

On **April 5, 2018**, the Noise Ordinance Task Force considered a proposed draft ordinance related to regulating noise from a non-decibel measurement standard. (see NON-DECIBEL STANDARD DRAFT FOR DISCUSSION April 5 2018). A motion was made by Glenn Higgins and seconded by Chip Councill to not include a non-decibel standard in the Task Force's recommendations. That motion failed, as the vote was 5 yeases and 5 nos, and a tie vote means that a measure fails under Roberts Rules of Order.

After further discussion, Leslie Steen moved for the adoption of Option 1, with the definition of Noise Disturbance as noted in Option A and Lee Waggoner seconded that motion. Several amendments were made to the proposed text. A vote was taken on the Motion as amended and the Motion passed by a 8-2 vote. Therefore, the Task Force will be recommending that the Council consider adoption of a Noise Ordinance with the following requirement:

General prohibitions. It shall be unlawful for any person or persons to make, continue or cause to be made a noise disturbance within the county after having been directed or ordered by an enforcement officer to desist in creating such disturbance, except as provided in this section. This standard is only applied if a noise meter is not readily available to an enforcement officer.

Definition:

NOISE DISTURBANCE

Sounds of sufficient volume, character and duration which unreasonably annoy, disturb, injure or endanger the comfort, health, safety, welfare, or environment of others, in the opinion of a Talbot County enforcement officer.

At their next meeting on April 12, 2018, the Task Force will consider a decibel standard and a copy of proposals for discussion was distributed at the meeting. (see DECIBEL STANDARD DRAFT FOR DISCUSSION APRIL 5 2018). In later meetings, the Task Force will consider provisions on specific types of noise, exemptions, where possible violations are measured, who enforces the proposed Ordinance, and what penalties are appropriate. The Task Force will submit a report to Council after all of these decisions are made. The Task Force made suggestions as follows for future drafts: (1) exemptions for agricultural operations, including timber harvesting and business that support same (such as grain elevators and saw mills), (2) inclusion of off road recreational vehicles (with the exception of vehicles used for farming and/or commercial use) and vehicles not in good repair, (3) exemptions for shooting and hunting and (4) provisions related to dramatic changes in the intensity of sound.