

A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A PUBLIC HEARING TO BE HELD UPON THE QUESTION AMENDING THE PICKENS COUNTY FISCAL YEAR 2021-22 BUDGET; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO.

**WHEREAS**, the County Council of Pickens County (the "**County Council**"), which is the governing body of Pickens County, South Carolina (the "**County**") is empowered pursuant to Title 4, Chapter 19 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina 1976, as amended (the "**Enabling Act**"), "[t]o establish, operate, and maintain a system of fire protection" within the County;

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the Enabling Act and Ordinance No. 404 dated June 16, 2008, as amended by Ordinance No. 405 dated August 18, 2008, and Ordinance No. 571 dated June 17, 2019, the County previously established thirteen separate fire service areas within the County (collectively, the "**Fire Districts**");

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Ordinance No. 509 dated November 2, 2020, ten of the Fire Districts—those that imposed fees or charges for fire service within their respective service areas in lieu of ad valorem taxes—were consolidated into the Pickens Area Fire Protection District (the "**Original Pickens Fire District**");

**WHEREAS**, after such consolidation, in addition to the Original Pickens Fire District, three of the original Fire Districts currently exist in the County: Shady Grove Rural Area Fire Protection District, Vineyards Fire Protection District, and Springs Fire Protection District (collectively, the "**Millage Fire Districts**"), each of which levies *ad valorem* property taxes to fund fire service within their respective service areas;

**WHEREAS**, the County seeks to restructure the organization of fire services in the County by unifying the Original Pickens Fire District and the Millage Fire Districts into a single, unified fire service area under the Enabling Act (the "**Consolidation**") through the enactment of a new ordinance being considered by County Council (the "**Consolidation Ordinance**").

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to State law and Ordinance No. 599 dated June 14, 2021, the County Council previously enacted a budget for fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 (the "**Budget**");

**WHEREAS**, as of the date hereof, there is currently outstanding \$20,000 of the original principal amount \$197,000 General Obligation Bond (Vineyards Fire Protection District), Series 2008B (the "**Outstanding GO Bond**") maturing on April 1, 2023;

**WHEREAS**, the Outstanding GO Bond was issued for the benefit of one of the Millage Fire Districts, particularly Vineyards Fire Protection District, and is subject to optional redemption prior to maturity;

**WHEREAS**, as a result of the Consolidation, the County Council is considering whether to redeem the Outstanding GO Bond prior to the end of the current fiscal year (ending June 30, 2022);

**WHEREAS**, the funds necessary to pay to redeem the outstanding principal and accrued interest on the Outstanding GO Bond as of on June 30, 2022 are not currently budgeted in the Budget and will require the County to amend such budget (the "**Budget Amendment**") to duly and properly authorize an appropriation for such purpose.

**WHEREAS**, prior to the adoption of this resolution, County Council considered a resolution entitled, "A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS TO BE HELD UPON THE QUESTIONS OF: (1) CONSOLIDATING EXISTING FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICTS THROUGH THE CREATION OF A SINGLE UNIFIED COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT, AND (2) AMENDING THE PICKENS COUNTY FISCAL YEAR 2021-22 BUDGET; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO" (the "**Original Resolution**");

**WHEREAS**, in lieu of adopting the Original Resolution, the County Council determined to split the public hearings for the Consolidation, and the Budget Amendment and authorized separate approval resolutions therefor;

**WHEREAS**, in light of such action, this resolution was authorized to independently approve the public hearing for the Budget Amendment.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the County Council in a meeting duly assembled as follows:

**Section 1** A Public hearing shall be held on the Budget Amendment in the County Administration Building (County Council Chambers) located at 222 McDaniel Avenue, Pickens, South Carolina 29671, on June 6, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. (or as soon thereafter as time permits), and the notice of such hearing attached hereto as Exhibit A shall be published one time and not less than fifteen days in advance of the final action on the Consolidation Ordinance, in the *The Sentinel-Progress*, which is a newspaper of general circulation in the County.

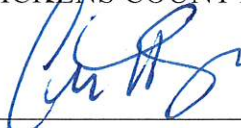
**Section 2** The aforesaid public hearing shall be conducted publicly at the time and place above stated and both proponents and opponents of the Budget Amendment shall be given a full opportunity to be heard in person or by counsel during each applicable hearing.

**Section 3** Following the aforesaid public hearing, the County Council shall determine whether and to what extent the Budget Amendment shall occur.

**Section 4** The Chairman of the County Council and/or the County Administrator of the County are hereby authorized and empowered to take all necessary action to provide for the holding of the aforesaid public hearing.

DONE AT PICKENS, SOUTH CAROLINA, this 2nd day of May 2022.

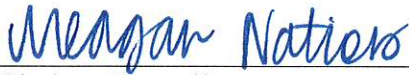
PICKENS COUNTY COUNCIL



\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

(SEAL)

ATTEST:



\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk to Council

Exhibit A

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The County Council of Pickens County (hereinafter the “County Council”), which is the governing body of Pickens County, South Carolina (the “County”), is considering the enactment of an ordinance (the “Consolidation Ordinance”) entitled: “AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE UNIFORM ORDINANCE FOR FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICTS (AS PREVIOUSLY ENACTED BY ORDINANCE NO. 404, AS AMENDED BY ORDINANCE NO. 405, ORDINANCE NO. 571, AND ORDINANCE NO. 509) TO CONSOLIDATE THE EXISTING FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICTS INTO A SINGLE UNIFIED FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT; AUTHORIZING AN AMENDMENT TO THE COUNTY’S FISCAL YEAR 2021-22 BUDGET; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO” As required by Section 6-1-80 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina 1976, as amended, you are advised that a public hearing will be held in the Pickens County Administration Facility (County Council Chambers) located at 222 McDaniel Avenue, Pickens, South Carolina, 29671, on June 6, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. (or as soon thereafter as time permits) on the question the Budget Amendment (as defined herein). All interested persons will be given an opportunity to be heard and express their views at the public hearings. A copy of the Consolidation Ordinance is available for review at the County’s administrative facility during normal business hours. Terms used herein and not otherwise defined shall have the meaning ascribed thereto in the Consolidation Ordinance.

1. As of the date hereof, there is currently outstanding \$20,000 of the original principal amount of \$197,000 General Obligation Bond (Vineyards Fire Protection District), Series 2008B (the “Outstanding GO Bond”) maturing on April 1, 2023. The Outstanding GO Bond was issued for the benefit of one of the Millage Fire Districts, particularly Vineyards Fire Protection District, and is subject to optional redemption prior to maturity. As a result of the Consolidation, the County Council is considering whether to redeem the Outstanding GO Bond prior to the end of the current fiscal year (ending June 30, 2022). The funds necessary to pay to redeem the outstanding principal and accrued interest on the Outstanding GO Bond as of on June 30, 2022 are not currently budgeted in the fiscal year 2021-2022 annual budget and will require the County to such budget (the “Budget Amendment”) to duly and properly authorize an appropriation for such purpose. The money necessary to redeem the Outstanding GO Bond will be drawn from the County’s general fund balance and therefore, the proposed Budget Amendment does not result in any change to the County’s millage rate for the general fund or any of the Millage Fire Districts.

2. The current operating budget for fiscal year 2021-2022 and the proposed amended operating budget for fiscal year 2021-2022 are as follows:

<u>General Fund</u>	<u>FY 2021-2022 Approved</u>	<u>FY 2021-2022 Proposed Amended</u>	<u>Percentage Change</u>
Fire District Revenues	\$ 8,764,009	\$8,784,204.31	0.23%
Fire District Expenses	\$ 8,764,009	\$8,784,204.31	0.23%