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AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND SELECTMEN OF THE CITY OF WEST POINT, MISSISSIPPI, ADOPTING REGULATIONS FOR FIREARMS, BOWS, FIREWORKS AND EXPLOSIVES.

WHEREAS THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI HAS IN SECTION 21-19-1 ET SEQUA AND SECTION 10-1-3 ET SEQUA OF THE MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1942, AS AMENDED, DELEGATED THE RESPONSIBILITY TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL UNITS TO ADOPT REGULATIONS DESIGNED TO PROMOTE THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY, AND GENERAL WELFARE OF ITS CITIZENTRY.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND SELECTMEN OF THE CITY OF WEST POINT, MISSISSIPPI, THE FOLLOWING, TO-WIT: CHAPTER 14, ARTICLE III OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF WEST POINT, MISSISSIPPI, IS HEREBY AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

Article III.

Firearms, Bows, Fireworks, and Explosives.

Sec. 14-28. Discharge of firearms within City Limits.

It shall be unlawful for any person to discharge any description of firearms whatever anywhere within the corporate limits of the City of West Point, Mississippi, except:

- A. by a duly authorized law enforcement or animal control officer when necessary in the performance of his official duties, or
- B. by a person in the performance of military duty under military regulations, or
- C. by a person acting in actual self defense or for the purpose of protecting life, limb, or property, or
- D. by a person engaged in lawful hunting as provided for hereinafter, or
- E. by a person engaged in lawful participation at a facility properly licensed to conduct a firearms sporting activity, including but not limited to, skeet shooting, trap shooting, paint-ball events, and similar sporting activities, or
- F. by a person engaged in lawful participation at a facility properly licensed for the conduct of firearms training, education, or qualification activities.

(Ord. Of 6/28/83, Book 27, Pg. 179)

Sec. 14-29. Air guns, pellet guns, etc.

The use, shooting, or discharge within the corporate limits of the City of West Point, of any air gun, pellet gun, or any similar weapon or thing that shoots a ball or pellet, shall be restricted to persons 21 years of age or older, unless the activity is performed under the direct supervision of a parent or other responsible adult.

Sec. 14-30. Slings, slingshots, blow guns, bow-and-arrows, etc.

It shall be unlawful for any person to shoot or discharge gravel, marbles, shot, arrows, or any other substance out of a sling, slingshot, blow gun, bow or any other device or instrument of like kind or character or whatever name known for any purpose whatever anywhere within the corporate limits of the City of West Point, Mississippi, except by a person engaged in a lawful hunting, sporting, or educational event with a standard bow and arrows or a compound bow and arrows. (Ord. Of 6/28/83, Book 27, Pg 179)

Section 14-31. Discharge of Firearms and Use of Bows for lawful hunting purposes.

- A. *Lawful hunting areas.* The discharge of firearms and use of bows and arrows within the City Limits shall be permitted in designated hunting areas which shall consist of five (5) acres or more of open land or five (5) acres or more of timberland within the city limits of West Point, Mississippi.
- B. *Type of Permitted Firearms/Bows.* In designated hunting areas, shotguns, smooth bore primitive weapons, standard bows, and compound bows only shall be permitted. No form of rifle, handgun, or crossbow shall be used for hunting in any area of the city.
- C. *Residential Areas.* No hunting shall be allowed within three hundred (300) yards of any occupied building, street, public way, park, school, church, commercial and/or residential developed area.
- D. *Hunting Seasons and Hours.* Discharge of firearms and use of bows for hunting purposes within the City Limits shall comply with applicable federal and state hunting laws in all respects, provided however, the discharge of firearms and use of bows within the City Limits for hunting purposes shall be prohibited from thirty minutes after sunset until thirty minutes before sunrise.

Sec. 14-32. Sale and Explosion of fireworks prohibited.

It shall be unlawful for any person to explode any firecracker, roman candle, dynamite or any other explosive substance for any purpose whatever anywhere within the corporate limits of the City of West Point, Mississippi except:

- (a) by a qualified fireworks professional engaged to conduct a public fireworks show and who has been issued a written permit approved by the Chief of the West Point Fire Department, or
- (b) by a qualified and properly licensed professional demolition expert in the performance of necessary demolition for which a written permit has been issued by the Chief of the West Point Fire Department.

It shall be unlawful for any person, partnership, firm or corporation to sell any description of firecrackers or fireworks or any other such commodities within the corporate limits of the City of West Point, Miss. (Ord. Of 6/28/83, Book 27, Pg. 179)

Sec. 14-33. Reserved.

Sec. 14-34. Weapons control.

(a) *Definition.* As used in this section the following terms shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates that a different meaning is intended:

1. *Dangerous weapon:* The term “dangerous weapon” includes but is not limited to: standard bow and arrows, compound bow and arrows, cross-bows, bowie knives, switch blade knives, metallic knuckles, blackjacks, or slingshots.

2. *Firearm:* “Firearm” means any device, by whatever name known, which is designed to expel a projectile by the action of an explosion, expansion of gas, or escape of gas; including, but not limited to a handgun, pistol, airgun, revolver, rifle or shotgun.

3. *Prohibition:* No person within the City Limits of West Point, Mississippi, shall possess a firearm or dangerous weapon at:

- A. A public park or at a public meeting of a county, city or other government body;
- B. A public or private school, college, or professional event, including, but not limited to, an athletic event, a concert, or other group assembly;
- C. Any political rally, parade, or public meeting;
- D. In or upon the premises of any financial institution; or
- E. In or upon the premises of any establishment which permits on-premises consumption of beer, wine, liquor, or other alcoholic beverages.

(b) *Exceptions; generally:* The prohibition in Section 3 hereinabove does not apply if the firearm was in or carried to and from an area designated for use in a lawful hunting, fishing, or other gun related sporting event, or certified firearm training facility and the firearm is the type commonly used in the activity.

(c) *Exceptions; peace officers, security guards, etc.* The prohibition in Section 3 hereinabove does not apply to peace officers, security guards, authorized employees, or authorized investigators.

Section 14-35. Carrying Concealed Weapons.

(a) Any person who carries concealed in whole or in part, any bowie knife, butcher knife, switchblade knife, metallic knuckles, blackjack, pistol, revolver, or any rifle with a barrel length of less than sixteen (16) inches in length, or any shotgun with a barrel length less than eighteen (18) inches in length, any machine gun or any full automatic firearm or other deadly weapon, or any muffler or silencer for any firearm, whether or not it is accompanied by a firearm shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor.

Sec. 14-36. Violations.

- (a) Any person who violates any of the provisions of this article shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

- (b) Every day any violation of any section of this article shall be continue shall constitute a separate offense. (Ord. Of 6/28/83, Book 27, Pg. 179)