

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF JASPER
RESOLUTION/PROCLAMATION NUMBER 2024 R- _____

**RESOLUTION/PROCLAMATION DECLARING STATE OF EMERGENCY
IN JASPER COUNTY DUE TO TROPICAL STORM DEBBY**

WHEREAS, Jasper County Ordinance Section 9-55 grants the County Council the power to meet the imminent threats of public health, welfare and property conservation and the dangers to the county and its residents resulting from disasters and emergencies of any origin, and may issue proclamations and regulations concerning emergency relief and related matters which during an emergency situation shall have the full force and effect of law, and

WHEREAS, a state of disaster emergency pursuant to Ordinance 9-55 may be declared by the county council at a regular scheduled, special called or emergency meeting if it finds a disaster has occurred, or that the threat thereof is imminent, and extraordinary emergency measures are deemed necessary to cope with the existing or anticipated situation; and

WHEREAS, once a state of emergency has been declared, Section 9-55 provides that the County Council may:

- (1) Suspend existing laws and regulations prescribing the procedures of conduct for county business if strict compliance with the provisions of any statute, order, rule or regulation would in any way prevent, hinder or delay the necessary action in coping with the emergency;
- (2) Utilize all available resources of county government as reasonably necessary to cope with the disaster emergency;
- (3) Transfer the direction, personnel or functions of county departments and agencies or units thereof for the purpose of facilitating or performing emergency services as necessary or desirable;
- (4) Compel performance by elected and appointed county government officials and employees of the duties and functions assigned in county disaster plans;
- (5) Contract, requisition and compensate for goods and services from private sources;
- (6) Direct and compel evacuation of all or parts of the population from any stricken or threatened area within the county if such action is deemed necessary for the preservation of life or other disaster mitigation, response or recovery;
- (7) Prescribe routes, modes of transportation and destinations in connection with any evacuation;

- (8) Control egress and ingress to and from a disaster area, with the movement of persons within the area and the occupancy of the premises therein;
- (9) Suspend, or limit, the sale, dispensing or transportation of alcoholic beverages, firearms, explosives and combustibles;
- (10) Suspend, or limit, nonemergency activities and prohibit public assemblies; and

WHEREAS, On August 24, 2024, Henry McMaster, Governor of the State of South Carolina, issued Executive Order 2024-16 declaring that a State of Emergency exists in South Carolina in the areas including Jasper County. Governor McMaster directed that all prudent preparations be taken at the individual, local and state levels to protect against the possible effects of Tropical Storm Debby, including but not limited to flash, urban and river flooding. It is possible the Governor could issue several subsequent Executive Orders relating to and regarding the dangers posed by Tropical Storm Debby, including the possible mandatory or voluntary general population evacuation of areas of coastal South Carolina, including Beaufort and Jasper County Zone A, as well as a mandatory or voluntary medical evacuation in the event the track or intensity of Tropical Storm Debby increase the risk of harm.

WHEREAS, County Council, in response to the Governor’s Executive Order, called an emergency Council meeting, as allowed by law, to be held on August 5, 2024 at 4:30 p.m. EST, providing as much notice as available in light of the emergent situation and the need to take preparatory actions, with email notification going to the news organizations and regular agenda email list, for consideration of a Resolution/Proclamation regarding the Executive Order and the emergency situation presented by Tropical Storm Debby; and

WHEREAS, County Council makes the following findings:

1. Tropical Storm Debby is a large tropical storm with the potential to increase in strength to a hurricane before it makes landfall, potentially creating a disaster scenario as envisioned by the above noted Ordinances, due to the possible flooding and need to evacuate portions of Beaufort and Jasper County Zone A, the possible medical evacuation, and the regional evacuation of parts of Florida and Georgia through the I-95 and Highway 17 northerly routes which traverse Jasper County, potentially creating problems on these routes and the roads and highways leading off these routes eastward and westward, particularly Highways 278, 462 and 321;
2. Tropical Storm Debby is expected to move through or near Jasper County and South Carolina beginning on Tuesday, August 6, 2023, bringing high winds, possibility of tornados, substantial rain, flash, urbann and river flooding and other weather related events impacting not only the driving conditions on the above-mentioned routes and areas, but also the potential for flooding on other

roads and areas in Jasper County on August 6 through August 8th or beyond, affecting all portions of the County;

3. Tropical Storm Debby creates an imminent threat to the life, health, safety and welfare of the entire geographic area of Jasper County and its residents; and
4. Emergency measures are necessary in order to cope with the existing and anticipated dangers presented by Tropical Storm Debby.
5. It is prudent to authorize the Administration to take appropriate measures to maintain and provide for potential reimbursement from the Federal Emergency Management Agency for eligible expenditures should all or a portion of Jasper County be declared a Disaster Area.

THEREFORE, JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL DECLARES AND PROCLAIMS A STATE OF EMERGENCY IN ALL AREAS OF JASPER COUNTY DUE TO THE DANGERS PRESENTED BY TROPICAL STORM DEBBY. COUNCIL AFFIRMS THE DUTIES, OBLIGATION AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COUNTY EMERGENCY MAMANGEMENT AGENCY AND THE JASPER COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR AS SET FORTH IN CHAPTER 9 OF THE JASPER COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES AND THE ADOPTED EMERGENCY OPERATIONS POLIO\CY;

THIS STATE OF EMERGENCY SHALL LAST UNTIL 12:01 A.M. AUGUST 21, 2024 UNLESS RESCINDED BY COUNTY COUNCIL BEFORE THAT DATE OR BY THE GOVERNOR;

FURTHER, JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL HEREBY AUTHORIZES THE ADMINISTRATOR TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS WHICH WILL ALLOW THE COUNTY TO SEEK REIMBURSEMENT FROM FEMA FOR STORM RELATED DAMAGES, AS WELL AS SEEKING REIMBURSEMENT FROM OTHER AGENCIES, STATE OR FEDERAL, WHICH ARE AVAILABLE FOR STORM DAMAGE MITIGATION/REIMBURSEMENT;

FURTHER, COUNTY COUNCIL REGOGNIZES THE COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE JASPER COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR AND JASPER COUNTY SHERIFF, BEGAN EMERGENCY PREPARATIONS AT 0700 A.M. ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 4, 2024 IN ANTICIPATION OF THE GOVERNOR DECLARING A STATE OF EMERGENCY, AND TO THE EXTENT ALLOWED BY LAW, AUTHORIZES THE ADMINISTRATOR TO SEEK REIMBURSEMENT FOR THE COSTS OF THIS MOBILIZATION;

FURTHER, DUE TO THE POTENTIAL FOR THE LOSS OF COMMUNICATION AMONGST THE COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBERS DURING THIS STATE OF EMERGENCY, IN THE EVENT A QUORUM OF COUNCIL IS UNABLE TO BE CONVENED PHYSICALLY OR TELEPHONICALLY, AND IMMEDIATE ACTION MUST BE TAKEN BY COUNCIL TO PROTECT THE HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE OF THE CITIZENS AND OTHERS WITHIN THE COUNTY, PURSUANT TO THIS PROCLAMATION, THE JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL CHAIRMAN IS HEREBY DELEGATED IN SUCH SITUATIONS THE EMERGENCY AUTHORITY TO ISSUE SUCH FURTHER PROCLAMATIONS AND DIRECTIVES CONCERNING PUBLIC SAFETY, DISASTER RELIEF AND RELATED MATTERS AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT AND CARRY OUT THE MEASURES NECESSITATED BY THIS EMERGENCY SITUATION AND RECOVERY EFFORTS.

SIGNATURES FOLLOW

This Resolution/Proclamation shall take effect immediately.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND THIS 5TH
DAY OF AUGUST, 2024.

L. Martin Sauls, IV
Chairman, Jasper County Council

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

David L. Tedder
County Attorney

ATTEST:

Wanda Giles, Clerk to Council