

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
COUNTY OF OCONEE)
CITY OF WALHALLA)

ORDINANCE 2025-05

AN ORDINANCE TO RAISE REVENUE AND ADOPT A BUDGET FOR GENERAL, WATER, SEWER AND HOSPITALITY FUNDS, HEREIN KNOWN AS THE “CITY OF WALHALLA: BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2025 – JUNE 30, 2026”, AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO.

WHEREAS, pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. §5-9-40 the City Council shall adopt an annual budget for the operation of the City and capital improvements for Fiscal Year July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026; and,

WHEREAS, Council has carefully studied and examined the financial needs for operations for the coming fiscal year after discussions with the City department heads and the City Administrator; and,

WHEREAS, having considered the budget requests for the coming fiscal year and having determined that it is in the best interests of the taxpayers of the City to adopt a comprehensive budget; and,

WHEREAS, the annual budget shall be based upon estimated revenues and shall provide appropriations for City operations and debt service for all departments; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. §6-1-80 the City has provided notice to the public by advertising the public hearing before the adoption of the budget for the next fiscal year in a newspaper of general circulation in the area, given not less than fifteen days in advance of the public hearing in the form as prescribed by law; and,

WHEREAS, after a public hearing and receiving public comment the City Council finds that the attached FY July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026 budget should be adopted;

BE IT ORDAINED by the governing body of the City of Walhalla in Council duly assembled, as follows:

ARTICLE I – Adoption of Budget

SECTION 1. That the budget document entitled: “City of Walhalla: Budget for Fiscal Year July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026” is hereby adopted and incorporated herein by reference, Exhibit A;

1.1. The prepared general fund budget and the estimated revenue for the payment of same are hereby adopted and is made part hereof as fully as if incorporated herein and a copy thereof is hereto attached and also be known as the current approved fiscal year budget document;

1.2. The millage rate for FY 2025-2026 includes a 2% increase from FY 2024-2025 to ninety-one (91) mills on assessed value of all real estate and personal property owned and used in the City of Walhalla, except that which is exempt pursuant to South Carolina law, is levied and shall be paid to the City Treasury improvements, and current expenses of the City;

1.3. The Oconee County Auditor’s Office shall levy an ad valorem tax on all taxable property owned and used in the City of Walhalla, South Carolina, except such as may be exempt from taxation under the Constitution and laws of the state of South Carolina. The tax shall be collected and paid into the treasury of Oconee County for credit to the City of Walhalla;

1.4. That the prepared water and sewer budget and the estimated revenue for the payment of same, are hereby adopted and is made part hereof as fully as if incorporated herein and a copy thereof is hereto attached and also known as the current approved fiscal year budget document;

1.5. All enterprise funds will be self-supporting. The City will establish all user charges fees at a level related to the full costs (for example, operating, direct, indirect, and capital) of providing the applicable service. The City will review these fees and charges annually in the budget process and target rates that meet the cost to provide the applicable service. The City is mindful of the matters considered by the South Carolina Supreme Court in *Azar v. City of Columbia*, 414 S.C. 307 (2015), and the use of enterprise funds (a) for related costs as contemplated by South Carolina Code Annotated section 6-1-330, and/or (b) as surplus funds as contemplated by South Carolina Annotated section 6-21-440. The City considers such matters in determining whether and, if so, the amount (if any) of a particular enterprise fund to transfer to the general fund. As a result, any (if any) such enterprise fund transfer contained in this Ordinance, follows the City’s review of such matters and the City’s determination that such transfer constitutes a lawful transfer of enterprise funds for related costs and/or surplus funds.

1.6. City of Walhalla will collect and remit fees set by Oconee Joint Regional Sewer;

1.7. That a 2% hospitality tax will be collected for the period of July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026 and will be used for the sole purpose of promoting tourism and/or tourism related activities;

1.8. Funds appropriated herein are to be expended only in compliance with policies adopted by City Council or, at City Council’s direction, as formulated and implemented by the City Administrator, either existing or adopted;

1.9. City Council reserves the right to amend any appropriation contained herein;

1.10. Appropriations for capital expenditure or bond issuance costs or for the payment of annual installments of capitalized interest according to a predetermined schedule are made in related Bond Ordinances. Nothing in this ordinance shall modify or amend the terms of any Bond Ordinance;

1.11. Funds sufficient to cover all fiscal year ending June 30, 2026 budget items encumbered but unpaid at the close of fiscal year ending June 30, 2026 shall be carried forward from the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027 budget to the succeeding budget to meet such lawful obligations of the City of Walhalla;

1.12. The City Administrator will monitor the financial condition of the city and estimate present and future financial needs;

1.13. Department heads will be accountable for the implementing department budgets in a manner that accomplishes the programs and objectives for which the budgets were authorized and ensuring that their respective budgets stay within the prescribed funding levels.;

1.14. Special Revenue Funds are used to account for and report the proceeds of specific revenue sources that are restricted or committed to expenditure for specified purposes other than debt service or capital projects. Expenditures in these funds are strictly limited to the mandates of the funding source. Special Revenue Funds are not to be used to subsidize other funds, except as required or permitted by program regulations;

1.15. The City will prepare and maintain a Capital Improvement Program and designate said funds for the implementation of capital projects. Capital assets shall be purchased and maintained on a regular schedule. An amount determined annually by council shall be deposited into the Capital Improvement Fund from general appropriations.

Section 2. Authorization.

2.1. The City Administrator, and the City Clerk/Finance Director, for and on behalf of the City, acting jointly or individually, are fully empowered and authorized to take such further action as may be reasonably necessary to effect the changes authorized by this Ordinance in accordance with the conditions herein set forth.

Section 3. Severability.

3.1. The provisions of this Ordinance are hereby declared to be severable and if any section, phrase or provision shall for any reason be declared by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or unenforceable, such declaration shall not affect the validity of the remainder of the sections, phrases and provisions hereunder.

3.2. Repeal of Conflicting Ordinance. All ordinances, orders, resolutions and parts thereof in conflict herewith are, to the extent of such conflict, hereby repealed and this Ordinance shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

3.3. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this ordinance is, for any reason, held to be unconstitutional, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance.

3.4. This ordinance and the rules, regulations, provisions, requirements, orders and matters established and adopted hereby shall take effect and be in full force and effect from and after the date of its final passage and adoption as set forth here.

DONE AND RATIFIED in Council Duly assembled this 17 Day of June 2025.



Tim Hall, Mayor

(seal)

ATTEST:



Celia Boyd Myers, City Administrator

Introduced By: Mr. Kenny Johns

First Reading: May 20, 2025

Public Hearing,
Second Reading
And Adoption: June 17, 2025