of street shall be set back from the right-of-way line or the center line of an existing or proposed street) the following requirements shall apply.
- 2.18-2 Minimum Setbacks along Thoroughfares. The build-to or set back line for any lot which abuts a thoroughfare classified on the adopted transportation plan for Division 10 shall be measured from the right-of-way line outlined in the table below (Table 2.18-2) if existing right-of-way is of lesser width. The Proposed Right-Of-Way Line established for each classification of thoroughfare is as follows:

Table 2.18-2

<u>Thoroughfare Classification</u>	Distance from Thoroughfare Centerline to <u>“Proposed Right-of-Way Line”</u>
Freeway/Expressway <i>US 74 toll road</i>	125 feet (Class I)

Limited Access Arterial <i>US 74</i>	60 feet (Class II)
Commercial Arterial <i>US 74 business route</i>	60 feet (Class III)
Major Arterial <i>Stallings Road, Idlewild Road, Lawyers Road Old Monroe Road, Weddington Road</i>	37.5 feet (Class III)
Minor Arterial <i>All other S.R. numbered roads maintained by the NCDOT</i>	30 feet (Class IV)

- 2.18-3 Transitional Setback for Lots along Thoroughfares. A transitional setback or yard shall be established for each lot which abuts a thoroughfare that has an existing right-of-way which is not as wide as the Proposed Right-of-Way Line established for that thoroughfare. The transitional setback or yard area established for lots abutting thoroughfares can be used for any purpose allowed by the particular zoning district, except for those permanent uses which are prohibited in the established setbacks or yards. At the time that the Proposed Right-of-Way Line is dedicated or otherwise acquired for roadway purposes, the property owner shall be responsible for the removal of any uses from the transitional setback or yard that are not otherwise permitted in the yard by the district regulations. The property owner shall have one (1) year from the date of right-of-way acquisition to remove any such uses.
- 2.18-4 Exceptions. The standards herein prescribing setback from the proposed right-of-way line will not apply to any development for which a preliminary subdivision plan or a conditional zoning site plan has been approved prior to the effective date of regulations requiring setback from proposed right-of-way lines along thoroughfares. Nor shall they apply to structures in the Town Center (TC) District, Mixed-Use (MU), or mixed-use center in a TNDO Districts.
- 2.18-5 Right to Appeal. An affected property owner shall have the right to appeal transitional yard or setback requirements to the *Board of Adjustment* for variance or modification as they apply to a particular piece of property. The *Board of Adjustment* may vary or modify these requirements upon a showing that:
- (A.) The peculiar nature of the property results in practical difficulties or unnecessary hardships that impede carrying out the strict letter of the requirements; and
 - (B.) The property will not be put to reasonable use unless relief is granted; and
 - (C.) Balancing the public interest in enforcing the setback requirements and the interest of the owner, the grant of relief is required by considerations of justice and equity.

In granting relief, the *Board of Adjustment* may impose reasonable and appropriate conditions and safeguards to protect the interests of neighboring properties. The *Board of Adjustment's* decision shall be subject to review by the superior court by proceedings in the nature of certiorari in accordance with G.S. § 160D- 1402.

2.19 Sidewalks for New Development and Expansion/Improvement of Existing Development

- 2.19-1 Sidewalks Required. Sidewalks shall be required along new and existing streets, in accordance with the provisions of Section 13.2-3, fronting the following new development and expansions of and improvements to existing development. Additionally, sidewalks shall be required in the following circumstances:
- (A.) All new commercial development;
 - (B.) Expansions to an existing commercial development or use where the gross floor area of the expansion is equal to or greater than fifty (50%) percent of the gross floor area of the pre-expansion development or use;
 - (C.) Improvements to an existing commercial development or use when the cost of the improvement is equal to or greater than fifty (50%) percent of the value of the existing development (building) or use as determined by the Union County Tax Office;
 - (D.) All residential development with two (2) or more residential units, except in accordance with Sub-section 13.2-3; and
 - (E.) One (1) single family home on a single lot when the lot being developed is adjacent to a lot on which an existing sidewalk is located and the construction of a sidewalk on the lot being developed would be a logical extension of the pedestrian network.
- 2.19-2 Sidewalks Along New Streets. Sidewalks shall be required along both sides of new streets, except streets in the Agriculture (AG) District, where sidewalks are not required on the new street.
- 2.19-3 Sidewalks Along Alleys. Sidewalks shall not be required along *alleys*.
- 2.19-4 Standards for Sidewalks. Sidewalks shall comply with the design and construction standards set forth in the Town of Stallings Technical Standards & Specifications Manual.

2.20 Manufactured Home Parks Prohibited

The development and/or subdivision of land for the purpose of Manufactured Home Parks/Courts is prohibited in all primary general use districts except SFR-MH.

2.21 Compliance with Definition of ‘Family’ for Residential Uses

All residential uses, structures, definitions, or zoning classifications which include the word ‘Family’ shall comply with the definition of ‘Family’ as established in this Ordinance. ‘Family’ means one or more persons related by adoption, blood, or marriage, or up to three unrelated adults, occupying a dwelling unit and living as a single household. Uses inconsistent with this definition shall not be permitted, unless otherwise stated in this Ordinance. *(Amended July 28, 2025)*