

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
MARTIN COUNTY, FLORIDA**

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

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MARTIN COUNTY, FLORIDA AMENDING CHAPTER 21, PART 2, ARTICLE 25, DOCK BUILDING CODE, GENERAL ORDINANCES, MARTIN COUNTY CODE, REGARDING REVISION OF COUNTY DOCK BUILDING CODE; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTING PROVISIONS, SEVERABILITY; APPLICABILITY; FILING WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE; EFFECTIVE DATE; AND CODIFICATION**

**WHEREAS**, the Board of County Commissioners of Martin County, Florida (Board) is authorized by Chapter 125, Florida Statutes, to adopt ordinances and resolutions necessary for the exercise of its powers; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board has adopted Chapter 21, Part 2, Article 25, Sections 21.252, of the General Ordinances, Martin County Code, to set minimum standards for dock construction; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board has requested revisions requiring all dock construction plans be prepared by a registered design professional as required in the Florida Building Code; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board has determined that it is in the public interest to implement this Ordinance.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MARTIN COUNTY, FLORIDA, THAT:**

**PART I: AMENDMENT OF CHAPTER 21, ARTICLE 25, DOCK BUILDING CODE, GENERAL ORDINANCES, MARTIN COUNTY, FLORIDA,**

*Section 21.252 is amended as follows:*

**Sec. 21.252. ~~Adoption~~ of County dock building code.**

~~It is the intent of this section to set minimum standards for dock construction. This section shall not create liability on the part of Martin County or by any officer or employee thereof for any damages that result from reliance on this section. All docks shall be approved by the Building Department. Prior to approval, all applicants shall present evidence of compliance with all State and federal regulations.~~

Detailed construction drawings of the design of any residential or commercial dock prepared in accordance with the Florida Building Code shall be submitted to the County for review and approval. The proposed dock shall adhere to the construction and design requirements of the Florida Building Code, as may be amended. No permit(s) shall be issued by Martin County, unless all required approvals from other governmental agencies with applicable jurisdiction have been obtained.

*Residential—Commercial*

~~21.252.A. Residential docks.~~

~~1.—Material. All material shall be new.~~

~~a.—Piling.~~

~~(1)—Wood piling shall be smooth surfaced, straight and free of splits. Minimum diameter of pile butt to be six inches.~~

~~(2)—Wooden piling shall be marine pressure treated with creosote to 20 pounds per cubic feet or CCA to 2.5 pounds per cubic feet or equivalent preservative. All piling shall be branded with treatment. Concrete piling may be prestressed or precast of minimum 4,000 psi concrete. Piling shall have a minimum cross section dimension of ten inches and have not less than four deformed No. 4 steel rebars with No. 2 or heavier rebar stirrups not more than 18 inches on center. All piling shall be clearly marked with date cast and length of pile.~~

~~2.—Lumber.~~

~~a.—All lumber shall be pressure treated southern pine not less than No. 2 grade.~~

~~b.—Treatment. Lumber emersed in salt water shall be CCA 2.5 pounds per cubic feet or equivalent preservative, marine treated and clearly marked with treatment. Lumber in contact with soil or fresh water shall be CCA 0.5 pounds per cubic feet or equivalent preservative and clearly marked with treatment. Lumber not in contact with water or soil shall be CCA 0.25 pounds per cubic feet or equivalent preservative and clearly marked with treatment.~~

~~c.—Single two by eight stringers may be used for spans in excess of ten feet; single two by six stringers may be used for spans ten feet or less.~~

~~d.—Maximum spacing of stringers not to exceed 32 inches. Horizontal braces shall not be less than two by six.~~

~~3.—Hardware. All hardware shall be hot dipped galvanized or stainless steel.~~

~~a.—Bolts shall not be less than one half inch diameter.~~

~~b.—Nails shall be of adequate size for their intended use.~~

~~4.—Construction methods.~~

~~a.—Badly deteriorated piles shall be completely replaced and not repaired.~~

~~b.—Bolts shall be centered on piling and boards and at least two inches from the edges of all boards to the bolt centers.~~

~~c.—Not less than two nails shall be used to join deck boards to stringers and nails are not to be placed closer than one inch to edges of boards.~~

~~5.—Splices.~~

- a. ~~Overlap for splicing shall not be less than 24 inches for boards of the same dimensions. Boards to be spliced shall be butted and joined with a splice board not less than 48 inches long of the same dimensions.~~
  - b. ~~All major loadbearing splices shall be bolted with eight one-half inch diameter galvanized bolts spaced at not more than 12 inches on center and not less than 1½ inches from the edges of the boards to the bolt centers. Nonloadbearing splices may be bolted or securely nailed.~~
6. ~~PVC encased poured in place piling or precast.~~
- a. ~~Concrete fill for pilings. To be type I, 3,000 psi (at 28 days) pea rock pump mix. Darex added for air entrainment. Portex retardant added to provide uniform curing. Concrete should be designed for this type application.~~
  - b. ~~PVC casing. Shall be six inch 125 psi polyvinyl chloride (type 1) or larger diameter where required.~~
  - c. ~~Reinforcing. Shall be one piece of No. 5 steel per piling (or greater).~~
7. ~~Construction methods.~~
- a. ~~PVC pile casings shall be installed accurately and plumbed to provide good alignment. Casings to be jettied into place on no greater than 12 foot o.c.~~
  - b. ~~PVC casings to be compacted a minimum of six inches to provide firm bearing for piles during construction period.~~
  - c. ~~Minimum penetration for pier piles to be five feet. Minimum dolphin pile penetration to be eight feet.~~
  - d. ~~Piling encountering rock shall be installed no less than 42 inches into or through said rock.~~
  - e. ~~All sand, soil or debris is to be evacuated from within the casing (prior to concrete placement) down to a point no greater than 12 inches up from the casing base.~~
  - f. ~~Reinforcing is to be placed within the vertical PVC casing so as to provide parallel reinforcement alignment and uniform spread over the entire length of the piling. Reinforcing to be securely fastened during concrete placement.~~
  - g. ~~Concrete is to be pumped into place by tremie apparatus with care to keep outlet imbedded in fresh concrete at all times.~~
  - h. ~~Concrete shall cure for not less than seven days before application of lateral loads such as moored yachts and vessels (type 1 cement).~~
  - i. ~~Spacing of piling shall not exceed 12 feet on center.~~
8. ~~Penetration.~~
- a. ~~Dock piling set in rock will have a minimum penetration of 42 inches, in sand or hard soil, five feet, and in soft mud silt, eight feet.~~
  - b. ~~Freestanding piling shall have a minimum penetration of four feet in rock, eight feet in sand or hard soil, and 12 feet in soft mud or silt.~~

9. ~~Plans and drawings.~~ Any design other than outlined in these specifications must be signed and sealed by a licensed professional engineer or architect registered in the State of Florida.

10. ~~Definitions.~~

~~Dock.~~ A platform built on the shore or out from the shore.

21.252.B. ~~Commercial piers.~~

1. ~~Material.~~ All material shall be new.

a. ~~Piling.~~ Wood piling shall be smooth surfaced, straight and free of wood splits. Minimum diameter of pile butt to be nine inches and minimum diameter of tip to be six inches. ~~Wooden piling shall be marine pressure treated with creosote to 20 pounds per cubic feet or CCA to 2.5 pounds per cubic feet or equivalent preservative. All piling shall be branded with treatment. Concrete piling may be prestressed or precast of minimum 4,000 psi concrete. Piling shall have a minimum cross section dimension of ten inches and have not less than four deformed No. 4 steel rebars with No. 2 or heavier rebar stirrups not more than 18 inches on center. All piling shall be clearly marked with date cast and length of pile.~~

2. ~~Construction methods.~~

a. ~~Spacing of piling shall not exceed 12 feet on center.~~

b. ~~Penetration.~~

~~(1) Dock piling set in rock shall have minimum penetration of 42 inches.~~

~~(2) Dock piling set in sand or hard soil shall have a minimum penetration of six feet.~~

~~(3) Dock piling set in soft mud or silt shall have a minimum penetration of ten feet.~~

~~(4) Freestanding piling (tie-off) shall have a minimum penetration of six feet in rock, ten feet in sand or hard soil and 15 feet in soft mud or silt.~~

3. ~~Lumber.~~ All lumber shall be pressure treated southern pine not less than No. 2 grade.

a. ~~Treatment.~~ Lumber emersed in salt water shall be CCA 2.5 pounds per cubic feet marine treated or equivalent preservatives and clearly marked with treatment. Lumber in contact with soil or fresh water shall be CCA 0.5 pounds per cubic feet or equivalent preservatives and clearly marked with treatment. Lumber not in contact with water or soil shall be CCA 0.25 pounds per cubic feet or equivalent preservatives and clearly marked with treatment.

b. ~~Stringers.~~ Maximum spacing is not to exceed 32 inches distance between stringers.

- e. ~~Minimum size of all lumber other than decking shall be three by eight or laminated (doubled) two by eight with 50 percent lap. Horizontal braces may be single three by eight or doubled two by eight.~~
  - d. ~~Minimum size of decking shall be two by six.~~
  - e. ~~Lumber for ladders, railing, etc., shall be of a size adequate for the strength required for the intended purpose.~~
4. ~~PVC encased poured-in-place piling or precast.~~
- a. ~~Concrete fill for pilings: To be type I, 3,500 psi (at 28 days) pea rock pump mix. Darex added for air entrainment. Protex retardant added to provide uniform curing. Concrete should be designed for this type application.~~
  - b. ~~PVC casing: Shall be eight inches 125 psi minimum polyvinyl chloride (type 1) or larger diameter where required.~~
  - c. ~~Reinforcing: Shall be four pieces of No. 5 steel per piling (or greater).~~
5. ~~Construction methods.~~
- a. ~~PVC pile casings shall be installed accurately and plumbed to provide good alignment. Casings to be jetted into place on no greater than 12 foot o.c.~~
  - b. ~~PVC casings to be compacted a minimum of six inches to provide firm bearing for piles during construction period.~~
  - c. ~~All sand, soil or debris is to be evacuated from within the casing (prior to concrete placement) down to a point no greater than 12 inches up from the casing base.~~
  - d. ~~Reinforcing is to be placed within the vertical PVC casing so as to provide a parallel reinforcement alignment and uniform spread over the entire length of the piling. Reinforcing to be securely fastened during concrete placement.~~
  - e. ~~Concrete is to be pumped into place by tremie apparatus with care to keep outlet imbedded in fresh concrete at all times.~~
  - f. ~~Concrete shall cure for not less than seven days before application of lateral loads such as moored yachts and vessels (type 1 cement).~~
6. ~~[Spacing of pilings.] Spacing of pilings shall not exceed 12 feet on center.~~
7. ~~Penetration.~~
- a. ~~Dock piling set in rock will have a minimum penetration of 42 inches, in sand or hard soil, six feet, and in soft mud or silt, ten feet.~~
  - b. ~~Freestanding pilings shall have a minimum penetration of six feet in rock, ten feet in sand or hard soil, and 15 feet in soft mud or silt.~~
8. ~~Hardware. All hardware shall be hot-dipped galvanized or stainless steel.~~
- a. ~~Bolts shall not be less than five eighths inch diameter.~~
  - b. ~~Nails shall be of adequate size for their intended use.~~

~~9.—Construction methods.~~

~~a.—Badly deteriorated piles shall be completely replaced and not repaired.~~

~~b.—Bolts shall be centered on piling and boards and at least two inches from the edges of all boards to the bolt centers.~~

~~c.—Not less than two nails shall be used to join deck boards to stringers and nails are not to be placed closer than one inch to edges of boards.~~

~~10.—Splices. Overlap for splicing shall not be less than 24 inches for boards of the same dimensions. Boards to be spliced shall be butted and joined with splice board not less than 48 inches long of the same dimensions. All major loadbearing splices shall be bolted with eight one-half inch diameter galvanized bolts spaced at not more than 12 inches on center and not less than 1½ inches from the edges of the boards to the bolt centers. Nonloadbearing splices may be bolted or securely nailed.~~

~~11.—Plans and drawings. Any design other than outlined in these specifications must be signed and sealed by a licensed professional engineer or architect, registered in the State of Florida.~~

~~12.—Definitions.~~

~~*Business.* A thing that one is busy at; occupation, profession, or trade; work. Buying, selling, renting; commercial dealings, trade. A store, factory or other commercial enterprise.~~

~~*Commercial.* Having to do with trade or business. Made to be sold for profit. For business purposes.~~

~~*Pier.* A structure built out over the water supported on columns or piles and used as a walk or a landing place for ships.~~

**PART II. CONFLICTING PROVISIONS.**

Special acts of the Florida Legislature applicable only to unincorporated areas of Martin County, County ordinances and County resolutions, or parts thereof, in conflict with this ordinance are hereby superseded by this ordinance to the extent of such conflict except for ordinances concerning either adoption or amendment of the Comprehensive Plan.

**PART III. SEVERABILITY.**

If any portion of this Ordinance is for any reason held or declared to be unconstitutional, inoperative, or void by a court of competent jurisdiction, such holding shall not affect the remaining portions of this ordinance. If the ordinance or any provision thereof shall be held to be inapplicable to any person, property or circumstance by a court of competent jurisdiction, such holding shall not affect its applicability to any other person, property or circumstances.

**PART IV. APPLICABILITY OF ORDINANCE.**

This ordinance shall be applicable throughout Martin County’s jurisdiction.

**PART V. FILING WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE.**

The Clerk shall be and is hereby directed forthwith to scan this ordinance in accordance with Rule 1B-26.003, Florida Administrative Code, and file same with the Florida Department of State via electronic transmission.

**PART VI. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

This Ordinance shall take effect upon filing with the Department of State.

**PART VII. CODIFICATION.**

Provisions of this ordinance shall be incorporated into the General Ordinances, Martin County Code, except that Parts II through VII shall not be codified. The word “ordinance” may be changed to “article,” “section,” or other word, and the sections of this ordinance may be renumbered or re-lettered to accomplish such intentions.

**DULY PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 22<sup>nd</sup> DAY OF APRIL 2025.**

ATTEST:

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
MARTIN COUNTY, FLORIDA

\_\_\_\_\_  
CAROLYN TIMMANN,  
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT  
AND COMPTROLLER

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
SARAH HEARD, CHAIR

APPROVED AS TO FORM  
AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
SARAH W. WOODS,  
COUNTY ATTORNEY

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