

**STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF OCONEE**

EMERGENCY AND DISASTER DECLARATION

WHEREAS, a violent storm system (formerly Hurricane Helene) passed through Oconee County during the early morning hours of September 27, 2024;

WHEREAS, the storm system was extraordinarily violent resulting in damage to persons and property and was preceded by heavy rains, compounding the effect of the storm system;

WHEREAS, the storm system continues to affect vast portions of Oconee County, with widespread power outages, downed trees, and impassable roadways;

WHEREAS, Oconee County Council deems that extraordinary emergency measures are necessary to cope with the resulting disaster.

THEREFORE, South Carolina Code of Laws Section 4-9-25, among other authorities, the Oconee County Council declares a state of emergency and disaster arising from the extraordinary weather events culminating on September 27, 2024. County Council authorizes the County Administrator, on advice of the Emergency Services Director and the County Attorney, and in consultation with the Chairman of County Council, to take necessary and appropriate emergency actions, including the following:

1. Suspending existing laws and regulations prescribing the procedures for conduct of county business if strict compliance with the provisions of any statute, order, rule, or regulation would in any way prevent, hinder, or delay necessary action in coping with an emergency;
2. Utilizing all available resources of county government as reasonably necessary to cope with an emergency;
3. Transferring the direction, personnel, or functions of county departments, agencies, or units thereof for the purpose of facilitating or performing emergency services as necessary or desirable;
4. Taking action to compel performance by elected and appointed county government officials and employees of the duties and functions assigned in the county disaster plan;
5. Contracting, requisitioning, and compensating for goods and services from private sources;
6. Warning and advising for evacuation of all or parts of the population from any stricken or threatened area within the county, if such action is deemed necessary for the preservation of life or other disaster mitigation, response, or recovery;
7. Prescribing routes, modes of transportation, and destinations in connection with evacuations;
8. Making provision for the availability and use of temporary housing;

The County Administrator shall receive the approval of a majority of Council in effecting action related to the foregoing when deemed necessary by law and/or when circumstances permit, and any such actions taken by the County Administrator under these emergency circumstances, but prior hereto, are hereby ratified by Council.

This declaration shall remain in force for sixty (60) days, unless terminated sooner or extended.

DECLARED this ____ day of _____, 2024, in meeting duly assembled.

ATTEST:

Jennifer C. Adams
Clerk to Oconee County Council

Matthew Durham
Chair, Oconee County Council