

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF PICKENS	ORDINANCE NO.: 2026 - <u>06</u>
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AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LIBERTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, ADOPTING A BUDGET AND PROVIDING FOR THE REVENUE NEEDED TO OPERATE THE CITY, PROVIDE CITY SERVICES, AND MEET DEBT SERVICE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2027.

WHEREAS, S.C. Code Ann. §5-9-30(5) provides that, in the Mayor-Council form of government, the mayor of a municipality has the authority and responsibility to prepare and submit the annual budget and capital program to the municipal council; and,

WHEREAS, the City Code of the City of Liberty sets forth budgeting and tax levy provisions in Article IV ("Financial Administration."); and,

WHEREAS, the Mayor of the City of Liberty has prepared and presented to the Council a budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027 ("FY2026-27 Budget"); and,

WHEREAS, a copy of the FY2026-27 Budget has been made available to the Council and to the public prior to this meeting, and is incorporated herein by reference; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by City Council, duly assembled with a quorum present, and after due consideration and discussion, as follows:

The clauses above are adopted by reference as if fully recited again herein.

SECTION 1. PUBLIC NOTICE AND PUBLIC HEARING. Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. §6-1-80, notice of a public hearing on the FY2026-27 Budget was published in at least one South Carolina newspaper of general circulation in the area, on Wednesday the 22nd of April 2026. The notice advertised a public hearing on the FY2026-27 Budget to be held on Monday the 11th of May 2026, which date was not less than 15 days after the date of publication of the notice. The published notice was a minimum of two columns wide with a bold headline, and contained the information required by S.C. Code Ann. §6-1-80. The form of the published notice is attached hereto.

SECTION 2. APPROVAL OF BUDGET. Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. §5-9-40, the Council has the authority and responsibility to approve the annual budget for FY2026-27 and hereby approves such budget in accordance with its terms.

SECTION 3. FY2025-26 TAX LEVY. For FY2025-26, the City levied an *ad valorem* property tax in the amount of 93.1 mills.

SECTION 4. ESTABLISHMENT OF PROPERTY TAX LEVY. In order to raise the revenues needed to operate the City and to defray expenses as presented in the FY2026-27 Budget, Council hereby ordains that an *ad valorem* property tax at the millage rate hereinafter stated to cover the period from the first day of July 2026 to the 30th day of June 2027, both inclusive, for the sums and in the manner hereinafter mentioned, is and shall be levied, collected and paid into the Treasury of Pickens County, South Carolina, for credit to the City of Liberty, for the use and service thereof. The millage rate for such *ad valorem* property tax shall be 84.4 mills, constituting a reduction in the millage rate from the previous fiscal year. Such millage rate shall be applied to the value of all real estate and personal property of every description owned and used in the City of Liberty, except such as is exempt from taxation under the Constitution and law of the State of South Carolina.

SECTION 5. APPROPRIATION. Funds are hereby appropriated as shown in the FY2026-27 Budget and the documents attached thereto and incorporated herein by reference, comprising a total appropriated amount of \$5,528,861.08 and consisting of General Fund, Utility Fund, Hospitality Fund, and Victims Fund.

SECTION 6. BILLING AND COLLECTION. The billing dates, the penalty dates, and the amount of penalty which shall be levied for delinquent taxes shall be the same as those established by Pickens County, South Carolina, pursuant to State law. The Pickens County Delinquent Tax Collector is hereby authorized to collect delinquent property taxes.

SECTION 7. ADMINISTRATION AND TRANSFER. The Mayor of the City of Liberty shall administer the budget and is authorized to transfer any sum from one budget line item to another or from one department or division to another, provided such transfers do not circumvent or exceed the purchasing authority and approval limitations established in the City's Procurement Policy; provided that: no such transfer may be made from one fund to another fund, may conflict with any existing bond or other financial covenants, or may conflict with any previously adopted policy of Council. Any transfer in excess of the purchasing authority and approval limitations established in the City's Procurement Policy shall be reported to Council during the monthly report of the Deputy Administrator and/or Finance Director. Changes or amendments that alter the total expenditures of any fund must be approved by Council.

SECTION 8. ANY INCONSISTENT ORDINANCES. Any ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent with this ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

SECTION 9. SEVERABILITY. Should any section, phrase, sentence, or portion of this ordinance be found invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such findings shall not invalidate the remaining portions.

SECTION 10. EFFECTIVE DATE. Following enactment by positive majority vote, this ordinance shall take effect, in the manner required by law, on July 1, 2026, and shall remain in effect through June 30, 2027.

IT IS SO ORDAINED.

SIGNED, SEALED, AND DELIVERED THIS 30th **DAY OF** June **_____ 2026.**

CITY COUNCIL:

Andrea Wagner _____

Andrea Wagner, Mayor

ATTEST:

Ciera Wilson
Ciera Wilson, Interim Clerk of Council

Public hearing: 05/11/2026

First reading: 05/11/2026

Second reading: 06/16/2026

Water & Sewer Base Rate & Usage Charges – ¾” Meter (Primarily Residential)

¾” Meter	Inside City	Outside City
Water Base Rate – up to 2000 Gallons	\$22.55 Per Month	\$33.82 Per Month
Sewer Base Rate – up to 2000 Gallons	\$26.27 Per Month	\$39.47 Per Month
Water & Sewer Base Rate up to 2000 gallons	\$48.82 Per Month	\$73.29 Per Month
Water – Additional 1000 Gallon Units	\$5.59 Per Unit	\$8.31 Per Unit
Sewer – Additional 1000 Gallon Units	\$10.64 Per Unit	\$16.65 Per Unit

Water Base Rate & Usage Charges (larger than ¾” Meter)

Meter Size	Inside City	Outside City
1” Meter—up to 3,000 Gallons	\$31.49	\$59.70
1 1/2” Meter—up to 5,000 Gallons	\$52.06	\$101.27
2” Meter—up to 15,000 Gallons	\$131.53	\$271.19
3” Meter—up to 50,000 Gallons	\$273.59	\$572.59
4” Meter—up to 150,000 Gallons	\$667.62	\$1416.68
6” Meter—up to 250,000 Gallons	\$990.22	\$2092.49
8” Meter—up to 400,000 Gallons	\$1584.35	\$3347.97
Irrigation Meter—no base charge	\$5.59 Per Unit	\$8.31 Per Unit
Water—Additional 1000 Gallons	\$5.59 Per Unit	\$8.31 Per Unit

Sewer – Commercial Base Rate & Usage Charges

Meter Size	Inside City	Outside City
Commercial – up to 2000 Gallons	\$29.98 Per Month	\$48.25 Per Month
Sewer – Additional 1000 Gallon Units	10.64 Per Unit	17.33 Per Unit

Water & Sewer Tap Fees (Includes Service, Irrigation & Fire Lines)

	Inside City	Outside City
Water Tap Fee 5/8" x 3/4"	\$2600	\$3600
Water Tap Fee 1"	\$3250	\$4200
Water Tap Fee 2"	***	***
Water Tap 3" or above	***	***
Sewer Tap Fee 4"	\$2600	\$3600
Sewer Tap Fee Over 4"	***	***
Irrigation	\$1000	\$1500

****Case-by-case basis determined by the city engineer (Rosier) cost estimate for each request.**

Miscellaneous Water & sewer Fees – All customers (inside & outside City)

Deposit – Property Owner	N/A
Deposit Renter (applied/refunded when deactivated)	\$100
Trash Only Customer Deposit	\$32
Trash only Customer Start Up Fee	\$35
Connection Fee (establishing account)	\$35
Disconnect Fee (Applied once cutoff list is created & subject to cutoff)	\$50
Transfer Service Fee (within our service area)	\$35
Cleaning (5 day minimum)	\$5 per day
Late Penalty	\$10% per month
Non-Sufficient Check or Bank Draft Fee	\$30
Meter Testing (refunded if meter is defective)	\$50 / \$82.50
Moving Meter for customer	City's cost / +65%
Meter Tampering fee	\$150 / \$247.50
Meter Damage Fee	Cost of repair/replacement/ +65%
Cramer Roper Fee (Per meter unit)	\$3.10 per month
Sewer Maintenance Fee (Per meter unit)	\$2.50 per month
Bulk Water Sales (1000 – gallon units)	\$8.21

Residential Solid Waste Charges

	Inside City	Outside City (1)
Weekly Trash Pickup	\$15.00 per month	\$23.76 per month
Additional Residential Cart Fee- limit 1	\$11.50 per month	19.76 per month
Bulk Items (Brush & Brown Goods) (2) **	\$3 per month	N/A

(1) If fuel costs rise above \$3.25 per gallon and remain at or above that rate for thirty consecutive days, the City reserves the right to apply a \$0.75 surcharge. This surcharge will be reflected on the following month's bill. For example, if fuel prices remain above \$3.25 throughout July, the surcharge would be applied to the August bill. (2) New outside-the-city trash customers must be pre-approved by the City Administrator based on proximity of current customers and the availability of staff and resources. (3) Bulk item fee will be charged to all customers within the city that are charged the weekly pickup fee. See Ordinance.867- .79 for services & limitations of bulk item pickups.

Business/Commercial Solid Waste Charges (Inside City Only)

	Inside City Only
Bagged Trash – up to 3 pickups a week	\$30
Additional Commercial Cart Fee	\$20
Extra Large Dumpster – 1 pickup a week	\$150
Extra Large Dumpster – 2 pickups a week	\$225
Extra Large Dumpster – 3 pickups a week	\$300
Large Dumpster – 1 pickup a week	\$150
Large Dumpster – 2 pickups a week	\$225
Large Dumpster – 3 pickups a week	\$300
Medium Dumpster – 1 pickup a week	\$120
Medium Dumpster – 2 pickups a week	\$175
Medium Dumpster – 3 pickups a week	\$220
Small Dumpster – 1 pickup a week	\$90
Small Dumpster – 2 pickups a week	\$130
Small Dumpster – 3 pickups a week	\$170

(1) If fuel costs rise above \$3.25 per gallon and remain at or above that rate for thirty consecutive days, the City reserves the right to apply a \$0.75 surcharge. This surcharge will be reflected on the following month's bill. For example, if fuel prices remain above \$3.25 throughout July, the surcharge would be applied to the August bill.

Sports Fees

Tackle Football	\$90.00
Volleyball	\$80.00
Basketball	\$80.00
Cheerleading	\$100.00
Showcase Uniform	\$130
Softball	\$80.00
Baseball	\$80.00
T-Ball	\$80.00
Soccer	\$80.00
Flag Football	\$80.00
Athletic camps	\$25

**** For athletes who signed up for Cheerleading prior to July 1 2026, an additional \$60 charge for uniforms will be collected to total \$100. After this date, the cheerleading fee will return to a onetime payment of \$100**

Adult Rates

Co-ed Volleyball	\$30.00 Per player
Co-ed Softball	\$30.00 Per player
Co-Ed Basketball	\$30.00 Per player
Co-Ed Team Rate	\$250 per team

Athletic Events

SCAAP Event	\$5 (youth) \$10 (Adults)
City Events	\$5

Facility Rental Fees

Facility	1 st Hour Rate	Additional Hour	Lights	Cleaning Fee
Rosewood	\$210	\$60	\$85	\$120
Football Stadium	\$210	\$60	\$85	\$120
Woodside Ballpark	\$210	\$60	\$85	\$120
City Gym	\$60	\$35	\$35	\$80
Mills Avenue Gym	\$60	\$35	\$35	\$80
Water Tower Field	\$110	\$60	\$85	\$40
Morris Field	\$110	\$60	\$85	\$40
Islen Field	\$110	\$60	\$85	\$40
Freedom Park Field	\$110	\$60	\$85	\$40
Freedom Park (small) gazebo	\$25	\$15	--	\$20
Freedom Park (large) gazebo	\$35	\$15	--	\$20
Rosewood Parking lot	\$30	\$30	--	\$20
Football Stadium Parking lot	\$30	\$30	--	\$20
Mills Avenue Gym Parking Lot	\$30	\$30	--	\$20

(1) Organizations recognized as 501(c)(3) or registered nonprofit will not be charged a rental fee for use of City facilities. Documentation verifying nonprofit status may be required prior to approval of the reservation.

Signs

Type	Fee
Grand Opening Temporary Sign	\$0 for 60 days for grand openings
Temporary Sign	\$10
Permanent Sign/ Application	\$25

Planning & Zoning Fees

Type	Fee
Certificate of Zoning Compliance	\$25
Zoning Appeal	\$50
Zoning Variance	\$50
Rezoning Request	\$50

Building Permit Fees

Building Valuation	Fees
\$50,000 or less	\$100 for the first \$5,000 plus \$7 for each additional \$1,000 units (or fraction thereof)
\$50,001 to \$100,000	\$365 for the first \$50,000 plus \$6 for each additional \$1,000 units (or fraction thereof)
\$100,001 to \$500,000	\$665 for the first \$100,000 plus \$5 for each additional \$1,000 units (or fraction thereof)
\$500,001 and up	\$2,665 for the first \$500,000 plus \$4 for each additional \$1,000 units (or fraction thereof)

Building Miscellaneous Fees

Grading Permit — less than ½ acre	\$50
Grading Permit — ½ acre to less than 2 acres	\$150
Grading Permit — 2 acres to less than 5 acres	\$150
Grading Permit — 5 acres or more	\$400 plus \$20 for each additional acre
Demolition Permit:	\$150 per structure or \$150 plus an additional \$50 per unit or utility tap for multi-unit complexes or structures, whichever is greater
Moving (moving building or structure outside of jurisdiction)	\$150
Home Occupation Permit:	\$75
Reinspection Fee (Reinspection is defined as any trip made in addition to those specifically named on the permit job card or any trip made as the result of condemned or disapproved work, calling for inspections prior to the work being ready for inspection, and additional trips made because access to the structure was not provided. Fee must be paid prior to reinspection)	\$50 per reinspection
Failure to Appear or Cancel Inspection	\$50
Commencing work on a building, structure, electrical, gas, mechanical or plumbing system before obtaining the necessary permit	Respective fee is doubled
Life Safety Inspection	\$100

Plan Review Fees (are in addition to the Building Permit Fee)

Single Family & Duplex Residential Units — Not Part of Group Development	Fee
Up to 2400 square feet of total floor area:	\$75
2401 – 4800 square feet of total floor area	\$150
4801 – unlimited square feet of total floor area	\$250
Single Family & Duplex Residential Units — Part of Group Development	100% of the Permit Fee
Non-Residential & Multi-Family Properties	100% in addition of the Permit Fee
Alterations, Additions, and/or Accessory Buildings	100% in addition of the Permit Fee
Projects That Exceed 2 Resubmissions of Revised Plans — Each Submission Will Be Assessed	100% in addition of the Permit Fee

Nuisance Abatement Fees*

Type	Admin Fee	Abatement Fee
Tall & overgrown grass & vegetation — each abatement	\$100	Cost of abatement
Litter (Defined in Section 729) — each abatement	\$100	Cost of abatement
Unsafe or Dangerous Structures — each abatement	\$250	Cost of abatement
Property Maintenance Code Violations (includes securing building) — each abatement	\$100	Cost of abatement
Other Nuisance Items — each abatement	\$100	Cost of abatement
Late Penalty, Once Invoiced	5% Per Month	

When the City abates a nuisance condition, charge both the Admin Fee and the Abatement Fee

** Calculated from national published actuary tables

FOIA Fees

Type	Rate
Search/retrieval time (per hour)	\$14–35
Paper copies on Copier (each page)*	\$.10
Other paper copies via an outside source	Actual cost
Create an electronic copy (per hour, if agreed upon by City)	\$14–20
CD/DVD (each)	\$1
Flash Drive/External Drive	Actual Cost

No charge when there are ten copies or less

Miscellaneous Fees

Type	Rate
Payment via Credit/Debit Card Convenience Charge for business licenses, event related and hospitality taxes	3.4 % plus 35 cents
Payment via Credit/Debit Card Convenience Charge for utility payments	3.5% plus 30 cents
Payment via Credit/Debit Card Convenience Charge for all other payments	3.5% plus 30 cents
Payment via Credit/Debit Card for rec transactions	3.5% plus 30 cents
Parks & Recreation “Fan Favorite” voting fee	\$1.00

Event	Booth/participation
Waffle Fest	**
4 th of July	**
Halloween	Free to participate
Christmas Market	**
Christmas Parade	Free to participate
Electrical outlet	\$50

**** Event booth rental/participation fees may vary depending on the type of event, location, and specific needs associated with the reservation. The final fee will be determined by the City Administrator or their designee.**