

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

TOWN OF GASTON

ORDINANCE 9-03-24

PROVIDING FOR A LOCAL HOSPITALITY TAX ON THE SALES OF PREPARED MEALS AND BEVERAGES IN ESTABLISHMENTS OF THE TOWN OF GASTON

WHEREAS, the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina amended Title 6, Chapter 1, of the 1976 Code to provide for the Local Hospitality Tax, effective July 1, 1997:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Mayor and Council of the Town of Gaston in Council duly assembled, pursuant to Section 6-1-700, et. seq. of the Code, as follows:

Section 1. There is hereby imposed a Local Hospitality Tax of two (2) percent on the gross proceeds of the sale of prepared meals and beverages in establishments within the Town of Gaston (hereinafter "vendor"). Payment of the hospitality tax establishment hereby shall be the liability of the customer. **Roadside prepared food vendors with less than \$500 per month income are exempt from this tax.**

Section 2. The tax imposed by this ordinance shall be collected from the customer when payment for meals or beverages is tendered and shall be held in trust for the benefit of the Town until remitted as provided in Section 3 below.

Section 3. Payment of the hospitality tax established herein shall be remitted by the vendor to the Town of Gaston on a monthly basis, along with such return or form as may be established by the Town for such purposes, not later than the twentieth day of the month and shall cover the tax due for the previous month. Any tax not timely remitted shall be subject to a penalty of five (5%) percent of the sum owed for each month or portion thereof until paid. The failure to collect from the customer the tax imposed by this ordinance shall not relieve the vendor from making the required remittance.

Section 4. The failure of any vendor subject to this ordinance to remit to the Town the tax imposed by the provisions of this ordinance shall constitute a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not more than \$500.00 or imprisonment for up to thirty (30) days, or both.

Section 5. There is hereby established a special account to be know as the Local Hospitality Tax Account into which the taxes remitted shall be deposited by the Town and used solely for the purposes provided by law.

Section 6. This ordinance is subject to the constitution and the laws of the State of South Carolina. If any section, phrase, sentence or portion of this ordinance is for any reason held invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, such portion shall be deemed a separate, distinct and independent provision, and such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions thereof.

Section 7. This ordinance shall become effective on October 1, 2024.

DULY ADOPTED THIS 1st day of October, 2024 under the corporate seal of the Town of Gaston.

First Reading: September 3, 2024

Final Reading: October 1, 2024

Attest: *Jennifer Hoyt*

Jennifer Hoyt, Town Clerk

Troy R. Bivens

Troy R. Bivens, Mayor