



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Tuesday, April 28, 2020

CONTACT

Administration
(803) 285-1565

Lancaster County Council Temporarily Defers Accommodations and Hospitality Taxes

Lancaster, SC – Recognizing the unprecedented and rapid financial burden COVID-19 has placed on Lancaster County businesses, on April 27, 2020 Lancaster County Council passed **RESOLUTION 1089-R2020** authorizing a temporary deferment in collecting Local Accommodations and Hospitality Taxes. Eligible tax deferments are those due on or after March 1, 2020 through June 30, 2020. Tax payments will be due on July 20, 2020. The Resolution also includes waiving penalties associated with late payment.

The Resolution does not affect those Local Accommodations and Hospitality Taxes and penalties due prior to March 1, 2020. Also, the Resolution does not affect State Accommodations Taxes or Local Hospitality Taxes that may be due to municipalities in Lancaster County.

County Council recognizes the COVID-19 financial impacts to our citizens and continues to move quickly to waive or defer fees and charges that may be burdensome to residents and businesses. For example, Council approved waiving credit and debit card fees for tax payments through May 26, 2020 and approved the first reading of Ordinance 2020-1656 to suspend fee agreement job creation and investment requirements for applicable Lancaster County companies for calendar year 2020. The County has coordinated with the South Carolina Department of Revenue to delay the due date for County Business Personal Property taxes until June 1, 2020, the same date as the State filings.

Over the past several weeks, the Lancaster County Government team has worked to ensure that County operations continue to function and serve the community during these challenging times. As the Country, State and County continue to face the COVID-19 crisis, the County Council also extended the County's Emergency Declaration, which was first adopted on March 23, 2020.

Lancaster County Council proactively empowered county government leaders to be innovative and adjust operations to maximize public and employee safety while providing essential services to our citizens. Some examples include the expanded use of virtual technologies for paying taxes, submitting building plan reviews and zoning requests, and by providing public access to public meetings remotely via live streaming of Lancaster County Council and Planning Commission Meetings on Lancaster County's YouTube Channel. This capability will now be utilized for all Council meetings until further notice.

In the weeks ahead Lancaster County Government will work collaboratively with our neighboring jurisdictions to establish thresholds for smartly and safely re-opening county functions. The safety and health of our citizens and employees is paramount and frames every decision we make regarding timing to re-establish full county operations.