

**RESOLUTION REGARDING THE TOWN OF JAMES ISLAND'S BEST PRACTICES TO
ADDRESS SEA LEVEL RISE AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

WHEREAS, although the causes of climate change and sea level rise have become politically motivated topics, the vast majority of the scientific community accept the reality of climate change based on peer-reviewed facts;

WHEREAS, if left unchecked, climate change has been predicted to significantly contribute to sea level rise, flooding, heat waves, and more severe and frequent extreme weather events that threaten the Town of James Island;

WHEREAS, if not mitigated, climate change will put our homes, businesses, and way of life on James Island at risk. It will not only result in significant property damage across the island, but will also threaten lives and businesses;

WHEREAS, the unique beauty of the Lowcountry architecture and natural resources should be preserved from the threat of climate change for future generations;

WHEREAS, the preventative measures set forth herein are intended to save residents of James Island from paying the cost of curing avoidable harm;

WHEREAS, the Town of James Island prefers self-governance rather than receiving orders from centralized government;

WHEREAS, Town Hall can take the lead in addressing climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions from Town Hall vehicles and equipment as soon as possible through a managed phase-out of fossil fuel powered Town Hall vehicles and equipment into clean sources of energy as well as through implementing measures at Town Hall and in publicly owned spaces to reduce fossil fuel consumption;

WHEREAS, other governments are taking a more aggressive approach to mitigating the harm caused by climate change, and the Town wishes to be a leader in small government's approach to addressing sea level rise and other symptoms of climate change;

WHEREAS, the Town of James Island, as just one part of the great state of SC, may serve as an example to other towns but cannot solve the climate crisis alone, and that any action to mitigate its severity must ultimately be in partnership with surrounding municipalities;

WHEREAS, examples of municipal climate solutions include:

- a) Expansion of public transportation to reduce vehicles on the road
- b) Expansion of pedestrian and bike path systems
- c) Increasing the efficiency of the Town's publicly owned buildings' energy use
- d) Promoting solar panel installation
- e) Improving our waste management systems by expanding recycling and composting
- f) Protecting marshes and wetlands
- g) Protecting existing forests and planting trees

NOW BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, the Town of James Island declares that we are a part of a global climate crisis, and that, as a sea island and gem of the Lowcountry, it shall take steps to address the aforementioned sea level rise, flooding, and symptoms of climate change;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Town of James Island commits taking immediate actions to address global warming and the ecological crisis by working to develop and initiate a Town of James Island Climate Plan which, with appropriate financial and regulatory assistance from State and Federal authorities, will work toward reducing the Town’s publicly owned assets’ greenhouse gas emissions as soon as possible and will initiate efforts to safely draw down carbon from the atmosphere and accelerate adaptation and resilience strategies in preparation for intensifying local climate impacts;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, James Island Town Council directs that town staff and Town elected and appointed officials be educated on the latest climate science, including local and statewide measures to address climate change within 120 days of the date of this resolution;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, James Island Town Council directs all Town Departments to report back at an all-staff meeting by 120 days to Town council on existing and suggested measures for maximum emergency reductions in greenhouse gas emissions from Town operations;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Town of James Island directs the Environment & Beautification Committee to work with Town staff to report back within 120 days on the establishment of a Town of James Island Climate Plan and to include the development of a Town of James Island 10-year “Climate Action Plan” to guide the climate response, as well as all climate mitigation, resilience, adaptation, engagement, education, advocacy, and research and development programs;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Town of James Island joins a nationwide call for a regional, national, and international climate change mitigation effort focused on rapidly catalyzing an effort at all levels of government to reverse climate change and the ecological crisis;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, in furtherance of this resolution, the Town of James Island shall submit a certified copy of this resolution to its Federal and State Representatives, the Municipal Association of South Carolina, as well as local representatives from Charleston County, the City of Charleston and the James Island Public Service District.

Enacted this the ____ day of December, 2020.

Bill Woolsey, Mayor

ATTEST
Frances Simmons, Town Clerk _____