



Ratification
Number _____

AN ORDINANCE

PROVIDING FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026 GENERATED BY THE MUNICIPAL ACCOMMODATIONS FEE AS REQUIRED BY ORDINANCE NO. 1996-18.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHARLESTON:

SECTION 1. Findings

It is hereby found and declared by City Council of the City of Charleston ("City Council"), the governing body of the City of Charleston (the "City"):

1. By Ordinance adopted February 27, 1996, bearing ratification number 1996-18, City Council established a Municipal Accommodations Fee in an amount equal to one percent, the proceeds of which as provided by Section 6 Ordinance No. 1996-18, are to be "expended only for the purpose of defraying the cost of capital improvement beneficial to the tourism industry..."

2. Section 6 further provides that the costs to be funded in part by this fee are to be established by ordinance adopted by City Council after a public hearing.

3. The Accommodations Fee will be collected during the entire term of the fiscal year 2026, during which certain expenses will be incurred relating to capital improvements beneficial to the tourism industry.

4. City Council is now minded to establish by this Ordinance the specific capital costs to be funded by the Accommodations Fee in fiscal year 2026 as provided by Section 6 of Ordinance No. 1996-18. The public hearing required to be held was advertised in the Post and Courier on November 16, 2025 and the hearing conducted on December 2, 2025.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHARLESTON, AS FOLLOWS:

1. A portion of the funds generated by the one percent Municipal Accommodations Fee during fiscal year 2026 to meet the cost of capital improvements beneficial to the tourism industry will be applied to defray the following costs:

Parking Garage Capital Maintenance	3,946,403
Ashley River Walk	2,500,000
Ashley River Crossing	1,853,960
Collection fees	30,600
Total	8,330,963

The funds to be spent in 2025 include \$6,120,000 of estimated 2025 revenue, \$2,000,963 of fund balance and \$210,000 of estimated interest income. Any excess funds may be spent on the Market Street Streetscape Project.

SECTION 2. This Ordinance shall become effective on January 1, 2026.

Ratified in City Council this 16th day of December, In the Year of our Lord 2025, and in the 250th Year of the Independence of the United States of America.

William S. Cogswell, Jr., Mayor

ATTEST:

Jennifer Cook, Clerk of Council



Ratification
Number _____

AN ORDINANCE

PROVIDING FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026 GENERATED BY THE MUNICIPAL ACCOMMODATIONS FEE AS REQUIRED BY ORDINANCE NO. 1996-56.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHARLESTON:

SECTION 1. Findings

It is hereby found and declared by City Council of the City of Charleston ("City Council"), the governing body of the City of Charleston (the "City"):

1. By Ordinance adopted March 12, 1996, bearing ratification number 1996-56, City Council established a Municipal Accommodations Fee in an amount equal to one percent, the proceeds of which as provided by Section 8 Ordinance No. 1996-56, are to be "expended only for the purpose of defraying the cost of operational expenses beneficial to the tourism industry..."

2. Section 8 further provides that the costs to be funded in part by this fee are to be established by ordinance adopted by City Council after a public hearing.

3. The Accommodations Fee will be collected during the entire term of the fiscal year 2026. In adopting Ordinance 1996-56, City Council took the further action of reducing the millage rate set forth in the Budget Ordinance by 2 mills. Such reduction was based on recognition of the fact that funds generated by the fee established by Ordinance No. 1996-56 could be applied to tourism-related operational expenses which, in the absence of the fee, would have to be paid by the taxpayers.

4. City Council is now minded to establish by this Ordinance the specific nature of the operational costs to be funded during fiscal year 2026 by the Accommodations Fee as provided by Section 8 of Ordinance No. 1996-56. It is specifically found that such costs provide a special benefit to the tourism industry. The public hearing required to be held was advertised in the Post and Courier on November 16, 2025, and the hearing conducted on December 2, 2025.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHARLESTON, AS FOLLOWS:

1. Funds generated by the one percent Municipal Accommodations Fee imposed to meet the cost of operational expenses beneficial to the tourism industry will be applied during the fiscal year 2026 to defray tourism-related operational costs including the salaries of police officers and other tourism related operating expenses in the amount of \$6,739,400 and collection fees of \$30,600, consisting of \$6,120,000 in estimated 2025 revenue, \$440,000 in fund balance and \$210,000 in interest income.

SECTION 2. This Ordinance shall become effective on January 1, 2026.

Ratified in City Council this 16th day of December, In the Year of our Lord 2025, and in the 250th Year of the Independence of the United States of America.

William S. Cogswell, Jr., Mayor

ATTEST:

Jennifer Cook, Clerk of Council