

**2013 REVISIONS TO THE MEETINGS POLICY OF PIKE COUNTY, GEORGIA:  
TO PROVIDE REVISIONS TO TITLE III AND CHAPTER 30.01 CURRENTLY  
ENTITLED “REGULAR MEETINGS” OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, PIKE  
COUNTY, GEORGIA THAT INCLUDE REVISING THE TITLE OF CHAPTER 30.01  
AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE INVOCATION POLICY;  
TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; TO PROVIDE FOR SEVERABILITY;  
TO SET AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER LAWFUL PURPOSES.**

WHEREAS, the Pike County Board of Commissioners desires that the Code of Ordinances, Pike County, Georgia be amended by revising Title III entitled “ADMINISTRATION” by modifying and adding certain provisions of and to the existing Chapter 36.01 currently entitled “Regular Meetings”; and,

WHEREAS, the Pike County Board of Commissioners is empowered by the Constitution of the State of Georgia, including but not limited to, those police powers intended to ensure the health, safety and welfare of the general public of Pike County, Georgia; as well as being further empowered by the laws of the State of Georgia to enact local legislation, resolutions and/or ordinances;

WHEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED THAT the Code of Ordinances of Pike County, Georgia shall be amended and modified as follows:

**I.  
TITLE REVISION**

The existing title to Section 36.01, currently reading “**§36.01 REGULAR MEETINGS**” shall be modified to read “**§36.01 MEETINGS**”.

**II.  
INVOCATION POLICY**

The existing Section 36.01 of the Code of Ordinances, Pike County Georgia shall be amended to add “Invocation Policy” as a subsection immediately after subsection (O) entitled “Order of Business”. This new subsection shall be entitled “Invocation Policy” and shall be added as follows:

**“(P) Invocation Policy.**

**The Board of Commissioners shall call for an invocation at all meetings of the Pike County Board of Commissioners.**

- (1) Purpose. The purpose of the invocation policy is to invoke Divine guidance for the Pike County Board of Commissioners. It is the intent of the Pike County Board of Commissioners not to advance or inhibit religion through this invocation policy; and, the Board of Commissioners does not intent to become entangled with religion through the implementation of this policy.**
- (2) Timing. The invocation shall be given after the Call to Order of the meeting prior to the Pledge of Allegiance and shall not be more than two (2) minutes in duration.**

- (3) Individuals Delivering Invocation.** Any individual desiring to deliver the invocation at a meeting of the Pike County Board of Commissioners must adhere to the following:
- (a)** Must be an eligible clergy, spiritual leader, or an official representative of a recognized and established religious and/or secular organization which is active in Pike County, Georgia or represents citizens who reside or have ownership and/or business interests in Pike County, Georgia;
  - (b)** Shall limit the invocation to no more than two (2) minutes in which the invocation may seek wisdom and knowledge for those making decisions on behalf of Pike County, Georgia, and for unity, peace and protection for the Pike County Community, the surrounding communities, the State of Georgia and the United States of America;
  - (c)** There will be no political comments made before, during or after the invocation, there will be no verbal attacks on any person or organization/institution, and there will be no promotion, advertising or solicitation on behalf of the organization/institution being represented by the one delivering the invocation.
- (4) List of Eligibility and Selection.** The County Clerk shall maintain a list of all eligible individuals that may be considered for the delivery of the invocation for the meetings of the Board of Commissioners. In developing the List of Eligibility, the County shall invite participation by advertisement on a quarterly basis.
- (a) Invocation Eligibility Form.** The Invocation Eligibility Form, attached hereto, may be revised from time to time as deemed necessary and shall be made available to all interested persons and organizations/institutions. Upon completion, the Form must be returned to the County Clerk. The list of eligibility shall be reviewed and approved by the County Manager in accordance with the guidelines set forth herein. **Selection.** The County Clerk, with the consent and approval of the County Manager, shall select an individual from the List of Eligibility. The selection shall be on a rotating basis based on availability; however, a selection may be made from the list that is not in the order of rotation based on special circumstances and with the approval of the County Manager.
  - (b) Default.** In the event an individual is not readily available from the list of eligibility, then the Board of Commissioners may proceed with the calling of a “moment of silent invocation” in lieu of an oral delivery of the invocation.
- (5) Decorum.** The individual delivering the invocation and all those in attendance shall adhere to the rules of decorum set forth in this ordinance and will be required to be respectful and courteous to each other.
- (6) Violations.** Anyone violating the provisions of this invocation policy shall be subject to the penalties as set forth in Section 10.99 of the Code of Ordinances, Pike County, Georgia. Moreover, the Board of Commissioners shall have the right to remove anyone violating this invocation policy from the meeting and/or from the List of Eligibility.

III.

REVISION TO ORDER OF BUSINESS

The existing Section 36.01 of the Code of Ordinances, Pike County Georgia shall be amended to modify subsection (O) entitled "Order of Business" to insert "Invocation" as item (2) in the Order of Business and then renumber items (3) through (12) accordingly.

IV.

REPEALER

If any Ordinance or resolution of Pike County, or portion(s) thereof, is deemed in conflict with this Ordinance, then such conflicting Ordinance, resolution, or portions thereof, are hereby repealed.

V.

SEVERABILITY

Any portion of this Ordinance that may be deemed void, invalid, or otherwise unconstitutional and/or illegal shall be severed from the Ordinance without invalidating the remaining provisions of this Ordinance.

VI.

EFFECTIVE DATE

This Ordinance shall become effective upon the second reading of the proposed Ordinance and upon the affirmative vote of at least three (3) Commissioners.

SO ORDAINED BY THE PIKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS BY:

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J. Briar Johnson, Chairman

Attested by:

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JoAnn Wrye, County Clerk

(SEAL)