

**AN ORDINANCE
ESTABLISHING THE CHARLESTON COUNTY RESILIENCE & SUSTAINABILITY
ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO**

WHEREAS, Charleston County Council (“County Council”) finds that climate change, i.e., the increase in sea level, flooding, and heat has systemic implications for Charleston County’s economy, housing options, and overall livability; and

WHEREAS, County Council desires that a Climate Action Plan be developed and implemented, and that such plan include establishing greenhouse gas emission reduction goals and developing activities to meet these goals in an equitable and economically sustainable way; and

WHEREAS, County Council desires that an All-Hazard Vulnerability and Risk Assessment be developed and implemented, and that such assessment include exploring threats and determining local factors that cause assets to become vulnerable to specific hazards and provide guidance on strategies to become more resilient; and

WHEREAS, County Council desires that the Climate Action Plan and All-Hazard Vulnerability and Risk Assessment be forward-thinking and responsive to the needs of citizens and stakeholders from the local community and finds that citizen cooperation in the creation of such plans and assessments will be important to its success; and

WHEREAS, County Council intends to contract with Consultants to work with Charleston County’s Sustainability Coordinator and Chief Resilience Officer to develop the Climate Action Plan and All-Hazard Vulnerability and Risk Assessment to guide the County’s response to resiliency and climate change; and

WHEREAS, in order to create an effective Climate Action Plan best representative of local needs within Charleston County, County Council will establish a Resiliency and Sustainability Advisory Committee to oversee the implementation of activities established in the Climate Action Plan and All-Hazard Vulnerability and Risk Assessment to make recommendations to County Council regarding greenhouse gas emissions goals and activities to meet the agreed upon goals and resiliency action items; and

NOW, THEREFORE, be it ordained by the County Council of Charleston County, South Carolina, in meeting duly assembled, County Council adopts the above-stated recitals as findings of fact and enacts the following Ordinance:

SECTION ONE: MEMBERSHIP AND TERMS

A) County Council shall appoint a 9-member advisory body to the Resilience & Sustainability Advisory Climate Action Committee (“Committee”) whereby the 9 seats shall be reserved as follows:

- Technical Experts (2 seats)
- County Council Member (1 seat)
- County Staff Member (1 seat)
- Energy (1 seat)
- Homebuilders Association (1 seat)
- Higher Education (1 seat)
- Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester COG (1 seat)

- Chamber of Commerce (1 seat)
- B) Members will initially be appointed for a term of three years or until their successor has been appointed and qualified. The members shall serve without compensation from the County and must reside or work in Charleston County.
- C) Vacancies must be filled in the manner of original appointments for the unexpired portion of the term.
- D) The Committee shall elect one of its members as chair and one as vice-chair whose terms must be for one year.
- E) The Committee shall establish a regular time and place of meeting. For purpose of Committee action, a quorum of the Committee shall consist of five (5) voting members of the Committee in attendance.
- F) The Committee shall adopt rules and procedures to conduct its meetings. The Committee shall keep a record of its proceedings.
- G) In the event a member of the Committee shall fail to either attend three (3) meetings per year or written justification for said absence that is approved by a vote of a majority of the members of the Committee, such member shall be removed from the Committee and a new member shall be appointed in his or her place and stead.
- H) The Committee will meet at a minimum of once every three months and in special meetings as the chair may call. All meetings must be conducted in accordance with the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act.

SECTION TWO: DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Resilience and Sustainability Advisory Committee is established and is authorized to:

- 1) Convene as an ongoing, permanent committee;
- 2) Provide recommendations to County Council about technical elements and action items related to the Climate Action Plan and All-Hazard Vulnerability and Risk Assessment; and
- 3) Provide ongoing recommendations to County Council about sustainability and resilience work; and
- 4) During the Climate Action Plan and All-Hazard Vulnerability and Risk Assessment development process, participate, as needed, in one-on-one conversations with the Consultants to share technical expertise on specific questions.

SECTION THREE: EFFECTIVE DATE; SEVERABILITY

This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon third reading. If any provision of this ordinance or its application to any circumstances is held by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid for any reason, this holding does not affect other provisions or applications of this ordinance which can be given effect without the invalid provisions or application, and to this end, the provisions of this ordinance are severable.

ADOPTED and APPROVED in meeting duly assembled this 20th day of September 2022.

CHARLESTON COUNTY COUNCIL

 By: Teddie E. Pryor, Sr.
 Chairman of County Council

ATTEST:

By: _____
 Kristen L. Salisbury
 Clerk to Charleston County Council