

**CHEROKEE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA  
EMERGENCY ORDINANCE 2024- 26**

**AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING CHEROKEE COUNTY COUNCIL DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY IN CHEROKEE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA IN RESPONSE TO DAMAGES IN CHEROKEE COUNTY CAUSED BY HURRICANE HELENE AND WEATHER RELATED THERETO, EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 27, 2024**

WHEREAS, Hurricane Helene formed in the Gulf of Mexico and quickly strengthened to a category 4 Hurricane before making landfall in Florida on or about September 26, 2024 and thereafter quickly moved north through Georgia and the Carolinas in the late evening of September 26, 2024 and early morning hours of September 27, 2024 causing substantial damages in all of the communities in its path including in particular in the entire portion of Cherokee County, South Carolina, where said storm has caused substantial flooding, high winds, down trees and power lines, loss of or disruption in phone and internet services particularly as related to emergency services, substantial damages to real and personal property, power outages all resulting in and causing an imminent threat to the citizens, residents and visitors of Cherokee County; therefore, it is necessary for the County to implement emergency planning for in response to these damages and for the anticipated problems associated with post-storm matters and to prepare for and implement extraordinary emergency measures necessary to cope with and provide emergency actions needed to confront the challenges of this public health emergency associated with the impact of and damages caused by Hurricane Helene.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED as an Emergency Ordinance, in accordance with South Carolina Code of Laws Title 4, Article 10 Section 7 and Cherokee County Code of Ordinances, Cherokee County, South Carolina, acting by and through its governing body, the Cherokee County Council ("County Council") declares that a state of emergency exists, in the County and State, and that the threat therefrom is imminent, and extraordinary emergency measures are deemed necessary and appropriate to cope with the existing and anticipated situation. Cherokee County hereby implements an emergency operations plan and all necessary emergency procedures required thereby, immediately upon enactment of this Emergency Ordinance on September 27, 2024, and until further notice.

The County Administrator and all County staff are authorized to take any necessary actions and use all available resources for protection of the health, safety and welfare of Cherokee County citizens, residents and visitors including but not limited to the following, each of which is hereby authorized and directed and ordered:

- A. Suspend existing laws and regulations prescribing the procedures for conduct of county business if strict compliance with the provisions of any statute, order, rule or regulation would in any way prevent, hind or delay necessary action in coping with the emergency;

- B. Utilize all available resources of county government as reasonably necessary and as funds are available to cope with this emergency;
- C. Transfer the direction, personnel, or functions of county departments and agencies or units thereof for purposes of facilitating or performing emergency services, as necessary or desirable;
- D. Compel performance by elected and appointed county government officials and employees of the duties and functions assigned in the county disaster plan;
- E. Contract, requisition and compensate for goods and services from private sources;
- F. Direct and compel evacuation of all or part of the population from any stricken or threatened area within the county if such action is deemed necessary for preservation of life or other disaster mitigation, response or recovery;
- G. Prescribe routes, modes of transportation and destinations in connection with evacuations;
- H. Control ingress and egress to and from a disaster area, the movement of persons within the area and the occupancy of premises therein;
- I. Suspend or limit the sale, dispensing or transportation of alcoholic beverages, firearms, explosives and combustibles;
- J. Make provisions for the availability and use of temporary housing;
- K. Suspend or limit nonemergency activities and prohibit assemblies
- L. Take any and all other actions deemed necessary by the Administrator or his appointees, for the preservation of the health, safety and welfare of citizens, residents, and visitors of and to Cherokee County, South Carolina.
- M. All other provisions as applicable from the Cherokee County Code of Ordinances, Sections 10-8 through 10-11 are incorporated herein by reference.

2. All orders, ordinances, resolutions, and normal procedures and parts of the Cherokee County Code of Ordinances in conflict herewith, or which would hinder the application and use of emergency procedures pursuant hereto or otherwise, are hereby suspended until the later of the dates in Paragraph 3, hereof. Specifically, but without limitation in any regard, all meetings of public bodies in Cherokee County may be conducted electronically, using all available electronic means, while still being conducted and broadcast in such a manner as to honor the spirit and intent of the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act to the greatest degree possible, given the circumstances and the resources available, and specifically with heed to the limitations on meeting size provided herein and by other state and national directives.

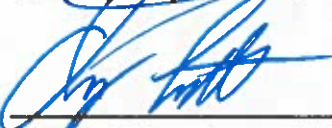
3. This Ordinance and its declaration of emergency shall remain in force until, in the Administrator's determination, aided and assisted by all such assets and sources of information as he should deem necessary, emergency conditions associated the effects and impacts of Hurricane Helene subsided and the emergency procedures and limitations in Cherokee County are no longer necessary to protect the life and property of our citizens, or upon the sixty-first (61st) day after the effective date of this emergency ordinance, whichever comes first.

Effective the 27th day of September 2024, in the County of Cherokee, South Carolina.

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF CHEROKEE COUNTY**



Timothy F. Spencer – Chairman - District 4



Quay Little – Vice-Chairman – District 3



Billy D. Blanton – District 2



Elliott Hughes – District 5



David Smith – District 6



Tracy A. McDaniel – District 7

ATTEST:

Master Clerk to County Council



Doris Pearson