

AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE LEVY OF TAXES FOR THE CITY OF LAURENS FOR FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2024 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2025; IMPOSING CERTAIN FEES AND CHARGES WITHIN SUCH BUDGET; TO PROVIDE FOR EXECUTION OF AND TO PUT INTO EFFECT THE CONSOLIDATED BUDGET; AND TO PROVIDE BUDGETARY CONTROL OF THE CITY'S FISCAL AFFAIRS; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO

WHEREAS, the City of Laurens, South Carolina (the "City") is a municipal corporation of the State of South Carolina (the "State"), located in Laurens County, South Carolina (the "County") and as such possesses all general powers granted by the South Carolina Constitution (1895, as amended) and statutes of the State to municipal corporations; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Sections 5-9-10 *et seq.* of the Code of Laws of South Carolina 1976, as amended (the "SC Code") and Section 2-1 of the City's code of ordinances, the City operates under the mayor-council form of government, with a mayor and ~~Six~~ council members serving as the governing body of the City (the "City Council"); and

WHEREAS, Section 5-9-40 of the SC Code requires that the City Council shall adopt a budget for each fiscal year (July 1 – June 30) ("Fiscal Year") and determine the tax levy for the new budget year; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Section 5-9-30(5) of the SC Code, the Mayor has prepared and presented Fiscal Year 2024-2025 budget (the "Budget"), and a copy of the entire Budget is available for inspection at City Hall, and

WHEREAS, prior to the adoption of the Budget, the City Council is required to hold public hearings on the Budget and the imposition of any new fees resulting therefrom as required pursuant Sections 6-1-80, and 6-1-330 of the SC Code; and

WHEREAS, heretofore, and acting pursuant to the various authorizations described in the foregoing recital, the City Council, after due and proper notice, held public hearings on June 18, 2024 on the adoption of the Budget and the various fees and charges implemented or amended hereunder; the hearings were conducted publicly and both proponents and opponents of the proposed actions of City Council were given the full opportunity to be heard; and

WHEREAS, subject to the limitations in Section 6-1-320 of the SC Code, City Council is authorized to increase the millage rate imposed for general operating purposes; and

WHEREAS, Section 6-1-330 of the SC Code authorizes City Council to charge and collect new service and user fees after public notice and hearing (as noted and recited above); and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and the council members of the City of Laurens, South Carolina, in a meeting duly assembled, as follows:

SECTION 1. TAX LEVY

The City Council hereby appropriates the funds as detailed in Sections 3 and 4 of this Ordinance. Further, the City Council hereby establishes the millage rates as detailed in Section 2 of this Ordinance. However, as of the date of this Ordinance, the millage rates are based on estimated assessments received from the Laurens County Auditor (the "Auditor") and are subject to change based on final assessment figures, once received from the Auditor. The City Council reserves the right to modify these millage rates by resolution at a future meeting based upon the final assessment figures from the Auditor, and any such modification shall constitute the millage to be levied by the County on behalf of the City.

SECTION 2. MILLAGE; TAX COLLECTION

A. The Auditor is hereby authorized and directed to levy the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 tax of 123.5 mills on the dollar of assessed value of property within the City limits, in accordance with the laws of South Carolina. These taxes shall be collected by the Laurens County Treasurer (the "Treasurer"), as provided by law and distributed in accordance with the provisions of this Ordinance and subsequent appropriations hereafter passed by the City Council. The total millage levy in the City shall be 123.5 mills, which includes 123.5 mills for operations and 0 mills for debt service.

B. A copy of this Ordinance and the Budget shall be made available to the County in order to properly order the levy and collection of *ad valorem* property taxes. Additionally, the Mayor shall be authorized to make the millage certification to the County Auditor required by Section 12-43-285 of the SC Code.

C. Consistent with State law, the date of payment, penalty dates and amount of penalties which shall be levied for delinquent taxes shall be as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Penalty Assessed</u>
After January 15, 2025	3%
After February 1, 2025	Additional 7%
After March 16, 2025	Additional 5%
After April 1, 2025	\$25.00 Delinquent Charge
After September 1, 2025	\$100.00 Delinquent Charge

D. The Mayor, acting in concert with the proper officials of the County, shall be responsible for the collection of delinquent taxes, penalties and other charges.

SECTION 3. BUDGET

The Budget, with proposed revenue for payment thereof, as prepared and as contained in an archived copy on file in the office of the city clerk, and available for public inspection, which

copy is incorporated herein by reference, is adopted and made a part hereof. The Budget, as shown attached as Exhibit A and incorporated herein, is balanced as to receipts and disbursements in the total sum of \$9,750,476. The Budget, as presented, sets forth the necessary revenues and expenditures for the various purposes described therein and shall govern the appropriation of the City's funds during the 2025 Fiscal Year.

SECTION 4. FEES, TAXES AND OTHER CHARGES.

A. That the Budget imposes various fees and charges, generally including general fees and charges, recreation fees and rentals, street and sanitation fees, police service fees, fire service fees, planning/development fees and other miscellaneous fees and charges that will be effective on or after July 1, 2024. Copies of all fees have been incorporated into the Budget, and a schedule of such fees is attached hereto as Exhibit B.

B. That the Budget appropriates sufficient revenues for licenses, permits, state aid, and fines, and a portion of the fees and charges imposed by the City will be levied by the Auditor, collected by the Treasurer and remitted to the City in accordance with that certain collections agreement now in effective between the parties.

C. That the Budget appropriates sufficient revenues to fund the City's capital program. The capital program shall be funded from the issuance of debt and other sources made available for pay-as-you-go financing by the City. Capital project appropriations shall not lapse on June 30, 2024, but each project appropriation shall remain in force for the life of the project and shall be closed out upon completion or other disposition of the project in the capital project fund.

SECTION 5. BUDGETARY ACCOUNT BREAKOUT

The foregoing City operation appropriations have been detailed by the City Council into line-item accounts for each department. The detailed appropriation by account and budget narrative contained separately is hereby enacted as part of this Ordinance.

SECTION 6. ADMINISTRATION OF THE BUDGET

The Mayor or his designee shall administer the Budget and may authorize the transfer of appropriations within the allotments heretofore established and necessary to achieve the goals of the Budget; provided, however, that no such transfer shall be used to increase the total appropriation within any fund.

SECTION 7. AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO CONTRACTS

The Mayor is authorized to enter into City contracts if the total contract amount is less than or equal to the budget line item or project budget as approved by the City Council under the terms of the Budget.

SECTION 8. ALLOCATION OF FUNDS

The Mayor is responsible for controlling the rate of expenditure of budgeted funds in order to assure that expenditures do not exceed funds on hand. To carry out this responsibility, the Mayor is authorized to allocate budgeted funds.

SECTION 9. TRANSFERS VALIDATED

All duly authorized transfers of funds heretofore made from one account to another, or from one fund to another during Fiscal Year 2025, are hereby approved.

SECTION 10. RATIFICATION OF FINDINGS; ACTIONS.

The City Council ratifies and approves the findings of fact recited above. Further, all actions of the Mayor and other City staff regarding the public hearings and drafting, execution and delivery of the Budget are ratified, approved and confirmed. Further, the Mayor and City staff, particularly including the City Administrator, shall be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the provisions of the Budget.

SECTION 11. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Ordinance shall be effective on July 1, 2024. Approved and enacted on the second and final reading this 18th day of June 2024.

DONE AND ENACTED IN COUNCIL ASSEMBLED, this 18th day of June 2024.

CITY OF LAURENS, SOUTH CAROLINA


Mayor

[SEAL]

ATTEST:


City Clerk

First Reading:	May 28, 2024
Public Hearings:	June 18, 2024
Second Reading:	June 18, 2024

EXHIBIT A

COPY OF BUDGET

EXHIBIT B

SCHEDULE OF FEES

FY 2024-2025

FEE SCHEDULE

General Fees Charged by All Departments

Main Street Fee - (Billed on TAX BILL)	\$20/Year Election Filing Fee
Council Member	\$100
Mayor	\$150
Notary Fee	\$10
FOIA	
Initial Deposit	25%
Estimated Costs	
Search/Retrieval/Redaction/Copying	\$25/HR
Postage/Shipping	At Cost
Paper Records - Black/White	10 Cents/Page
Paper Records - Color	25 Cents/Page
Paper Records, Legal Size – Color	50 Cents/Page
Paper Records, Ledger Size - Black/White	50 Cents/Page
Paper Records, Ledger Size - Color	75 Cents/Page
Electronic, Optical, or Magnetic Media	\$17/Hour
Returned Check Fee	\$35
Refund Processing Fee	\$10

RECREATION & RENTALS

Youth Sports

Football	\$70
Cheer leading	\$70
Baseball	\$70
Basketball	\$50
Volleyball	\$50

Rentals

Little River Park	\$40 for 2 Hours
Athletic Field	\$250 Per Day
Field Lights (Add-on)	\$25 Per Hour
Ridge (Multipurpose Room)	\$80 Per Hour
Ridge (Whole Building)	\$150 Per Hour
Ridge (Whole Building)	\$1250 Per Day
Municipal Training Room	\$80 Per Hour
Base Vendor Fees Art/Craft Vendors	\$80
Food Vendors	\$125
Non- Profits	\$35

Christmas Market Fees (Single Day)

Art/Craft Vendors	\$65
Food Vendors	\$75

Christmas Market Fees (Full Weekend)

Art/Craft Vendors	\$100
Food Vendors	\$125

STREETS & SANITATION

Public Works Fee - (Billed on TAX BILL)	\$168/Year
Vehicle Fee - (Billed on TAX BILL)	\$30/Year
New Trash Container Fee	\$80
Second Trash Container Service Fee	96/Year

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Police Officer Security	\$45/Hour
Fingerprints	\$10
Police & Accident Reports (Research Fee)	\$25/Hour
Towing Fees	\$225
False Alarm Fee - After 3rd & Subsequent Quarter	\$200
Traffic Action Program	\$100/Class
Alarm Registration Fees (Annually) Residential	\$10
Commercial	\$20
Failure to Register Alarm	\$500
Pet Registration Fees Annually (Per Pet)	\$10
Annually Per Household for 3 or More	\$25
Failure to Register	\$200

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Report	\$5
Burn Permit	\$250
Fire Inspections Commercial	\$50
Mobile Food Vendor	\$25
False Alarm Fee - After 3rd & Subsequent Quarter	\$200
Fire Watch/Manpower	\$40 Per Hour
Fire Watch with Apparatus (Includes 2 Firefighters)	\$385 Per Hour
Incident Response Fee (Collected by Innova Pad): Heavy Apparatus	\$305/Hour
Light Apparatus	\$225/Hour
Command Staff Vehicles	\$195/Hour
Extrication (Without use of Hydraulic Tools)	\$835
Extrication (With use of Hydraulic Tools)	\$2015
Landing Zone (Without Extrication Services)	\$1025
Consumable Materials/Damaged Equipment Level	1/MVA Flat Rate
Fire/Hazmat Flat Rate	\$2335

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

Zoning Verification Letter	\$25
Zoning Appeal	\$250
Special Exception	\$100
Zoning Variance	\$100
Rezoning Application	\$300
Historic Preservation Application	\$50
Encroachment on a City Road	\$75
Grading	\$75
Demolition	\$75
Preliminary Plat	\$200
Final Plat	\$75
Residential Certificates of Occupancy	\$30
Commercial Certificates of Occupancy	\$60
Plan Review Commercial	1/2 the Building Permit
Residential	1/2 the Building Permit
Annexation 0-5 Acres	\$100
5.01-10 Acres	\$250
Above 10 Acres	\$500

Work Performed without a Permit:

Permit fees shall be doubled for any work that is started prior to obtaining a permit. Payment of this fee shall not relieve any persons from fully complying with the requirement of the adopted codes in the execution of the work nor from any other penalties prescribed herein.

Building, Electrical, Mechanical, Plumbing, Fencing, & Commercial Signs Permits:

Unit	Rate	Base Amount
1000	0.00	\$40.00
50000	5.75	\$40.00
100000	4.60	\$321.75
500000	3.45	\$551.75
501000+	2.30	\$1,996.25