

TOWN OF SEABROOK ISLAND

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-12

ADOPTED _____

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE BUSINESS LICENSE ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF SEABROOK ISLAND TO UPDATE THE CLASS SCHEDULE AS REQUIRED BY ACT 176 OF 2020, AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO

WHEREAS, the Town of Seabrook Island (the "Town") is authorized by S.C. Code Section 5-7-30 and Title 6, Chapter 1, Article 3, to impose a business license tax on gross income; and

WHEREAS, by Act No. 176 of 2020, known as the South Carolina Business License Tax Standardization Act and codified at S.C. Code Sections 6-1-400 to -420 (the "Standardization Act"), the South Carolina General Assembly imposed additional requirements and conditions on the administration of business license taxes; and

WHEREAS, the Standardization Act requires that by December 31st of each odd-numbered year, each municipality levying a business license tax must adopt, by ordinance, the latest Standardized Business License Class Schedule as recommended by the Municipal Association of South Carolina (the "Association") and adopted by the Director of the Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office; and

WHEREAS, following the enactment of the Standardization Act, and in order to comply with the requirements of the Standardization Act, the Mayor and Council of the Town (the "Town Council") enacted Ordinance No. 2021-15 on December 14, 2021, which ordinance has been codified in Chapter 8, Article 1, of the Town Code (the "Current Business License Ordinance"); and

WHEREAS, the Town Council now wishes to amend the Current Business License Ordinance to adopt the latest Standardized Business License Class Schedule, as required by the Standardization Act, and to make other minor amendments as recommended by the Association; and

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority granted by the Constitution and the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina, **BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL FOR THE TOWN OF SEABROOK ISLAND:**

SECTION 1. Amending Chapter 8 of the Town Code. The Town Code for the Town of Seabrook Island, Chapter 8, Businesses and Business Regulations; Article 1, Business License; is hereby amended to read as follows:

Chapter 8. Businesses and Business Regulations

Article 1. Business License

Section 8-1. License Required.

Every person engaged or intending to engage in any business, calling, occupation, profession, or activity engaged in with the object of gain, benefit, or advantage, in whole or in part within the limits of the Town of Seabrook Island, South Carolina, is required to pay an annual license tax for the privilege of doing business and obtain a business license as herein provided.

Section 8-2. Definitions.

The following words, terms, and phrases, when used in this article, shall have the meaning ascribed herein. Defined terms are not capitalized when used in this article unless the context otherwise requires:

- (a) *“Business”* means any business, calling, occupation, profession, or activity engaged in with the object of gain, benefit, or advantage, either directly or indirectly.
- (b) *“Charitable Organization”* means an organization that is determined by the Internal Revenue Service to be exempt from Federal income taxes under 26 U.S.C. Section 501(c)(3), (4), (6), (7), (8), (10) or (19).
- (c) *“Charitable Purpose”* means a benevolent, philanthropic, patriotic, or eleemosynary purpose that does not result in personal gain to a sponsor, organizer, officer, director, trustee, or person with ultimate control of the organization.
- (d) *“Classification”* means that division of businesses by NAICS codes subject to the same license rate as determined by a calculated index of ability to pay based on national averages, benefits, equalization of tax burden, relationships of services, or other basis deemed appropriate by the Council.
- (e) *“Council”* means the Town Council of the Town of Seabrook Island
- (f) *“Domicile”* means a principal place from which the trade or business of a licensee is conducted, directed, or managed. For purposes of this article, a licensee may be deemed to have more than one domicile.
- (g) *“Gross Income”* means the gross receipts or gross revenue of a business, received or accrued, for one calendar or fiscal year collected or to be collected from business done within the Town. If the licensee has a domicile within the Town, business done within the Town shall include all gross receipts or revenue received or accrued by such licensee. If the licensee does not have a domicile within the Town, business done within the Town shall include only gross receipts or revenue received or accrued within the Town. In all cases, if the licensee pays a business license tax to another county or municipality, then the licensee’s gross income for the purpose of computing the tax within the Town must be reduced by the amount of revenues or receipts taxed in the other county or municipality and fully reported to the Town. Gross income for business license tax purposes shall not include taxes collected for a governmental entity, escrow funds, or funds that are the property of a third party. The value of bartered goods or trade-in merchandise shall be included in gross income. The gross receipts or gross revenues for business license purposes may be verified by inspection of returns and reports filed with the Internal Revenue Service, the South Carolina Department of Revenue, the South

Carolina Department of Insurance, or other government agencies. In calculating gross income for certain businesses, the following rules shall apply:

- (1) Gross income for agents shall be calculated on gross commissions received or retained, unless otherwise specified. If commissions are divided with other brokers or agents, then only the amount retained by the broker or agent is considered gross income.
 - (2) Except as specifically required by S.C. Code § 38-7-20, gross income for insurance companies shall be calculated on gross premiums written.
 - (3) Gross income for manufacturers of goods or materials with a location in the Town shall be calculated on the lesser of (i) gross revenues or receipts received or accrued from business done at the location, (ii) the amount of income allocated and apportioned to that location by the business for purposes of the business's state income tax return, or (iii) the amount of expenses attributable to the location as a cost center of the business. Licensees reporting gross income under this provision shall have the burden to establish the amount and method of calculation by satisfactory records and proof. Manufacturers include those taxpayers reporting a manufacturing principal business activity code on their federal income tax returns.
- (h) *"License Official"* means a person designated to administer this article. Notwithstanding the designation of a primary license official, the Town may designate one or more alternate license officials to administer particular types of business licenses, including without limitation for business licenses issued to businesses subject to business license taxes under Article 20, Chapter 9, Title 58, and Chapters 7 and 45, Title 38, of the South Carolina Code.
- (i) *"Licensee"* means the business, the person applying for the license on behalf of the business, an agent or legal representative of the business, a person who receives any part of the net profit of the business, or a person who owns or exercises control of the business.
- (j) *"NAICS"* means the North American Industry Classification System for the United States published under the auspices of the Federal Office of Management and Budget.
- (k) *"Person"* means any individual, firm, partnership, limited liability partnership, limited liability company, cooperative non-profit membership, corporation, joint venture, association, estate, trust, business trust, receiver, syndicate, holding company, or other group or combination acting as a unit, in the singular or plural, and the agent or employee having charge or control of a business in the absence of the principal.
- (l) *"Town"* means the Town of Seabrook Island, South Carolina.

Section 8-3. Purpose and Duration.

The business license required by this article is for the purpose of providing such regulation as may be required for the business subject thereto and for the purpose of raising revenue for

the general fund through a privilege tax. The license year ending on April 30, 2022, shall commence on January 1, 2021, and shall run for a 16-month period. Thereafter, the license periods shall be established as follows. Except as set forth below for business licenses issued to contractors with respect to specific construction projects, each yearly license shall be issued for the twelve-month period of May 1 to April 30. A business license issued for a construction contract may, at the request of the licensee, be stated to expire at the completion of the construction project; provided, any such business license may require that the licensee file, by each April 30 during the continuation of the construction project, a statement of compliance, including but not limited to a revised estimate of the value of the contract. If any revised estimate of the final value of such project exceeds the amount for which the business license was issued, the licensee shall be required to pay a license fee at the then-prevailing rate on the excess amount. The provisions of this article and the rates herein shall remain in effect from year to year as amended by the Council.

Section 8-4. Business License Tax, Refund.

- (a) The required business license tax shall be paid for each business subject hereto according to the applicable rate classification on or before the due date of the 30th day of April in each year, except for those businesses in Rate Class 8 for which a different due date is specified. Late payments shall be subject to penalties as set forth in Section 8-12 hereof, except that admitted insurance companies may pay before June 1 without penalty.
- (b) A separate license shall be required for each place of business and for each classification or business conducted at one place. If gross income cannot be separated for classifications at one location, the business license tax shall be computed on the combined gross income for the classification requiring the highest rate. The business license tax must be computed based on the licensee's gross income for the calendar year preceding the due date, for the licensee's twelve-month fiscal year preceding the due date, or on a twelve-month projected income based on the monthly average for a business in operation for less than one year. The business license tax for a new business must be computed on the estimated probable gross income for the balance of the license year. A business license related to construction contract projects may be issued on a per-project basis, at the option of the taxpayer. No refund shall be made for a business that is discontinued.
- (c) A licensee that submits a payment greater than the amount owed may request a refund. To be considered, a refund request must be submitted in writing to the Town before the June 1 immediately following the April 30 on which the payment was due and must be supported by adequate documentation supporting the refund request. The Town shall approve or deny the refund request and, if approved, shall issue the refund to the business within thirty (30) days after receipt of the request.

Section 8-5. Registration Required.

- (a) The owner, agent, or legal representative of every business subject to this article, whether listed in the classification index or not, shall register the business and make application for a business license on or before the due date of each year; provided, a new business shall be required to have a business license prior to operation within the Town, and an

annexed business shall be required to have a business license within thirty (30) days of the annexation. A license for a bar (NAICS 722410) must be issued in the name of the individual who has been issued the corresponding state alcohol, beer, or wine permit or license and will have actual control and management of the business.

- (b) Application shall be on the then-current standard business license application as established and provided by the Director of the South Carolina Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office and shall be accompanied by all information about the applicant, the licensee, and the business deemed appropriate to carry out the purpose of this article by the license official. Applicants may be required to submit copies of portions of state and federal income tax returns reflecting gross receipts and gross revenue figures.
- (c) The applicant shall certify under oath that the information given in the application is true, that the gross income is accurately reported (or estimated for a new business) without any unauthorized deductions, and that all assessments, personal property taxes on business property, and other monies due and payable to the Town have been paid.
- (d) The Town shall allow application, reporting, calculation, and payment of business license taxes through the business license tax portal hosted and managed by the South Carolina Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office, subject to the availability and capability thereof. Any limitations in portal availability or capability do not relieve the applicant or Licensee from existing business license or business license tax obligations.

Section 8-6. Deductions, Exemptions, and Charitable Organizations.

- (a) No deductions from gross income shall be made except income earned outside of the Town on which a license tax is paid by the business to some other municipality or county and fully reported to the Town, taxes collected for a governmental entity, or income which cannot be included for computation of the tax pursuant to state or federal law. Properly apportioned income from business in interstate commerce shall be included in the calculation of gross income and is not exempted. The applicant shall have the burden to establish the right to exempt income by satisfactory records and proof.
- (b) No person shall be exempt from the requirements of the article by reason of the lack of an established place of business within the Town, unless exempted by state or federal law. The license official shall determine the appropriate classification for each business in accordance with the latest issue of NAICS. No person shall be exempt from this article by reason of the payment of any other tax, unless exempted by state law, and no person shall be relieved of liability for payment of any other tax or fee by reason of application of this article.
- (c) Wholesalers are exempt from business license taxes unless they maintain warehouses or distribution establishments within the Town. A wholesale transaction involves a sale to an individual who will resell the goods and includes delivery of the goods to the reseller. It does not include a sale of goods to a user or consumer.
- (d) A charitable organization shall be exempt from the business license tax on its gross income unless it is deemed a business subject to a business license tax on all or part of its

gross income as provided in this section. A charitable organization, or any affiliate of a charitable organization, that reports income from for-profit activities or unrelated business income for federal income tax purposes to the Internal Revenue Service shall be deemed a business subject to a business license tax on the part of its gross income from such for-profit activities or unrelated business income.

- (e) A charitable organization shall be deemed a business subject to a business license tax on its total gross income if (1) any net proceeds of operation, after necessary expenses of operation, inure to the benefit of any individual or any entity that is not itself a charitable organization as defined in this article, or (2) any net proceeds of operation, after necessary expenses of operation, are used for a purpose other than a charitable purpose as defined in this article. Excess benefits or compensation in any form beyond fair market value to a sponsor, organizer, officer, director, trustee, or person with ultimate control of the organization shall not be deemed a necessary expense of operation.

Section 8-7. False Application Unlawful.

It shall be unlawful for any person subject to the provisions of this article to make a false application for a business license or to give or file, or direct the giving or filing of, any false information with respect to the license or tax required by this article.

Section 8-8. Display and Transfer.

- (a) All persons shall display the license issued to them on the original form provided by the license official in a conspicuous place in the business establishment at the address shown on the license. A transient or non-resident shall carry the license upon his person or in a vehicle used in the business readily available for inspection by any authorized agent of the Town.
- (b) Commercial vehicles operating within the Town shall display an annual business license decal, which shall be used for identification purposes only. One business license decal will be provided with each license issued. Additional decals may be purchased for a fee not to exceed \$5.00 per decal.
- (c) A change of address must be reported to the license official within ten (10) days after removal of the business to a new location and the license will be valid at the new address upon written notification by the license official and compliance with zoning and building codes. Failure to obtain the approval of the license official for a change of address shall invalidate the license and subject the licensee to prosecution for doing business without a license. A business license shall not be transferable, and a transfer of controlling interest shall be considered a termination of the old business and the establishment of a new business requiring a new business license, based on old business income.

Section 8-9. Administration of Ordinance.

The license official shall administer the provisions of this article, collect business license taxes, issue licenses, make or initiate investigations and audits to ensure compliance, initiate denial or suspension and revocation procedures, report violations to the Town Attorney, assist in

prosecution of violators, produce forms, undertake reasonable procedures relating to the administration of this article, and perform such other duties as may be duly assigned.

Section 8-10. Inspection and Audits.

- (a) For the purpose of enforcing the provisions of this article, the license official or other authorized agent of the Town is empowered to enter upon the premises of any person subject to this article to make inspections and to examine and audit books and records. It shall be unlawful for any such person to fail or refuse to make available the necessary books and records. In the event an audit or inspection reveals that the licensee has filed false information, the costs of the audit shall be added to the correct business license tax and late penalties in addition to other penalties provided herein. Each day of failure to pay the proper amount of business license tax shall constitute a separate offense.
- (b) The license official shall have the authority to make inspections and conduct audits of businesses to ensure compliance with the article. Financial information obtained by inspections and audits shall not be deemed public records, and the license official shall not release the amount of business license taxes paid or the reported gross income of any person by name without written permission of the licensee, except as authorized by this article, state or federal law, or proper judicial order. Statistics compiled by classifications are public records.

Section 8-11. Assessments, Payment under Protest, Appeal.

- (a) Assessments, payments under protest, and appeals of assessment shall be allowed and conducted by the Town pursuant to the provisions of S.C. Code § 6-1-410, as amended. In preparing an assessment, the license official may examine such records of the business or any other available records as may be appropriate and conduct such investigations and statistical surveys as the license official may deem appropriate to assess a business license tax and penalties as provided herein.
- (b) The license official shall establish a uniform local procedure consistent with S.C. Code § 6-1-410 for hearing an application for adjustment of assessment and issuing a notice of final assessment; provided that for particular types of business licenses including, without limitation, for business licenses issued to businesses subject to business license taxes under Article 20, Chapter 9, Title 58, and Chapters 7 and 45, Title 38, of the South Carolina Code, the Town, by separate ordinance, may establish a different procedure and may delegate one or more rights, duties, and functions hereunder to the Municipal Association of South Carolina.

Section 8-12. Delinquent License Taxes, Partial Payment.

- (a) For non-payment of all or any part of the correct business license tax, the license official shall impose and collect a late penalty of five (5%) percent of the unpaid tax for each month or portion thereof after the due date until paid. Penalties shall not be waived. If any business license tax remains unpaid for sixty (60) days after its due date, the license official shall report it to the Town Attorney for appropriate legal action.

- (b) Partial payment may be accepted by the license official to toll imposition of penalties on the portion paid; provided, however, no business license shall be issued or renewed until the full amount of the tax due, with penalties, has been paid.

Section 8-13. Notices.

The license official may, but shall not be required to, mail written notices that business license taxes are due. If notices are not mailed, there shall be published a notice of the due date in a newspaper of general circulation within the Town three (3) times prior to the due date in each year. Failure to receive notice shall not constitute a defense to prosecution for failure to pay the tax due or grounds for waiver of penalties.

Section 8-14. Denial of License.

- (a) The license official may deny a license to an applicant when the license official determines:
 - (1) The application is incomplete or contains a misrepresentation, false or misleading statement, or evasion or suppression of a material fact;
 - (2) The activity for which a license is sought is unlawful or constitutes a public nuisance per se or per accidens;
 - (3) The applicant, licensee, prior licensee, or the person in control of the business has been convicted within the previous ten years of an offense under a law or ordinance regulating business, a crime involving dishonest conduct or moral turpitude related to a business or a subject of a business, or an unlawful sale of merchandise or prohibited goods;
 - (4) The applicant, licensee, prior licensee, or the person in control of the business has engaged in an unlawful activity or nuisance related to the business or to a similar business in the Town or in another jurisdiction;
 - (5) The applicant, licensee, prior licensee, or the person in control of the business is delinquent in the payment to the Town of any tax or fee;
 - (6) A licensee has actual knowledge or notice or, based on the circumstances, reasonably should have knowledge or notice, that any person or employee of the licensee has committed a crime of moral turpitude on the business premises, or has permitted any person or employee of the licensee to engage in the unlawful sale of merchandise or prohibited goods on the business premises and has not taken remedial measures necessary to correct such activity; or
 - (7) The license for the business or for a similar business of the licensee in the Town or another jurisdiction has been denied, suspended, or revoked in the previous license year.

- (b) A decision of the license official shall be subject to appeal as herein provided. Denial shall be written with reasons stated.

Section 8-15. Suspension or Revocation of License.

- (a) When the license official determines:

- (1) A license has been mistakenly or improperly issued or issued contrary to law;
- (2) A licensee has breached any condition upon which the license was issued or has failed to comply with the provisions of this article;
- (3) A licensee has obtained a license through a fraud, misrepresentation, a false or misleading statement, or evasion or suppression of a material fact in the license application;
- (4) A licensee has been convicted within the previous ten years of an offense under a law or ordinance regulating business, a crime involving dishonest conduct or moral turpitude related to a business or a subject of a business, or an unlawful sale of merchandise or prohibited goods;
- (5) A licensee has engaged in an unlawful activity or nuisance related to the business; or
- (6) A licensee is delinquent in the payment to the Town of any tax or fee,

the license official may give written notice to the licensee or the person in control of the business within the Town by personal service or mail that the license is suspended pending a single hearing before Council or its designee for the purpose of determining whether the suspension should be upheld and the license should be revoked.

- (b) The written notice of suspension and proposed revocation shall state the time and place at which the hearing is to be held, and shall contain a brief statement of the reasons for the suspension and proposed revocation and a copy of the applicable provisions of this article.

Section 8-16. Appeals to Council or its Designee.

- (a) Except with respect to appeals of assessments under Section 8-11 hereof, which are governed by S.C. Code § 6-1-410, any person aggrieved by a determination, denial, or suspension and proposed revocation of a business license by the license official may appeal the decision to the Council or its designee by written request stating the reasons for appeal, filed with the license official within ten (10) days after service by mail or personal service of the notice of determination, denial, or suspension and proposed revocation.
- (b) A hearing on an appeal from a license denial or other determination of the license official and a hearing on a suspension and proposed revocation shall be held by the Council or its designee within ten (10) business days after receipt of a request for appeal or service of

a notice of suspension and proposed revocation. The hearing shall be held upon written notice at a regular or special meeting of the Council, or, if by designee of the Council, at a hearing to be scheduled by the designee. The hearing may be continued to another date by agreement of all parties. At the hearing, all parties shall have the right to be represented by counsel, to present testimony and evidence, and to cross-examine witnesses. The proceedings shall be recorded and transcribed at the expense of the party so requesting. The rules of evidence and procedure prescribed by Council or its designee shall govern the hearing. Following the hearing, the Council by majority vote of its members present, or the designee of Council if the hearing is held by the designee, shall render a written decision based on findings of fact and conclusions on application of the standards herein. The written decision shall be served, by personal service or by mail, upon all parties or their representatives and shall constitute the final decision of the Town.

- (c) Timely appeal of a decision of Council or its designee does not effectuate a stay of that decision. The decision of the Council or its designee shall be binding and enforceable unless overturned by an applicable appellate court after a due and timely appeal.
- (d) For business licenses issued to businesses subject to business license taxes under Article 20, Chapter 9, Title 58, and Chapters 7 and 45, Title 38, of the South Carolina Code, the Town may establish a different procedure by ordinance.

Section 8-17. Consent, franchise, or license required for use of streets.

- (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to construct, install, maintain, or operate in, on, above, or under any street or public place under control of the Town any line, pipe, cable, pole, structure, or facility for utilities, communications, cablevision, or other purposes without a consent agreement or franchise agreement issued by the Council by ordinance that prescribes the term, fees, and conditions for use.
- (b) The annual fee for use of streets or public places authorized by a consent agreement or franchise agreement shall be set by the ordinance approving the agreement and shall be consistent with limits set by state law. Existing franchise agreements shall continue in effect until expiration dates in the agreements. Franchise and consent fees shall not be in lieu of or be credited against business license taxes unless specifically provided by the franchise or consent agreement.

Section 8-18. Confidentiality.

Except in accordance with proper judicial order or as otherwise provided by law, no official or employee of the Town may divulge or make known in any manner the amount of income or any financial particulars set forth or disclosed in any report or return required under this article. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit the publication of statistics so classified as to prevent the identification of particular reports or returns. Any license data may be shared with other public officials or employees in the performance of their duties, whether or not those duties relate to enforcement of this article.

Section 8-19. Violations.

Any person violating any provision of this article shall be deemed guilty of an offense and shall be subject to a fine of up to \$500.00 or imprisonment for not more than thirty (30) days or both, upon conviction. Each day of violation shall be considered a separate offense. Punishment for violation shall not relieve the offender of liability for delinquent taxes, penalties, and costs provided for in this article.

Section 8-20. Severability.

A determination that any portion of this article is invalid or unenforceable shall not affect the remaining portions. To the extent of any conflict between the provisions of this article and the provisions of the South Carolina Business License Tax Standardization Act, as codified at S.C. Code §§ 6-1-400 et seq., the standardization act shall control.

Section 8-21. Classification and Rates.

- (a) The business license tax for each class of businesses subject to this article shall be computed in accordance with the current Business License Rate Schedule, designated as Appendix A to this article, which may be amended from time to time by the Council.
- (b) The current Business License Class Schedule is attached hereto as Appendix B. Hereafter, no later than December 31 of each odd year, the Town shall adopt, by ordinance, the latest standardized Business License Class Schedule as recommended by the Municipal Association of South Carolina and adopted by the Director of the South Carolina Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office. Upon adoption by the Town, the revised Business License Class Schedule shall then be appended to this article as a replacement Appendix B.
- (c) The classifications included in each rate class are listed with NAICS codes, by sector, sub-sector, group, or industry. The Business License Class Schedule (Appendix B) is a tool for classification and not a limitation on businesses subject to a business license tax. The classification in the most recent version of the Business License Class Schedule adopted by the Council that most specifically identifies the subject business shall be applied to the business. The license official shall have the authority to make the determination of the classification most specifically applicable to a subject business.
- (d) A copy of the class schedule and rate schedule shall be filed in the office of the Town Clerk.

APPENDIX A
BUSINESS LICENSE RATE SCHEDULE

Rate Class	Income: \$0 – \$2,000 Base Rate	Income Over \$2,000 Rate Per \$1,000 or Fraction Thereof
1	\$ 35.00	\$ 1.45
2	\$ 40.00	\$ 1.65
3	\$ 45.00	\$ 1.85
4	\$ 55.00	\$ 2.05

5	\$ 60.00	\$ 2.25
6	\$ 65.00	\$ 2.50
7	\$ 70.00	\$ 2.70
8	See individual businesses in Class 8 listed below	
9	See individual businesses in Class 9 listed below	

TRANSITIONAL BUSINESS LICENSE RATE SCHEDULE

For the license year commencing on May 1, 2023, and concluding on April 30, 2024, the base and variable rates for each class shall be as follows:

Rate Class	Income: \$0 – \$2,000 Base Rate	Income Over \$2,000 Rate Per \$1,000 or Fraction Thereof
1	\$ 31.00	\$ 1.30
2	\$ 35.00	\$ 1.45
3	\$ 40.00	\$ 1.65
4	\$ 49.00	\$ 1.80
5	\$ 53.00	\$ 2.00
6	\$ 57.00	\$ 2.20
7	\$ 62.00	\$ 2.40
8.1	\$ 49.00	\$ 1.60
8.2 – 8.56	See individual businesses in Class 8 listed below	
9.1	\$ 18.00	\$ 0.00
9.2	\$ 62.00	\$ 2.40
9.3	\$ 18.00	\$ 0.00

NON-RESIDENT RATES

Unless otherwise specifically provided elsewhere in this article, all taxes and rates specified herein shall be doubled for nonresidents and itinerants having no fixed principal place of business within the Town.

CLASS 8 RATES

Each NAICS number designates a separate subclassification. The businesses in this section are treated as separate and individual subclasses due to provisions of state law, regulatory requirements, service burdens, tax equalization considerations, and other factors that are deemed sufficient to require individually determined rates. In accordance with state law, the Town also may provide for reasonable subclassifications for rates, described by an NAICS sector, subsector, or industry, that are based on particularized considerations as needed for economic stimulus or for the enhanced or disproportionate demands on municipal services or infrastructure.

Non-resident rates do not apply except where indicated.

8.1. NAICS 23 – Construction. [Contractors, Construction, All Types]

Resident rates, for contractors having a permanent place of business within the Town:

Minimum on first \$2,000	\$ 55.00 PLUS
Each additional \$1,000	\$ 1.80

* Transitional rates shall apply for the 2023-24 license year.

Non-resident rates apply to contractors that do not have a permanent place of business within the Town. A trailer at the construction site or structure in which the contractor temporarily resides is not a permanent place of business under this article.

No contractor shall be issued a business license until all state and municipal qualification examination and trade license requirements have been met. Each contractor shall post a sign in plain view on each job identifying the contractor with the job.

Sub-contractors shall be licensed on the same basis as general or prime contractors for the same job. No deductions shall be made by a general or prime contractor for value of work performed by a sub-contractor.

No contractor shall be issued a business license until all performance and indemnity bonds required by the Building Code have been filed and approved. Zoning permits must be obtained when required by the Development Standards Ordinance.

Each prime contractor shall file with the License Official a list of sub-contractors furnishing labor or materials for each project.

For licenses issued on a per-job basis, the total tax for the full amount of the contract shall be paid prior to commencement of work and shall entitle the contractor to complete the job without regard to the normal license expiration date. An amended report shall be filed for each new job and the appropriate additional license fee per \$1,000 of the contract amount shall be paid prior to commencement of new work. Only one base tax shall be paid in a license year. Licensees holding a per-job license shall file, by each April 30 during the continuation of the construction project, a statement of compliance, including but not limited to a revised estimate of the value of the contract. If any revised estimate of the final value of such project exceeds the amount for which the business license was issued, the licensee shall be required to pay a license fee at the then-prevailing rate on the excess amount.

8.2 NAICS 482 – Rail Transportation. (See S.C. Code § 12-23-210).

8.3 NAICS 517111, 517112 and 517122 – Wired & Wireless Telecommunications Carriers.

With respect to “retail telecommunications services” as defined in S. C. Code § 58-9-2200, the Town participates in a collections program administered by the Municipal Association of South Carolina. The Town has approved participation in the collections program by separate ordinance (the “Telecommunications Collections Ordinance”). The rates, terms, conditions, dates, penalties, appeals process, and other details of the business license

applicable to retail telecommunications services are set forth in the Telecommunications Collections Ordinance.

8.4 NAICS 5241 and 5242 – Insurance Carriers; Agencies, Brokerages, and Other Insurance Related Activities.

Independent agents, brokers, and their employees are subject to a business license tax based on their natural class. With respect to insurers subject to license fees and taxes under Chapter 7 of Title 38 and to brokers under Chapter 45 of Title 38, the Town participates in a collections program administered by the Municipal Association of South Carolina. The Town has approved participation in the collections program by separate ordinance (the “Insurers and Brokers Collections Ordinance”). The rates, terms, conditions, dates, penalties, appeals process, and other details of the business license applicable to insurers and brokers are set forth in the Insurers and Brokers Collections Ordinance.

8.51 NAICS 713120 – Amusement Arcades. [*Amusement Machines, Coin Operated, Except Gambling*]

Music machines, juke boxes, kiddy rides, video games, pin tables with levers, and other amusement machines with or without free play feature licensed by SC Department of Revenue pursuant to S.C. Code §12-21-2720(A)(1) and (A)(2) [Type I and Type II].

For operation of all machines (not on gross income), pursuant to S.C. Code §12-21-2746:

Per Machine	\$ 12.50 PLUS
Business license	\$ 12.50

Distributors that sell or lease machines and are not licensed by the state as an operator pursuant to §12-21-2728 are not subject to Subclass 8.51.

8.52 NAICS 713290 – Other Gambling Industries. [*Amusement Machines, Coin Operated, Non-Payout*]

Amusement machines of the non-payout type or in-line pin game licensed by SC Department of Revenue pursuant to S.C. Code §12-21-2720(A)(3) [Type III].

For operation of all machines (not on gross income), pursuant to S.C. Code §12-21-2720(B):

Per Machine	\$ 180.00 PLUS
Business license	\$ 12.50

Distributors that sell or lease machines and are not licensed by the state as an operator pursuant to §12-21-2728 are not subject to Subclass 8.52.

8.6 NAICS Code Varies – Billiard or Pool Tables.

A business that offers the use of billiard or pool tables shall be subject to business license taxation under its natural class for all gross income of the business excluding the gross income attributable to the billiard or pool tables. In addition, the billiard or pool tables shall require their own separate business licenses pursuant to SC Code § 12-21-2746 and shall be subject to a license tax of \$5.00 per table measuring less than 3½ feet wide and 7 feet long, and \$12.50 per table longer than that.

CLASS 9 RATES

Each NAICS number designates a separate subclassification. The businesses in this section are treated as separate and individual subclasses due to provisions of state law, regulatory requirements, service burdens, tax equalization considerations, and other factors that are deemed sufficient to require individually determined rates. In accordance with state law, the Town also may provide for reasonable subclassifications for rates, described by a NAICS sector, subsector, or industry, that are based on particularized considerations as needed for economic stimulus or for the enhanced or disproportionate demands on municipal services or infrastructure.

Non-resident rates do not apply except where indicated.

9.1 NAICS Code Varies – Temporary Vendor License

Independent artists, writers, and performers (NAICS 711510); craftspersons (NAICS Code varies); and mobile food services (NAICS 722330); are subject to a business license tax based on their natural class; provided, however, businesses who wish to sell goods and/or perform services at a public event or activity within the Town (eg. art show, craft show, fair, festival, food truck rodeo, or similar activity) with a total duration not to exceed three (3) consecutive days may obtain a temporary vendor license from the Town. A temporary vendor license shall be valid only upon the premises of the public event or activity and shall expire immediately upon the conclusion of the event or activity. Temporary vendor licenses shall be computed as follows:

Minimum on first \$2,000	\$ 20.00 PLUS
Each additional \$1,000	\$ 0.00

* Transitional rates shall apply for the 2023-24 license year.

9.2 NAICS 721199 – All Other Traveler Accommodation. [Short-Term Rental Unit; Vacation Club Unit]

The business license tax for establishments primarily engaged in providing short-term lodging including, specifically, short-term rental units and vacation club units, but excluding hotels, motels, and bed-and-breakfast inns, shall be computed as follows:

Minimum on first \$2,000	\$ 70.00 PLUS
Each additional \$1,000	\$ 2.70

* Transitional rates shall apply for the 2023-24 license year.

A business license shall not be issued for a short-term rental unit or vacation club unit until the property owner or designated agent has applied for and obtained a short-term rental permit, as required by the Development Standards Ordinance.

Appendix B

Classes 1-9: Business License Class Schedule by NAICS Code

NAICS Sector/ Subsector	Industry Sector	Class
11	Agriculture, Forestry, Hunting and Fishing	1
21	Mining	2
22	Utilities	1
31-33	Manufacturing	3
42	Wholesale Trade	1
44-45	Retail Trade	1
48-49	Transportation and Warehousing	1
51	Information	4
52	Finance and Insurance	7
53	Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	7
54	Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	5
55	Management of Companies	7
56	Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services	3
61	Educational Services	3
62	Health Care and Social Assistance	4
71	Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	3
721	Accommodation	1
722	Food Services and Drinking Places	2
81	Other Services	4
Class 8	Subclasses	
23	Construction	8.1
482	Rail Transportation	8.2
517111	Wired Telecommunications Carriers	8.3
517112	Wireless Telecommunications Carriers (Except Satellite)	8.3
517122	Agents for Wireless Telecommunications Services	8.3
5241	Insurance Carriers	8.4
5242	Insurance Brokers for Non-Admitted Insurance Carriers	8.4
713120	Amusement Parks and Arcades	8.51
713290	Nonpayout Amusement Machines	8.52
713990	All Other Amusement and Recreational Industries (Pool Tables)	8.6
Class 9	Subclasses	

711510	Independent Artists, Writers, and Performers (Temporary Vendor License)	9.1
721199	All Other Traveler Accommodation (Short-Term Rental Unit; Vacation Club Unit)	9.2
722330	Mobile Food Services (Temporary Vendor License)	9.1

The 2023 Business License Class Schedule is based on a three-year average of IRS statistical data. This appendix will be updated every odd year based on the latest available IRS statistics. The 2023 Business License Class Schedule may be accessed at: <https://www.townofseabrookisland.org/business-licenses.html>

SECTION 2. Conflicting Ordinances Repealed. All other ordinances, or parts of ordinances, related to business licensing which are in effect as of the effective date of this ordinance are hereby repealed and replaced in their entirety; provided that any prior ordinances related to collections programs administered by the Municipal Association of South Carolina including, without limitation, the Insurance Tax Collection Program (ITCP), the Brokers Tax Collection Program (BTCP), the Telecommunications Tax Collection Program (TTCP), and Setoff Debt Collection Program, shall remain in full force and effect in accordance with their terms, except to the extent specifically amended by the provisions of this ordinance.

SECTION 3. Severability. If any section, subsection, paragraph, clause, or provision of this ordinance shall be deemed to be unconstitutional, unenforceable, or otherwise invalid by the final decision of a court of competent jurisdiction, it shall be construed to have been the legislative intent of Town Council to pass said ordinance without such unconstitutional provision, and the validity of all remaining sections, subsections, paragraphs, clauses, or provisions of said ordinance shall not be affected thereby. If said ordinance, or any provision thereof, is held by the final decision of a court of competent jurisdiction to be inapplicable to any person, group of persons, property, kind of property, circumstances or set of circumstances, such holding shall not affect the applicability thereof to any other persons, property or circumstances.

SECTION 4. Effective Date. This ordinance shall be effective from and after January 1, 2024.

SIGNED AND SEALED this ____ day of _____, 2023, having been duly adopted by the Town Council for the Town of Seabrook Island on the ____ day of _____, 2023.

First Reading: October 24, 2023
Public Hearing: November 28, 2023
Second Reading: November 28, 2023

TOWN OF SEABROOK ISLAND

John Gregg, Mayor

ATTEST

Katharine E. Watkins, Town Clerk