

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
JASPER COUNTY



ORDINANCE #O-2024-16

ORDINANCE OF JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL

AN ORDINANCE TO LEVY AND IMPOSE A ONE PERCENT SALES AND USE TAX, SUBJECT TO A REFERENDUM, WITHIN JASPER COUNTY PURSUANT TO SECTION 4-37-30 OF THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA 1976, AS AMENDED; TO DEFINE THE SPECIFIC PURPOSES AND DESIGNATE THE PROJECTS FOR WHICH THE PROCEEDS OF THE TAX MAY BE USED; TO PROVIDE THE MAXIMUM TIME FOR WHICH SUCH TAX MAY BE IMPOSED; TO PROVIDE THE ESTIMATED COST OF THE PROJECTS FUNDED FROM THE PROCEEDS OF THE TAX; TO PROVIDE FOR A COUNTY-WIDE REFERENDUM ON THE IMPOSITION OF THE SALES AND USE TAX AND THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS AND TO PRESCRIBE THE CONTENTS OF THE BALLOT QUESTIONS IN THE REFERENDUM; TO PROVIDE FOR THE CONDUCT OF THE REFERENDUM BY THE BOARD OF VOTER REGISTRATION AND ELECTIONS OF JASPER COUNTY; TO PROVIDE FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE TAX, IF APPROVED; TO PROVIDE FOR THE PAYMENT OF THE TAX, IF APPROVED; AND TO PROVIDE FOR OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF JASPER COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, IN MEETING DULY ASSEMBLED:

Section 1. Recitals and Legislative Findings. As an incident to the enactment of this Ordinance, the County Council of Jasper County, South Carolina (the "County Council") makes the following findings:

(a) The South Carolina General Assembly has enacted Section 4-37-30 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina 1976, as amended (the "Act"), pursuant to which the county governing body may impose by ordinance a sales and use tax in an amount not to exceed one percent, subject to the favorable results of a referendum, within the county area for a specific purpose or purposes and for a limited amount of time to collect a limited amount of money.

(b) Pursuant to the terms of Section 4-37-10 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina 1976, as amended, the South Carolina General Assembly has authorized county government to finance the costs of highways, roads, streets and bridges, greenbelt initiatives, and other transportation related projects either alone or in conjunction with other governmental entities. As a means to furthering the powers granted to the County under the provisions of Section 4-9-30 and Sections 6-21-10, *et. seq* of the Code of Laws of South Carolina 1976, as amended, the County Council is authorized to form a transportation authority or to enter into a partnership, consortium, or other contractual arrangement with one or more other governmental entities pursuant to Title 4,

Chapter 37 of the Code of Laws of the South Carolina 1976, as amended. The County Council has decided to provide funding for highways, roads, streets, bridges, greenbelts, and other transportation related projects without the complexity of a transportation authority or entering into a partnership, consortium, or other contractual arrangements with one or more other governmental entities at this time; provided that nothing herein shall preclude County Council from entering into partnerships, consortiums, or other contractual arrangements in the future. County Council may utilize such provisions in the future as necessary or convenient to promote the public purposes served by funding highways, roads, streets, bridges, greenbelts, and other transportation related facilities as provided in this Ordinance.

(c) The County Council finds that a one percent (1%) sales and use tax should be levied and imposed within Jasper County for the following projects and purposes (including use as the local match for other funds to finance):

(i) For financing the costs of highways, roads, streets, bridges, and other transportation-related projects and facilities related thereto, including, but not limited to, drainage facilities related to highways, roads, streets, bridges, and other transportation related projects; and

(ii) For financing the costs of greenbelt initiatives (including, but not limited to, purchasing property for conservation, purchasing conservation easements, creating passive greenspace, creating active greenspace, protecting natural resources, protecting agricultural or heritage landscapes, and protecting scenic corridors) (collectively with the above-described projects and facilities, the "Projects");

for a period not to exceed 15 years from the date of initial imposition of such tax, to fund the Projects at an estimated capital cost of \$470,000,000 to be funded from the net proceeds of a sales and use tax imposed in Jasper County pursuant to provisions of the Act, subject to approval of the qualified electors of Jasper County in referendum to be held on November 5, 2024. The imposition of the sales and use tax and the use of sales and use tax revenue, if approved in the referendum, shall be subject to the conditions precedent and conditions or restrictions on the use and expenditure of sales and use tax revenue established by the Act, the provisions of this Ordinance, and other applicable law. Subject to annual appropriations by County Council, sales and use tax revenues shall be used for the costs of the Projects established in this Ordinance, as it may be amended from time to time, including, without limitation, payment of administrative costs of the Projects, and such sums as may be required in connection with the issuance of bonds, the proceeds of which are applied to pay costs of the projects. All spending shall be subject to an annual independent audit to be made available to the public, and an advisory committee consisting of the County Council Chairperson, the Mayor of Hardeeville, the Mayor of the Town of Ridgeland and the Chairperson of the Jasper County School District, shall be formed and annually assess the projects proposed for construction, provide a recommendation to County Council for the ranking

of projects, and with the assistance of County staff, prepare a report of the progress on, and the status of each project for presentation to the local government councils. Any of the above listed committee members may designate an elected member of their council or board to serve in their stead.

(d) County Council finds that the imposition of a sales and use tax in Jasper County for the Projects and purposes defined in this Ordinance for a limited time not to exceed 15 (fifteen) years will serve a public purpose, provide funding for highways, roads, streets, bridges, greenbelts, and other transportation related projects, including, but not limited to, drainage facilities relating to the highways, roads, streets, bridges, and other transportation related projects, as provided in this Ordinance to facilitate economic development, promote public safety, provide needed infrastructure, promote desirable living conditions, enhance the quality of life in Jasper County, and promote public health and safety in the event of fire, emergency, and other dangers, and prepare the County Council to meet present and future needs of Jasper County and its citizens.

Section 2. Approval of Sales and Use Tax Subject to Referendum.

(a) A sales and use tax (the "Sales and Use Tax"), as authorized by the Act, is hereby imposed in Jasper County, South Carolina, subject to a favorable vote of a majority of the qualified electors voting in a referendum on the imposition of the tax to be held in Jasper County, South Carolina on November 5, 2024.

(b) The Sales and Use Tax shall be imposed for a period not to exceed fifteen (15) years from the date of imposition, ending on April 30, 2040.

(c) The estimated capital cost of the Projects to be funded from the proceeds of the Sales and Use Tax in the aggregate is the sum of \$470,000,000, and the maximum amount of net proceeds to be raised by the tax shall not exceed the greater of either the costs of the Projects or the cost to amortize all debts related to the Projects. The estimated principal amount of authorization of bonds to be issued to pay costs of the Projects and to be paid by all or a portion of the Sales and Use Tax is \$150,000,000. All proceeds of the Sale and Use Tax and any bonds payable therefrom shall be held by the County until County Council has approved the allocation and expenditure of funds for the Projects or portions of Projects as further identified below.

(d) The Sales and Use Tax shall be expended for the costs of the following described Projects, including payment of any sums as may be required for the issuance of and debt service for bonds, the proceeds of which are applied to pay costs of such Projects, for the following purposes:

(i) For financing the costs of highways, roads, streets, bridges, other transportation-related facilities and drainage facilities related thereto, and greenbelt initiatives (including, but not limited to, purchasing property for conservation, purchasing conservation easements, creating passive greenspace, creating active greenspace, protecting natural resources, protecting agricultural or heritage landscapes, and protecting scenic corridors), the following Projects at the estimated capital costs indicated, not to exceed in the aggregate \$470,000,000.00:

Projects and Estimated Capital Costs

S-442 (Argent Boulevard) (from US 278 to SC 170): 4-lane divided or 5-lane widening with multi-use paths on both sides for approximately 3.8 miles and would be coordinated with the SC 170 Widening and Access Management project (\$57,000,000).

US 278 Corridor Phase 1 (Beaufort County Line to Argent Blvd): 6-lane road widening for approximate 1 mile (\$15,000,000).

US 278 Corridor Phase 2 (Argent Blvd to I-95): 6-lane road widening for approximately 4.75 miles with two bridges (approx. 360 LF and 90 LF) (\$50,000,000).

SC 46/SC 170/SC 315 Intersection Improvements and Widening: assume 1 mile widening with intersection improvements at SC 46 and SC 170 to potentially combine into 1 intersection \$30,000,000).

US 17/US 321 Intersection Improvement: skewed intersection in Hardeeville and may contain complicated right of way acquisition, assumes existing bridge over railroad can remain (\$4,000,000).

US 17 Widening (SC 315 to SC 170): 4-lane divided widening for approximately 2 miles (\$24,000,000).

SC 315 Widening from SC 170/SC 46 intersection to US 17: 4-lane/5-lane widening for approximately 6 miles (\$41,500,000).

SC 336 Intersection Improvements (Grahamville Rd to SC 336): potential realignment of SC 336 for approximately 0.3 mile and potential for complicated R/W acquisition: (\$5,000,000).

I-95 Exit 18 Interchange with US 17, Bees Creek Road, and Glover Road Improvements: Upgraded interchange included with SCDOT I-95 project from MM 8 to MM 21. Project would include road improvements to US 17, Bees Creek Road, and Glover Road (\$12,000,000).

I-95 Exit 22 Connector (US 278 to Bees Creek Road): new road with potential new bridge over I-95, dependent upon alignment and SCDOT's improvements for Exit 22 for approximate 3 miles: (\$36,000,000).

Glover Road (Bees Creek Road (S-13) to SC 462): Dirt road and paved road improvement – assume 2 lanes with R/W purchase for future widening (\$26,000,000).

US 278/SC 652 (Calf Pen Bay Road) Intersection Improvement: A traditional intersection improvement on US 278 has been installed with left turn lane and right turn onto SC 652, but improvements were not incorporated on SC 652. Turn lanes with improved intersection realignment should be considered or a roundabout should be installed as this could be a key intersection for traffic calming for entrance to Ridgeland: (\$2,000,000).

SC 462 (SC 170 to Snake Road): 4-lane divided or 5-lane widening for approximately 3 miles and safety improvements for approximately 5 miles (\$56,000,000).

US 17/Mackay Point Road Intersection: Realignment of S-27-37 to eliminate skewed intersection with Mackay Point Road and may involve improved access management on US 17, dependent on coordination with SCDOT, assume 0.6 mile realignment and intersection improvement: (\$5,000,000).

US 321/SC 336 Intersection Improvement: skewed intersection in Tillman (\$2,500,000).

Reconstruction of Levy Road: (\$10,000,000).

Greenbelt Initiatives: \$94,000,000 for financing greenbelt initiatives (including but not limited to, purchasing property for conservation, purchasing conservation easements, creating passive greenspace, creating active greenspace, protecting natural resources, protecting agricultural or heritage landscapes, and protecting scenic corridors).

2.4 The Sales and Use Tax shall be expended for financing (including use as the local match for other funds to finance) the costs of highways, roads, streets, bridges, greenbelts, and other transportation-related projects facilities, and drainage facilities related thereto, including payment of any sums as may be required for the issuance of and debt service for bonds, the proceeds of which are applied to such projects.

2.5 If the Sales and Use Tax is approved by a majority of the qualified electors voting in a referendum to be held in Jasper County on November 5, 2024, the tax is to be imposed on the first day of May, 2025, provided the Board of Voter Registration and Elections of Jasper County shall certify the results not later than November 30, 2024, to Jasper County Council and the South Carolina Department of Revenue. Included in the certification must be the maximum cost of the Projects to be funded in whole or in part from the proceeds of the tax, the maximum time specified for the imposition of the tax, and the principal amount of initial authorization of bonds, if any, to be supported by a portion of the tax.

2.6 The Sales and Use Tax, if approved in the referendum conducted on November 5, 2024, shall terminate on the earlier of:

- (1) on April 30, 2040; or
- (2) the end of the calendar month during which the Department of Revenue determines that the tax has raised revenues sufficient to provide the greater of either the costs of the Projects as approved in the referendum or the cost to amortize all debts related to the approved Projects.

2.7 Amounts of Sales and Use Tax collected in excess of the required proceeds must first be applied, if necessary, to complete each Project for which the tax was imposed. Any

additional revenue collected above the specified amount must be applied to the reduction of debt principal of Jasper County on transportation infrastructure debts only.

2.8 The Sales and Use Tax must be administered and collected by the South Carolina Department of Revenue in the same manner that other sales and use taxes are collected. The Department may prescribe amounts that may be added to the sales price because of the tax.

2.9 The Sales and Use Tax is in addition to all other local sales and use taxes and applies to the gross proceeds of sales in the applicable area that is subject to the tax imposed by Chapter 36 of Title 12 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina, and the enforcement provisions of Chapter 54 of Title 12 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina. The gross proceeds of the sale of items subject to a maximum tax in Chapter 36 of Title 12 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina are exempt from the tax imposed by this Ordinance. The gross proceeds of the sale of food lawfully purchased with United States Department of Agriculture Food Stamps are exempt from the tax imposed by this Ordinance. The tax imposed by this Ordinance also applies to tangible property subject to the use tax in Article 13, Chapter 36 of Title 12 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina.

2.10 Taxpayers required to remit taxes under Article 13, Chapter 36 of Title 12 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina must identify the county in which the personal property purchased at retail is stored, used, or consumed in this State.

2.11 Utilities are required to report sales in the county in which the consumption of the tangible personal property occurs.

2.12 A taxpayer subject to the tax imposed by §12-36-920 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina 1976, as amended, who owns or manages rental units in more than one county must report separately in his sales tax return the total gross proceeds from business done in each county.

2.13 The gross proceeds of sales of tangible personal property delivered after the imposition date of the Sales and Use Tax, either under the terms of a construction contract executed before the imposition date, or written bid submitted before the imposition date, culminating in a construction contract entered into before or after the imposition date, are exempt from the sales and use tax provided in this ordinance if a verified copy of the contract is filed with Department of Revenue within six months after the imposition date of the sales and use tax provided for in this Ordinance.

2.14 Notwithstanding the imposition date of the Sales and Use Tax with respect to services that are billed regularly on a monthly basis, the sales and use tax authorized pursuant to this ordinance is imposed beginning on the first day of the billing period beginning on or after the imposition date.

Section 3. Remission of Sales and Use Tax; Segregation of Funds; Administration of Funds; Distribution to Counties: Confidentially.

3.1 The revenues of the Sales and Use Tax collected under this Ordinance must be remitted to the State Treasurer and credited to a fund separate and distinct from the general fund

of the State. After deducting the amount of any refunds made and costs to the Department of Revenue of administering the tax, not to exceed one percent of such revenues, the State Treasurer shall distribute the revenues and all interest earned on the revenues on deposit with him quarterly to the Jasper County Treasurer and the revenues and interest earnings must be used only for the purposes stated herein. The State Treasurer may correct misallocations by adjusting later distributions, but these adjustments must be made in the same fiscal year as the misallocation. However, allocations made as a result of city or county code errors must be corrected prospectively.

3.2 The Department of Revenue shall furnish data to the State Treasurer and to the Jasper County Treasurer for the purpose of calculating distributions and estimating revenues. The information which must be supplied to the County upon request includes, but is not limited to, gross receipts, net taxable sales, and tax liability by taxpayers.

Section 4. Sales and Use Tax Referendum; Ballot Question.

4.1 The Board of Voter Registration and Elections of Jasper County shall conduct a referendum on the question of imposing the Sales and Use Tax in the area of Jasper County on Tuesday, November 5, 2024, between the hours of 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. under the election laws of the State of South Carolina, mutatis mutandis. The Board of Voter Registration and Elections of Jasper County shall publish the date and purpose of the referendum once a week for four consecutive weeks immediately preceding the date of the referendum in a newspaper of general circulation in Jasper County, and shall publish such additional election and other notices as are required by law.

4.2 The referendum question to be on the ballot of the referendum to be held in Jasper County on November 5, 2024, must read substantially as follows:

JASPER COUNTY SPECIAL SALES AND USE TAX

QUESTION 1

I approve a special sales and use tax in the amount of one percent (1%) to be imposed in Jasper County for not more than fifteen (15) years to fund the following projects:

Projects: Project (1) Using eighty percent (80%) of the referenced tax financing the costs of highways, roads, streets, bridges, and other transportation-related projects, including drainage facilities related thereto: \$376,000,000.

Project (2) Using twenty percent (20%) of the referenced tax for financing the costs of greenbelt projects (including but not limited to, purchasing property for conservation, purchasing conservation easements, creating passive greenspace, creating active greenspace, protecting natural resources, protecting agricultural or heritage landscapes, and protecting scenic corridors): \$94,000,000.

YES _____

NO _____

Instructions to Voters: All qualified electors desiring to vote in favor of levying the special sales and use tax shall vote "YES;" and

All qualified electors opposed to levying the special sales and use tax shall vote "NO."

QUESTION 2

I approve the issuance of not exceeding \$150,000,000 of general obligation bonds of Jasper County, payable from the special sales and use tax described in Question 1 above, maturing over a period not to exceed 15 years, to fund any of the projects from among the categories described in Question 1 above.

YES _____

NO _____

Instructions to Voters: All qualified electors desiring to vote in favor of the issuance of bonds for the stated purposes shall vote "YES;" and

All qualified electors opposed to the issuance of bonds for the stated purposes shall vote "NO."

4.3 In the referendum on the imposition of a special sales and use tax in Jasper County, all qualified electors desiring to vote in favor of imposing the tax for the stated purposes shall vote "yes" and all qualified electors opposed to levying the tax shall vote "no". If a majority of the

electors voting in the referendum shall vote in favor of imposing the tax, then the tax is imposed as provided in the Act and this Ordinance. Expenses of the referendum must be paid by Jasper County government.

4.4 In the referendum on the issuance of bonds, all qualified electors desiring to vote in favor of the issuance of bonds for the stated purpose shall vote "yes" and all qualified electors opposed to the issuance of bonds shall vote "no". If a majority of the electors voting in the referendum shall vote in favor of the issuance of bonds, then the issuance of bonds shall be authorized in accordance with S.C. Constitution Article X, Section 14, Paragraph (6). Expenses of the referendum must be paid by Jasper County government.

Section 5. Imposition of Tax Subject to Referendum.

The imposition of the Sales and Use Tax in Jasper County is subject in all respects to the favorable vote of a majority of qualified electors casting votes in a referendum on the question of imposing a sales and use tax in the area of Jasper County in a referendum to be conducted by the Board of Voter Registration and Elections of Jasper County on November 5, 2024, and the favorable vote of a majority of the qualified electors voting in such referendum shall be a condition precedent to the imposition of a sales and use tax pursuant to the provisions of this Ordinance.

Section 6. Miscellaneous.

(a) If any one or more of the provisions or portions hereof are determined by a court of competent jurisdiction to be contrary to law, then that provision or portion shall be deemed severable from the remaining terms or portions hereof and the invalidity thereof shall in no way affect the validity of the other provisions of this Ordinance; if any provisions of this Ordinance shall be held or deemed to be or shall, in fact, be inoperative or unenforceable or invalid as applied to any particular case in any jurisdiction or in all cases because it conflicts with any constitution or statute or rule of public policy, or for any other reason, those circumstances shall not have the effect of rendering the provision in question inoperative or unenforceable or invalid in any other case or circumstance, or of rendering any other provision or provisions herein contained inoperative or unenforceable or invalid to any extent whatever; provided, however, that the Sales and Use Tax may not be imposed without the favorable results of the referendum to be held on November 5, 2024.

(b) This Ordinance shall be construed and interpreted in accordance with the laws of the State of South Carolina, and all suits and actions arising out of or with respect to this Ordinance shall be instituted only in a court of competent jurisdiction in the State of South Carolina.

(c) The headings or titles of the several sections hereof shall be solely for convenience of reference and shall not affect the meaning, construction, interpretation, or effect of this Ordinance.

(d) This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon approval following third reading.

(e) All previous ordinances regarding the same subject matter as this Ordinance are hereby repealed.

ENACTED THIS 24th DAY OF July, 2024.

(SEAL)



JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL

L. Martin Sauls, IV
L. Martin Sauls, IV, Chairman

Wanda H. Giles
Wanda H. Giles, Clerk of Council

First Reading:	May 6, 2024
Second Reading:	July 15, 2024
Public Reading:	June 24, 2024
Continuation of Public Hearing:	July 15, 2024
Third Reading:	July 24, 2024

Reviewed for form and draftsmanship by the Jasper County Attorney.

David L. Tedder Date: July 24, 2024