

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF SAVANNAH, GEORGIA, AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE HOTEL/MOTEL EXCISE TAX UNDER O.C.G.A. 48-13-51(b); TO ALL NECESSARY ACTS TO ACCOMPLISH THE INTENT OF THIS RESOLUTION; TO PROVIDE AN EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS RESOLUTION; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

WHEREAS, Savannah City Council passed a resolution on February 25, 2021 requesting the Georgia General Assembly pass legislation enabling the City of Savannah to move into a new Hotel Motel Tax Authorization Clause O.C.G.A. 48-13-51(b);

WHEREAS, Savannah City Council's requesting resolution outlined the Tourism Product Development Projects for which Hotel Motel Tax would fund as the following: \$20 million redevelopment of Savannah's waterfront; \$10 million renovation of the Historic Water Works building; \$10 million expansion of the Tide to Town Urban Trail Network; \$17 million to create trails, sidewalks and other connections between the Historic District, westside neighborhoods and the new arena; \$3.5 million for museum development; \$2 million for a water access facility on Savannah's southside; \$2 million for wayfinding signage; and \$1 million for West Bay Street gateway enhancements; and

WHEREAS, during the 2023 State Legislative Session, the Georgia General Assembly and Governor passed legislation enabling the City of Savannah to adjust their hotel/motel tax from six percent to eight percent, subject to spending restrictions identified in O.C.G.A. 48-13-51(b); and

WHEREAS, the City of Savannah desires to adopt a Hotel Motel Tax rate of eight percent; and,

WHEREAS, all Hotel Motel Tax revenues and Tourism Product Development Projects must comply with the definitions and requirements of O.C.G.A. 48-13-51(b); and,

WHEREAS, Hotel Motel Tax revenues have grown since Savannah City Council's passage of the February 25, 2021 requesting resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Savannah will prioritize Tourism Product Development Projects in the following manner:

1. Redevelopment of River Street, Savannah's Waterfront in the amount of \$30 million dollars;
2. Redevelopment of Historic Waterworks Building and to create trails, sidewalks, and other connections between the Historic District, westside neighborhoods and the Enmarket Arena in the amount of \$37 million dollars;
3. Development and construction of the Tide to Town trail network in the amount of \$10 million dollars; and
4. Completion of the remaining tourism product development projects within the resolution in the amount of \$8.5 million dollars.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED; In the event of excess Hotel Motel Tax collections, the City of Savannah would allocate the excess revenue to cover additional tourism product development costs in the prioritized fashion listed above.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT any and all resolutions, or any part thereof, in conflict with this resolution are hereby repealed. The new hotel/motel tax rate and allocations outlined in this resolution shall be effective on September 1, 2023.

ADOPTED by the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Savannah, this the 25th Day of May, 2023.

Van R. Johnson, II
Mayor of Savannah

Attest:

Mark Massey
Clerk of Council