

City of Summersville, WV

# **Municipal Home Rule Application**

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# City of Summersville, West Virginia Municipal Home Rule Application

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### ROBERT L. SHAFER, MAYOR

July 28, 2022

Mr. Dave Hardy, Secretary and Chairman Department of Revenue Home Rule Board 1900 Kanawha Blvd. E Building 1, W-300 Charleston, WV 25305

RE: City of Summersville, West Virginia Application and Written Plan West Virginia Municipal Home Rule Program

Dear Members of the Municipal Home Rule Board:

On behalf of the citizens and elected officials of the City of Summersville, I am pleased to submit eight (8) original copies and one electronic copy of the City's application and proposed plan to participate in the Home Rule Program.

June 24, 2022
June 23, 2022
June 30, 2022
July 11, 2022
July 25, 2022
July 25, 2022

I respectfully request this application be agenda item for your October 2022 meeting. We thank you for your consideration in this vital matter and look forward to working in concert with you for the betterment of our state. If you have questions or require additional information; please do not hesitate to contact me anytime.

Sincerely,

Robert L. Shafer

Mayor

# Section I Applicant Information

# **Home Rule Plan & Amendment Template**

SECTION I: API	PLICANT INFORMAT	ION	
Type of Submission	: 🔯 Initial Plan		☐ Proposed Amendment
Name of Municipalit		rille	
Certifying Official:	Robert L. Shafer		Title: Mayor
Contact Person:	Robert L. Shafer		Title: Mayor
Address:	400 North Broad Stre	et	
City, State, Zip:	Summersville, WV 26	3651	
Telephone Number	: 304-872-1211		Fax Number: 304-872-2236
E-Mail Address:	mayor@summersvill	ewv.org	
Municipal Classificat	ion:		
☐ Class I	☐ Class II	<b>⊠</b> k Cl	lass III 🔲 Class IV

# SECTION II: NARRATIVE (proposed plan or plan amendment)

- 1. Identify the specific state laws, policies, acts, resolutions, rules, or regulations that prevent the municipality from carrying out specific duties in the most cost effective, efficient, and timely manner.
- 2. Describe the specific problem(s) created by above stated laws, policies, acts, resolutions, rules, or regulations.
- 3. Define each proposed solution to the above described problem(s), including all proposed changes to law, policies, acts, resolutions, rules, or regulations.
- 4. See State Tax Department website for instructions regarding municipal sales and use tax (Business, Sales and Use Tax): https://tax.wv.gov/Business/SalesAndUseTax/MunicipalSalesAndUseTax/Pages/MunicipalSalesAndUseTax.aspx.

### SECTION III: ATTACHMENTS

- 1. Completed Plan and Amendment Checklist.
- 2. Affidavit of legal advertisement providing notice of the public hearing.
- 3. Minutes of public hearing, including comments (if any).
- 4. Copy of adopted ordinance authorizing submission of plan or amendment to Municipal Home Rule Board.
- 5. Fiscal statement demonstrating municipality's ability to manage costs or liabilities associated with proposal (if proposal is revenue related).
- 6. Affidavit of authorized municipality representative that municipality owes no outstanding State fees.
- 7. Attorney opinion letter stating that application and plan or amendment complies with applicable State law.

**NOTE:** Submit eight originals and one electronic copy of initial plan or amendment to the Municipal Home Rule Board a minimum of 30 days before a Board meeting.

# HOME RULE APPLICATION, PLAN AND AMENDMENT CHECKLIST

<u>X</u>	Class II legal advertisement of Public Hearing Dates: June 23, 2022 and June 30, 2022
_X_	<ul> <li>Notice of Public Hearing to Municipal Home Rule Board (MHRB) and Cabinet Secretary of every State department</li> </ul>
	Plan available for public inspection 30 days prior to Public Hearing
	_ Hearing Date: July 25, 2022
	Ordinance authorizing plan or amendment
	1 <sup>st</sup> reading date: July 11, 2022 2 <sup>nd</sup> reading date: July 25, 2022 Date of adoption: July 25, 2022
X_	Required narrative presentation of each separate proposal
	<u>ATTACHMENTS</u>
X	Affidavit of legal notice of Public Hearing
X	Minutes of Public Hearing, including comments (if any)
χ	Certified copy of ordinance authorizing plan or amendment
χ_	Fiscal statement demonstrating municipality's ability to manage costs or liabilities associated with proposals
<u>X</u>	Affidavit that municipality owes no outstanding State fees
<u>X</u>	Attorney opinion letter that application and plan or amendment complies with applicable State law
X	Submit eight (8) originals and one (1) electronic copy of application plan or amendment to the MHRB

# Section II Narrative

# INTRODUCTION:

The City of Summersville was founded in 1824. The city was named after Lewis Summers, a local judge who introduced the bill to create Nicholas County. The City of Summersville is the county seat and was the home to both Union and Confederate encampments during the Civil War. The city was mostly burned down by Confederate spy Nancy Hart during the war and was not rebuilt until 1884. In 1914, Nicholas County High School was established in the downtown area known today as "Old Main". The year 1960 was a big turn for the City of Summersville with the construction beginning on the dam, which would be later dedicated by President Lyndon B. Johnson in 1966.

Moving forward many years, Summersville has developed itself to serve as a multi-county hub. The upgrade of US Rt 19 from a two-lane road to a four-lane highway has proven to be essential to the city's economy. Our population can be misleading by the number itself as to what the City of Summersville has to offer (2020 census 3,121). The City of Summersville has just south of five hundred hotel beds, food service industry mixing locally owned cuisine with national chains, retail including old fashioned hardware, boutiques, quilt shop and a variety of national box stores. The city owned hospital is operated by WVU Medicine. Currently under construction is a new state of the art ninety bed nursing home. This is a public/private partnership, as fifty of the beds are owned by the City of Summersville.

Summersville is the owner/operator of the regional water and sewer utilities, as well as the hydro plant located at the Summersville Dam.

As a small Class III City, one can easily surmise that the City of Summersville is a small city with big city opportunity. Nestled in the majestic mountains of West Virginia, being the new gateway to the New River Gorge National Park, we highlight our outdoor adventure capitalizing on tourism. Summersville Lake is the biggest body of water in the State of West Virginia. The lake and its landscape, provides for world-class boating, kayaking, rock climbing, hiking, swimming & fishing.

The City of Summersville currently has 30 full-time employees, 17 full-time police officers and a volunteer fire department that averages 500 calls a year. We as a city, anticipate a 20% - 25% increase in visitation throughout the area putting a higher demand on our current work force and emergency services.

# Issue 1: Municipal Sales and Use Tax Category - Tax

### **Specific Barrier**

West Virginia State Code § 8-13-5, § 8-13C-4(a), § 8-13C-4(b).

## Specific Problems created by law

WV Code § 8-13-5 sets forth standards by which municipalities can apply a Business and Occupation Tax ("B&O") on all businesses operating within the corporate limits of the municipality but prohibits municipalities from charging a tax rate higher than the maximum rates imposed by the state. The State Legislature adopted the rates, classifications, and exemptions governing the application and collection of B&O taxes decades ago. The rates, tax classifications, rules governing the administration of the municipal business and occupation tax, have not been updated to reflect the modern economy. Further, recent legislative amendments to the B&O tax through the adoption of House Bill 4567 (Regular Session 2022) has decreased the City's tax base, making it more challenging to support essential municipal operations along with our vision for growth.

WV Code § 8-13C-4(a) permits municipalities to charge a 1% sales and use tax only if the municipality's pension fund is underfunded. The City of Summersville does not have a pension plan outside of the state's retirement plan for public employees.

WV Code § 8-13C-4(b) permits municipalities to charge a 1% sales and use tax if they repeal their B&O Tax. The revenue generated by a 1% sales tax will recover the lost revenue created by House Bill 4567 and create the additional revenue needed for our city's future comprehensive planning, allowing us to compete in the current economic environment.

## **Proposed Solution**

With the authority pursuant to West Virginia Code § 8-1-5a, the City of Summersville seeks to enact an ordinance that imposes a 1% municipal sales and use tax that would be administered, collected and enforced by the State Tax Commissioner and conform with the requirements of West Virginia Code § 11-10-11c and the requirements of the Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Administration Act as codified in West Virginia Code § 11-15B-1 et seq. As allowed by WV State Code, the City of Summersville seeks to enact a municipal sales and use tax while reducing its B&O tax to benefit retail business owners.

It is important to know the City of Summersville for decades has been very pro-business by charging approximately fifty percent of the allowable rate in most B&O tax categories (see chart below). This highlights our competitiveness in the region along with proof to business owners that the city will only tax what is needed to sustain the levels of expected services.

		<b>Current Summersville</b>	Maximum Allowable
Class	<b>Business Classification</b>	<b>B&amp;O</b> Rate	<b>B&amp;O</b> Rate
9	Selling Tangible Property - Retailers	.250 %	.500 %
17	Contracting	1.000 %	2.000%
	Service of Calling and all Other		
19	Business	.525 %	1.000 %
20	Rents, Royalties, Fees or Otherwise	.525 %	1.000 %
22	Banking	.525 %	1.000 %

The City specifically proposes to reduce its B&O tax rate in the retail classification. The current rate of tax for retail is 0.25%. The City plans to reduce it by half, and the new rate of tax will be 0.125%. Under this plan, the City proposes to reduce B&O tax rates for an approximate reduction of \$447,000.00 annually to business owners.

In today's current economic environment, it is increasingly difficult to recruit businesses owners and developers to the municipality under a traditional B&O tax structure. Moving to a consumer sales and use tax, while lowering the B&O tax within various strategic business classifications like the retail classification, will encourage more developers and businesses to be a part of the City so that they can receive the advantages of municipal services.

The City of Summersville provides essential police protection in corporate boundaries and fire protection has a call area extending beyond city limits along with regular mutual aid to the entire county. As a small city with medium sized city budget and economics, we maintain all the standard administrative services expected of modern-day government. With aging infrastructure, we strive to prepare for our future growth along with the increased demand on our city provided services.

Moreover, because of the City's proximity to outdoor recreation including camping, hiking, biking, rafting, boating, and fishing, among others, we have seen an increased interest in people and businesses wanting to reside and locate in Summersville. The City anticipates the need for additional infrastructure development with expanded recreational opportunities. And, with increased tourism and business supporting that industry, there is a corresponding need for improved emergency services and infrastructure.

Along with maintaining our current portfolio, the City of Summersville has the current slate of projects that will be supported by the 1% additional tax: (~\$1.2 million)

- 1. 125.5 acre recreational facility. This facility will include 20 miles of mountain biking, hiking, and walking trails, as well as soccer, softball, and baseball facilities, and a playground for all children including those with disabilities. The facility will appeal to the sports enthusiasts and those looking for outdoor adventure while visiting the New River National Park region. Not to mention the long overdue modern-day recreational facility for our locals.
- 2. Visitors Center. Capturing all the traffic entering and leaving the newly designated national park. This visitors center will not only highlight the New River Gorge National Park, but all the amenities offered by our county. I.e., the Summersville Lake, fishing, boating, kayaking, rock climbing, biking, hiking, and the beautiful Cranberry Glades.
- 3. Sidewalks/gateways connecting our community. We have current sidewalk projects creating accessibility and mobility from our downtown to our commercial shopping district. The goal is to continue to build out our sidewalk system creating a gateway to our shopping district and new recreational facility. This effort also highlights healthy lifestyles.
- 4. Increase funding for emergency services. This effort will first focus on retention for both police and firefighters. The current environment with law enforcement finds more officers leaving the profession every day. We need to not only equip them with the best equipment and personal protection but compensate them for the inherit risk of the job. The challenge with maintaining a volunteer fire department is the commitment of time and the out-of-pocket expenses to fulfill one's volunteer duty. The City of Summersville's volunteer fire department answers over 500 annual calls. Along with maintaining the best equipment, there is a strong consideration to add a paid driver system to our volunteer department.

The City of Summersville's history of excellent fiscal management will utilize additional revenue to responsibly grow, maintain, and sustain our infrastructural and economic future.

# Issue 2: "On The Spot" Citations Category – Administrative

The City of Summersville desires to clean up areas that have become unsightly due to owner's neglect in removing vegetation and other debris. Specifically, the City of Summersville seeks the authority for its code enforcement officer, building officer, and/or city's police department to cite property owners "on the spot" for violations of City ordinances concerning property maintenance, safety, and health hazards. Presently, City code enforcement officials are unable to issue citations "on the spot" for external sanitation violations and common nuisances, but rather are required to send preliminary notices and provide an opportunity to respond, which automatically increases costs to the City and delays resolution of the issue. This requires additional manpower and the lack of immediate citation power results in decreased compliance by property owners.

### **Specific Legal Barrier**

W.Va. Code 8-12-16 allows municipalities to adopt ordinances regulating repair, closing, demolition, etc. of dwellings or buildings unfit for human habitation. Additionally, municipalities may adopt ordinances requiring the owner of any such dwelling or building to pay for the costs of repairs, alterations, improvements, demolition, etc. W.Va. Code 8-12-5(23) further vests municipalities with the authority to, by ordinance or resolution, provide for the elimination of hazards to public health and safety and abate or cause to be abated anything which a majority of the governing body finds to be a public nuisance, but does not provide authority for granting citation powers to code enforcement officials.

In fact, from W. Va. Code 8-12-16, in pertinent parts, the language restricts enforcement agents to the powers granted to civil process servers such that all orders issued by the enforcement agency shall be served in accordance with the law of this state concerning the service of process in civil actions, and, be posted in a conspicuous place on the premises affected by the complaint or order: Provided, That no ordinance may be adopted without providing for the right to apply to the circuit court for a temporary injunction restraining the enforcement agency pending final disposition of the cause.

### Specific Problem Caused by Law

The result of the above code language is that, before citing property owners for property maintenance and related nuisance violations (e.g., sanitation issues, garbage buildup, graffiti, unmaintained lawns, unsafe or broken sidewalks), building and zoning inspectors must follow an onerous process of first posting public notice 10 days prior (warnings) and then applying for and receiving approval from the city's municipal court before a citation is issued. This process is inefficient, costly, and leads to an extended delay between the identification of a public nuisance and compliance from the property owner. In fact, because this process is so time-consuming and injurious to the apparent authority of the town's enforcement agents, non-compliance by the property owner is the more likely outcome.

### **Proposed Solution**

Summersville seeks authority to enact an ordinance providing its code enforcement officers the authority to issue "on the spot" citations for certain violations. This citation power will extend to sanitation, drainage, sidewalks in disrepair, high weeds, grass, or both, graffiti, exterior garbage accumulation, and open storage in residential districts.

These citations may be issued to the owner, lessee, sub-lessee, tenant, occupant, or agent or manager thereof, presently having control over the property in question, and an opportunity to respond will be afforded to the cited party by contesting the citation in municipal court. The citation will be administered

substantially similar to how traffic citations are administered and are subject to appeal to the Circuit Court of Nicholas County.

Other municipalities already accepted in the "Home Rule" program have adopted Ordinances authorizing "on the spot" citations and have reported the success of this enforcement tool. Summersville intends to follow the models implemented by other participating Home Rule Municipalities.

# Section III Affidavits



### ROBERT L. SHAFER, MAYOR

## AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLIC NOICE

# STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA, COUNTY OF NICHOLAS, TO-WIT:

The Affiant, after being duly sworn, swears and affirms as follows:

- 1. I, Gary Withee, am the Recorder of the City of Summersville.
- 2. A copy of the City of Summersville's proposed application and written plan to the West Virginia Municipal Home Rule Board was made available for public inspection at the City of Summersville City Hall, 400 North Broad Street, Summersville, WV, 26651, each business day during regular business hours, beginning Friday, June 24, 2022, through Monday, July 25, 2022.
- 3. A public hearing was properly noticed 30 days prior to the public hearing by a Class II legal advertisement and a public hearing was held at the aforementioned Summersville City Hall on Monday, July 25, 2022.
- 4. In accordance with the provision of the West Virginia Code 8-1-5a, as amended, notice of the public hearing was sent by certified mail to the Municipal Home Rule Board and the Cabinet Secretary of every state department.

And further the affiant sayeth not.

CITY OF SUMMERSVILLE, WEST VIRGINIA

By: Gary Withee Its: Recorder

Taken, sworn to and subscribed before me the degree day of July, 2022.

My commission expires April 11, 2024

Carof Johnson
Notary Public

(seal)



# NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CITY OF SUMMERSVILLE

# APPLICATION TO WEST VIRGINIA MUNICIPAL HOME RULE PROGRAM

Notice is hereby given by the CITY OF SUMMERSVILE that it will hold a public hearing on Monday, July 25, 2022, at 7:00 pm at City Hall, Council Chambers, 400 North Broad Street, Summersville, West Virginia 26651.

The purpose of this public hearing is to discuss the City of Summersville's proposed Home Rule written plan and application pursuant to the provisions of West Virginia Code §8-1-5a, as amended. The information gathered and presented at this public hearing will be utilized by the City in its application to the Municipal Home Rule Board.

The City of Summersville's proposed Home Rule Program written plan will be available for public inspection in the City Hall, 400 North Broad Street, Summersville, West Virginia 26651, beginning on Friday, June 24, 2022, during normal business hours, Monday through Friday (excluding holidays), between the hours of 8:00 am and 4:30 pm. This proposed written plan can also be found on the City's website, <a href="http://www.summersvillewv.org">http://www.summersvillewv.org</a>.

All interested citizens are invited to attend the public hearing on Monday, July 25, 2022, at 7:00 pm and to present oral or written comments concerning the City's proposed Home Rule plan at that time. Written comments may also be addressed to Gary Withee, Recorder, City of Summersville, 400 North Broad Street, Summersville, West Virginia 26651.

The first reading of the ordinance approving the City of Summersville Home Rule written plan and application will take place at the regularly scheduled Council meeting at 7:00 pm on Monday, July 11, 2022. The second reading of the ordinance will take place immediately after the public hearing at the regularly scheduled Council meeting at 7:00 pm on Monday, July 25, 2022. If adopted, this ordinance will take effect upon passage. Both readings of the ordinance will take place at City Hall, Council Chambers, 400 North Broad Street, Summersville, West Virginia 26651.



a division of Nicholas County Publishing Company Inc.

I, Raymond W. Corbin, News Editor of The Nicholas Chronicle, a weekly newspaper published at Summersville in the County of Nicholas, and the State of West Virginia, do certify that the hereto attached Legal Advertisement for City of Summersville, PO Box 525, Summersville WV 26651; NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CITY OF SUMMERSVILLE | APPLICATION TO WEST VIRGINIA MUNICIPAL HOME RULE PROGRAM appeared in said newspaper for 2 week(s), beginning on the 23-Jun-2022 and concluding on the 30-Jun-2022.

Given under my hand this 30-Jun-2022.

By Rhyman/ W. Lorlm, News Editor

Fee for publication:

421 words @12¢ per word, \$50.52 for the first publication; 75 percent of first publication ( \$37.89 ) for all subsequent publications; for a total cost of \$88.41.

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this 30-Jun-2022.

Matthew to yeager

Notary Public

My commission expires July 7, 2023.

OFFICIAL SEAL
NOTARY PUBLIC
STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
Matthew R. Yeager
The Nicholas Chronicle
718 Broad Street
Summersville, WV 26651
My Commission Expires July 07, 2023

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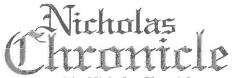
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6/23 6/30 2t



*The Nicholas Chronicle* 718 Broad St. P.O. Box 503 Summersville, WV 26651 304-872-2251

Bill to:

Bill to ID: 1093

City of Summersville A/P PO Box 525

Summersville, WV 26651-0525

Invoice

Invoice # 16872 Invoice Date: 6/29/2022

Terms: Net 30

PO:

Sold to:

Account ID: 1093

City of Summersville A/P

PO Box 525

Summersville, WV 26651-0525

Ad Inser	tions included in this Invoice		Advertising
Date	Ad Information		Tota
6/23/22	NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CITY OF SI WEST VIRGINIA MUNICIPAL HOME RULE	UMMERSVILLE I APPLICATION TO PROGRAM	\$50.52
6/30/22	NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CITY OF SU WEST VIRGINIA MUNICIPAL HOME RULE		\$37.89
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	Please make check payable to The Nicholas Chronicle	Discount Payments Applied	<b>400.41</b>



ROBERT L. SHAFER, MAYOR

June 23, 2022

Mr. Dave Hardy, Secretary and Chairman Department of Revenue Home Rule Board 1900 Kanawha Blvd. E Building 1, W-300 Charleston, WV 25305 Via Certified Mail

Dear Mr. Hardy,

The City of Summersville is providing notice of a public hearing scheduled for Monday, July 25, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. at the Summersville City Hall located at 400 North Broad Street, Summersville, West Virginia. This public hearing will address the City's intent to submit a Home Rule Application. I have attached a copy of the notice which will appear in the Nicholas Chronicle, also this notice has been sent to the cabinet secretary of every department *via certified mail*. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 304-619-7900.

Sincerely,

Robert L. Shafer, Mayor City of Summersville

CC: C. Edward Gaunch, Secretary Department of Commerce,
Mark Scott, Secretary Department of Administration,
Harold Ward, Secretary, Department of Environmental Protection,
Bill J. Crouch, Secretary Department of Health and Human Resources
Jeff Sandy, Secretary Department of Homeland Security
Jimmy Wriston, Secretary Department of Transportation
Edward A. "Ted" Diaz, Secretary Department of Veterans Assistance
Chelsea Ruby, Secretary Department of Tourism
Mitch Carmichael, Secretary Department of Economic Development
Randall Reid-Smith, Department of Arts, Culture and History
Robert Roswall, Bureau of Senior Services
Maj. Gen. Bill Crane, Adjutant General of the West Virginia National Guard

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Sender complete this section	COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY
<ul> <li>Complete items 1, 2, and 3.</li> <li>Print your name and address on the reverse so that we can return the card to you.</li> <li>Attach this card to the back of the mailpiece, or on the front if space permits.</li> </ul>	A. Signsture  X
1. Article Addressed to: Dave Hardy	D. Is delivery address different from item 1? ☐ Yes If YES, enter delivery address below: ☐ No
aget of Rev. Home Rule Bd 1900 Kanawha Blyd E	***
Building 1 W-300 Charleston WV-25305	
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Building 1 ROOM E 119 Charleston W 25305	
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SENDER: COMPLETE THIS SECTION	COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY
Complete items 1, 2, and 3.	A. Signature
Print your name and address on the reverse	X Agent Addressee
so that we can return the card to you.  Attach this card to the back of the mailpiece,	B. Received by (Printed Name) . Date of Delivery
or on the front if space permits.	139 MAUDAS
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Ordinance Number: 732

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF SUMMERSVILLE TO SUBMIT TO THE MUNICIPAL HOME RULE BOARD AN APPLICATION AND WRITTEN PLAN TO ALLOW THE CITY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PERMANENT MUNICIPAL HOME RULE PROGRAM CONSISTENT WITH WEST VIRGINIA CODE §8-1-5a

WHEREAS, in 2007, the West Virginia Legislature enacted WV Code §8-1-5a. known as the Municipal Home Rule Pilot Program; and

WHEREAS, the participation in the Home Rule Program by The City of Summersville, a Class III municipality, would give the City unique flexibility to apply local solutions to local problems, benefitting the greater community, including residents. visitors and businesses; and

WHEREAS, the City of Summersville desires to submit an application and written plan as attached hereto to the Municipal Home Rule Board requesting approval to participate in the permanent Municipal Home Rule Program; and

WHEREAS, the provisions of Senate Bill 4 require that all municipalities participating in the Municipal Home Rule Program shall pay an annual assessment of \$2,000 for the operation and administration of the Municipal Home Rule Board.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SUMMERSVILLE, THAT:

SECTION 1: The Mayor is hereby authorized and directed to submit to the Municipal Home Rule Board, in accordance with the provisions and requirements of W.Va. Code §8-1-5a, as amended, the application and written plan, and to request that the Board approve the application and written plan thereby allowing the City to participate in the permanent Municipal Home Rule Program.

Section 2: The Mayor and the City's officers are further authorized to do all things reasonably necessary to obtain approval of the City's application and written plan including, but not limited to, payment of the \$2,000 annual assessment if and when such assessment is made by the Municipal Home Rule Board.

SECTION 3: This Ordinance shall be effective upon passage after second reading and public hearing.

Passed on First Reading: July 11, 2022

Adopted on Second Reading: July 25, 2022

Public Hearing: July 25, 2022

Mayor

Recorder

### CERTIFICATION

The undersigned Recorder of the City of Summersville, West Virginia, does hereby certify that the attached is a true, accurate and sealed copy of the Ordinance enacted by the City Council of Summersville on July 25, 2022, authorizing submission of an Application and Written Plan to the West Virginia Municipal Home Rule Board. This submission is an accordance with the provisions of West Virginia Code §8-15-5a, as amended.

Given under my hand and seal on this 28th day of July, 2022.

City of Summersville,

**WEST VIRGINIA** 

By: Gary Withee Its: Recorder

# **Attach Supporting Exhibits**

- 1. Copy of Agenda and Meeting Minutes from July 11, 2022 Meeting
- 2. Copy of Agenda and Meeting Minutes from July 25, 2022 Meeting
- 3. Minutes of Public Hearing, including comments received (if any), sign-in sheet from July 25, 2022 Public Hearing.

# Regular Meeting of Summersville City Council held on July 11, 2022

PRESENT: Robert L. Shafer, Mayor Gary Withee, Recorder

Wayne Halstead, Councilman Ward I Stevie LeRose, Councilman Ward I Jim Epling, Councilman Ward II Mike Steadham, Councilman Ward III Brandon Waters, Councilman Ward III Eugene Underwood, Councilman Ward IV

Chuck Shaw, Councilman Ward IV

VISITORS: Ray Corbin, The Nicholas Chronicle

Jay Nowak
Julie Wingard
John Grose
Amy Grose

Mayor Robert Shafer called the Council meeting to order at 7:00pm.

A motion was made to waive the reading and to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of City Council held on June 27, 2022. Moved by Wayne Halstead.

Seconded by Chuck Shaw.

The vote was as follows:

Wayne Halstead Yes Stevie LeRose Yes Yes Jim Epling Yes Mike Steadham Yes Brandon Waters Yes Eugene Underwood Yes Chuck Shaw Yes Gary Withee

The motion carried by unanimous vote of all members present.

The Mayor noted no one signed up for public comment.

The Mayor presented the adoption of the City of Summersville 2030 Comprehensive Plan. The Mayor thanked the WVU Extension Service, Summersville Planning and Zoning Commission, council members, and everyone who worked on the plan. The Mayor and Recorder noted all the proper steps have been taken. A motion was made to adopt the City of Summersville 2030 Comprehensive Plan. Moved by Stevie LeRose.

Seconded by Wayne Halstead.

The vote was as follows:

Wayne Halstead Yes Yes Stevie LeRose Jim Epling Yes Yes Mike Steadham Brandon Waters Yes Yes Eugene Underwood Yes Chuck Shaw Yes Gary Withee

The motion carried by unanimous vote of all members present.

The Mayor presented the Second Reading of Article 1711- West Virginia State Building Code Adoptions. He said this ordinance is adopting the new building code requirements. It is going from the 2015 to the 2018 edition of the code. A motion was made to approve the Second Reading and adopt Article 1711- West Virginia State Building Code Adoptions. Moved by Wayne Halstead.

Seconded by Chuck Shaw.

The vote was as follows:

Wayne Halstead Yes Stevie LeRose Yes Yes Jim Epling Mike Steadham Yes Yes Brandon Waters Yes Eugene Underwood Yes Chuck Shaw Yes Gary Withee

The motion carried by unanimous vote of all members present.

The Mayor presented the First Reading of the ordinance approving the City of Summersville Home Rule written plan and application. The Mayor read aloud the ordinance. The Mayor said he will make a presentation before the WV Home Rule Board in October. A motion was made to approve the First Reading of the ordinance approving the City of Summersville Home Rule written plan and application. Moved by Wayne Halstead.

Seconded by Chuck Shaw.

The vote was as follows:

Wayne Halstead Yes Yes Stevie LeRose Yes Jim Epling Mike Steadham Yes Yes Brandon Waters Eugene Underwood Yes Yes Chuck Shaw Yes Gary Withee

July 11, 2022

The motion carried by unanimous vote of all members present.

The Mayor presented the Police Department contract/retention review. The Mayor reviewed the contract. The draft agreement discusses a \$10,000 bonus for law enforcement officers to work for the Summersville Police Department. The individual must agree to work for the city for 4 years to receive the bonus. \$4,000 to be paid when the officer becomes certified (if uncertified) and then \$2,000 per year for the next 3 years upon the anniversary date of employment. If an uncertified officer is hired but does not want to commit to the bonus agreement, the officer must work for the city for 1 year following certification or must repay the expenses incurred to the city. The Mayor wants the contract to say if the hired officer receives the bonus but quits before 4 years, 100% of the bonus must be paid back. The Mayor then reviewed the amounts the different officers will be making compared to other various Then, there was a lengthy discussion held police departments. about long-term retention of the officers in the future. Mayor asked for more feedback from council before the next meeting and said he will have something for approval at the next meeting.

The Mayor presented the Recorder's Report. Recorder Gary Withee discussed the recent Summersville Planning and Zoning Meeting. Airbnb/short-term rentals were discussed. The city attorney is researching some information, so the meeting that was scheduled in two weeks has been cancelled, until more information is received.

The Mayor presented the Mayor's Report. The Mayor said the Nicholas County Fair will be held July 21-23, 2022. It will be the 97th year. He commended the Nicholas County Fair Board. There will be a Veteran's Appreciation Day at the Nicholas County Veterans Memorial Park on July 12. It will be held from 9:30am to 3:30pm. The Mayor thanked all involved. The WV Gold Wing Riders will be in Summersville July 14-16, 2022. Ice cream will be served at the City Pavilion on July 15 from 6:30pm-8:30pm. The City of Summersville received its second round of the CARES Act federal funding. \$723,615.61 was received. He lastly discussed several "thank you" cards received from Steve Ferguson, The Summersville Christmas Store, The WV Quilt Festival, and the Farmers Tailgate Market.

A motion was made to go into Executive Session at 7:46pm under authority of West Virginia Code A. \$\$6-9A-4 (b) (2) (A), (b) (9) and (b) (12) to discuss a. Legal, personnel and deliberative matters; b. Matters not considered public records; c. Matters related to construction planning, commercial competitions matters, the

July 11, 2022 4

purchase, sale or lease of property, and/or the investment of public funds. Moved by Wayne Halstead.

Seconded by Chuck Shaw.

The vote was as follows:

Yes Wayne Halstead Yes Stevie LeRose Jim Epling Yes Mike Steadham Yes Brandon Waters Yes Eugene Underwood Yes Chuck Shaw Yes Yes Gary Withee

The motion carried by unanimous vote of all members present.

A motion was made to come out of Executive Session at 8:15pm. Moved by Stevie LeRose.

Seconded by Jim Epling.

The vote was as follows:

Wayne Halstead Yes Stevie LeRose Yes Yes Jim Epling Mike Steadham Yes Brandon Waters Yes Eugene Underwood Yes Chuck Shaw Yes Gary Withee Yes

The motion carried by unanimous vote of all members present.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:17pm. Moved by Wayne Halstead.

Seconded by Stevie LeRose.

The vote was as follows:

Wayne Halstead Yes Stevie LeRose Yes Jim Epling Yes Mike Steadham Yes Brandon Waters Yes Eugene Underwood Yes Yes Chuck Shaw Gary Withee Yes

The motion carried by unanimous vote of all members present.

# Regular Meeting of Summersville City Council held on July 25, 2022

PRESENT: Robert L. Shafer, Mayor

Gary Withee, Recorder

Wayne Halstead, Councilman Ward I Stevie LeRose, Councilman Ward I Jim Epling, Councilman Ward II Mike Steadham, Councilman Ward III Brandon Waters, Councilman Ward III Eugene Underwood, Councilman Ward IV

Chuck Shaw, Councilman Ward IV

VISITORS: Jill Butcher, The Nicholas Chronicle

Jay Nowak Julie Wingard John Grose Amy Grose

Evan Aldridge Kelly Aldridge Kristy Plummer

Donna Roop
Brian Bell
R. Ferguson
Tommy Cole
D. Angus
C. Wynne
Aaron Roop

Rick McCutcheon

Mayor Robert Shafer called the Council meeting to order at  $7:02 \,\mathrm{pm}$ .

A motion was made to waive the reading and to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of City Council held on July 11, 2022. Moved by Wayne Halstead.

Seconded by Stevie LeRose.

The vote was as follows:

Wayne Halstead	Yes
Stevie LeRose	Yes
Jim Epling	Yes
Mike Steadham	Yes
Brandon Waters	Yes
Eugene Underwood	Yes
Chuck Shaw	Yes

Gary Withee Yes

The motion carried by unanimous vote of all members present.

The Mayor noted no one signed up for public comment.

The Mayor presented the Second Reading and adoption of the ordinance approving the City of Summersville Home Rule written plan and application. The packet must be sent to the WV Home Rule Board by Friday, September 9, 2022. The Mayor said he will make a presentation before the WV Home Rule Board on Wednesday, October 12, 2022. A motion was made to approve the Second Reading and adoption of the ordinance approving the City of Summersville Home Rule written plan and application. Moved by Wayne Halstead.

Seconded by Chuck Shaw.

The vote was as follows:

Yes Wayne Halstead Yes Stevie LeRose Yes Jim Epling Mike Steadham Yes Brandon Waters Yes Eugene Underwood Yes Chuck Shaw Yes Yes Gary Withee

The motion carried by unanimous vote of all members present.

The Mayor presented the acceptance of Rodney Snodgress's resignation as Fire Chief of the City of Summersville Fire Department. The Mayor said Mr. Snodgress is having health issues and couldn't attend tonight's meeting. The Mayor said when possible, he wants to recognize him for his many years of service to the City. A motion was made to accept the resignation of Rodney Snodgress as Fire Chief of the City of Summersville Fire Department. Moved by Wayne Halstead.

Seconded by Eugene Underwood.

The vote was as follows:

Wayne Halstead Yes Stevie LeRose Yes Yes Jim Epling Mike Steadham Yes Brandon Waters Yes Eugene Underwood Yes Chuck Shaw Yes Gary Withee Yes

The motion carried by unanimous vote of all members present.

The Mayor presented the approval/appointment of City of Summersville Fire Chief Evan Aldridge. The Summersville Fire

Department held a meeting on July 17, 2022 and the fire department voted for the new fire chief to be Evan Aldridge. Evan came to the podium and spoke about his resume and background. A motion was made to approve/appoint Evan Aldridge as the City of Summersville Fire Chief. Moved by Wayne Halstead.

Seconded by Eugene Underwood.

The vote was as follows:

Wayne Halstead	Yes
Stevie LeRose	Yes
Jim Epling	Yes
Mike Steadham	Yes
Brandon Waters	Yes
Eugene Underwood	Yes
Chuck Shaw	Yes
Gary Withee	Yes

The motion carried by unanimous vote of all members present. The Mayor presented Evan Aldridge with a badge and pictures were taken with the council and fire department.

The Mayor presented the General Fund 2022-2023 Budget Revision #1. Under Revenue, there is an The Mayor reviewed the amounts. increase in 299 Unassigned Balance Carryforward of \$1,387,023. The Change in Revenue is \$1,387,023. Under Budget Expenditures, there is a decrease in: 700 Police - Confiscated Property Spending of \$2,477 to adjust to actual forfeiture money in account 750 Street Department There is an increase in: 6-30-22. Contractual of \$90,000 for ARPA Escrow Amount - Sidewalk Grant and \$100,000 for Paving; 750 Street Department Capital Outlay of \$90,000 for 3 trucks ordered in 2021-2022 -not received; 900 Parks and Recreation Contractual of \$4,000 for balance to complete NIC 900 Parks and Recreation Capital Outlay of Project; \$1,000,000 for Property Purchase - recreational park; 910 Arena and Conference Center - Capital of \$100,000 for signage; 911 Brown Oaks Contractual of \$5,500 to complete building maintenance not finished in 2021-2022. The Change in Expense is an increase of \$1,389,500 and a decrease of \$2,477. A motion was made to approve the General Fund 2022-2023 Budget Revision #1. Moved by Wayne Halstead.

Seconded by Stevie LeRose.

The vote was as follows:

Wayne Halstead	Yes
Stevie LeRose	Yes
Jim Epling	Yes
Mike Steadham	Yes
Brandon Waters	Yes
Eugene Underwood	Yes
Chuck Shaw	Yes

Gary Withee Yes

The motion carried by unanimous vote of all members present.

The Mayor presented the Coal Severance 2022-2023 Budget Revision #1. The Mayor reviewed the amounts. In Revenue, there is an increase of \$24,172 in the unassigned balance. The Subtotal Change in Revenue is \$24,172 with a Revised Total Budget of \$34,199. In Budget Expenditures, there is an increase of \$24,172 for Public Safety. The Subtotal Change in Expenditures is \$24,172 with a Revised Total Budget of \$34,199. The Net Change is 0. A motion was made to approve the Coal Severance 2022-2023 Budget Revision # 1. Moved by Wayne Halstead.

Seconded by Stevie LeRose.

The vote was as follows:

Wayne Halstead Yes Stevie LeRose Yes Yes Jim Epling Mike Steadham Yes Brandon Waters Yes Eugene Underwood Yes Chuck Shaw Yes Gary Withee Yes

The motion carried by unanimous vote of all members present.

The Mayor presented the approval of the Police Department recruiting bonus contract. The Mayor gave the council members a copy of the updated, revised contract. It is a 4-year contract that pays \$4,000 the first year (when certified), and then \$2,000 for the next 3 years upon the anniversary date of employment. He said he held a meeting with the police department and most of them do not support a recruiting bonus. A lengthy discussion was held about the pros and cons of the recruiting bonus. A motion was made to approve the Police Department recruiting bonus contract. Moved by Wayne Halstead.

Seconded by Chuck Shaw.

The vote was as follows:

Wayne Halstead Yes Stevie LeRose Yes Jim Epling Yes Mike Steadham Yes Brandon Waters No Eugene Underwood No Yes Chuck Shaw Yes Gary Withee

The motion carried with 6 being for the motion and 2 being against the motion.

The Mayor presented the Recorder's Report. Recorder Gary Withee said Civil Service Testing for the Summersville Police Department will be held July 26, 2022 at 9:00am at City Hall. There are 8 applicants. The Civil Service Board Members are Lawrence Tully, Mike Hughes, and Brad Anderson.

The Mayor presented the Mayor's Report. The Mayor discussed the success of the 97th Annual Nicholas County Fair that was just held. He thanked the Nicholas County Fair Board and said they are asking for help and volunteers for the 98th fair. If interested, contact Jennifer Coffman. The Mayor then discussed the homeless population. He discussed how the homeless shelters are full and there is nowhere for the homeless to go. He is asking for businesses and individuals for ideas on how to help with this concern.

A motion was made to go into Executive Session at 7:31pm under authority of West Virginia Code A. \$\$6-9A-4(b)(2)(A), (b)(9) and (b)(12) to discuss a. Legal, personnel and deliberative matters; b. Matters not considered public records; c. Matters related to construction planning, commercial competitions matters, the purchase, sale or lease of property, and/or the investment of public funds. Moved by Wayne Halstead.

Seconded by Stevie LeRose.

The vote was as follows:

Wayne Halstead Yes Stevie LeRose Yes Jim Epling Yes Mike Steadham Yes Brandon Waters Yes Eugene Underwood Yes Chuck Shaw Yes Gary Withee Yes

The motion carried by unanimous vote of all members present.

A motion was made to come out of Executive Session at 7:53pm. Moved by Wayne Halstead.

Seconded by Stevie LeRose.

The vote was as follows:

Wayne Halstead	Yes
Stevie LeRose	Yes
Jim Epling	Yes
Mike Steadham	Yes
Brandon Waters	Yes
Eugene Underwood	Yes
Chuck Shaw	Yes
Gary Withee	Yes

The motion carried by unanimous vote of all members present.

A motion was made out of Executive Session. The motion is to allow the Mayor to submit an unsolicited proposal to the Public Service Commission addressing the City's interest in the regional utility distressed or failing status with Gauley River PSD and Kanawha Falls PSD. Moved by Wayne Halstead.

Seconded by Chuck Shaw.

The vote was as follows:

Wayne Halstead	Yes
Stevie LeRose	Yes
Jim Epling	Yes
Mike Steadham	Yes
Brandon Waters	Yes
Eugene Underwood	Yes
Chuck Shaw	Yes
Gary Withee	Yes

The motion carried by unanimous vote of all members present.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:58pm. Moved by Wayne Halstead.

Seconded by Stevie LeRose.

The vote was as follows: .

Wayne Halstead	Yes
Stevie LeRose	Yes
Jim Epling	Yes
Mike Steadham	Yes
Brandon Waters	Yes
Eugene Underwood	Yes
Chuck Shaw	Yes
Gary Withee	Yes

The motion carried by unanimous vote of all members present.

## Public Hearing of Summersville City Council held on July 25, 2022

PRESENT: Robert L. Shafer, Mayor

Gary Withee, Recorder

Wayne Halstead, Councilman Ward I Stevie LeRose, Councilman Ward I Jim Epling, Councilman Ward II Mike Steadham, Councilman Ward III Brandon Waters, Councilman Ward III Eugene Underwood, Councilman Ward IV

Chuck Shaw, Councilman Ward IV

VISITORS: Jill Butcher, The Nicholas Chronicle

Jay Nowak
Julie Wingard
John Grose
Amy Grose

Mayor Robert Shafer called the Public Hearing for the City of Summersville Home Rule written plan and application to order at  $7:00\,\mathrm{pm}$ .

The Mayor opened the floor for public comment. He noted the Home Rule written plan and application have been available for review at City Hall and on the city website.

No one showed up to speak and there were no written comments, so the public hearing was closed at 7:01pm.



## Fiscal Impact Worksheet for Home Rule Proposals

Summersville currently receives approximately \$1.3 million in B&O tax revenue per fiscal year.

2016-17	\$1,345,140
2017-18	\$1,277,393
2018-19	\$1,349,234
2019-20	\$1,392,775
2020-21	\$1,361,625
Average	\$1,345,233

The City proposes to make the following reduction in the B&O tax rate:

Tax

Reduction

Business Classification

Current New Rate Rate

Based on

9 Selling Tangible Property: Retailer

0.250%

Rate 0.125%

2021 Gross \$446,940

The projected fiscal impact of a one percent (1%) consumer sales and use tax is as follows:

Gross Retail Sales		\$176,724,825
Sales Tax %		• 1.0%
Sales Tax Revenue		\$1,767,248
State Admin Fee*	5.0%	(\$88,362)
Net Sales Tax Revenue		\$1,678,886

The proposed tax reduction will result in a tax cut of \$446,940 for the businesses located in Summersville. If the proposal is approved by the Municipal Home Rule Board and adopted by City Council the projected net change in revenue is:

Sales and Use Tax Revenue	\$1,678,886
B&O Tax Reduction	(\$446,940)
Net change in revenue	\$1,231,946

The Administrative proposal for the on-the-spot citations is not estimated to impose a material cost or liability.

In conclusion, the City estimates a net revenue gain of approximately \$1.2 million corresponding to its sales tax implementation. The City can cover all anticipated costs and liabilities as outlined in its proposal.

Prepared by: Jo Etta Comer, Finance Director

Date:

06-07-22

<sup>\*</sup> The state administrative fee is a maximum of 5% - adjusted annually



#### ROBERT L. SHAFER, MAYOR

#### <u>AFFIDAVIT</u>

# STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA, COUNTY OF NICHOLAS, TO-WIT:

The Affiant, after being duly sworn, swears and affirms as follows:

- 1. I, Robert L. Shafer, am the Mayor of the City of Summersville.
- 2. As the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer, I am familiar with all of the financial affairs for the City of Summersville.
- 3. I certify that the City of Summersville is not delinquent nor has any outstanding payments due to the State of West Virginia.

And further the affiant sayeth not.

CITY OF SUMMERSVILLE,

**WEST VIRGINIA** 

By: Robert L. Shafer

Its: Mayor

Taken, sworn to and subscribed before me the  $\frac{18}{2}$  day of  $\frac{3}{2}$  2022.

My commission expires April 11, 2026

Notary Public

Se ure to

OFFICIAL SEAL
NOTARY PUBLIC
STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
Carol Johnson
City of Summersville
400 North Broad St.
Summersville, WV 26651
My Commission Expires April 11, 2026



#### STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA State Tax Department, Taxpayer Services Division P.O. Box 885 Charleston, WV 25323-0885





Matthew R. Irby, State Tax Commissioner

TOWN OF SUMMERSVILLE **PO BOX 525** SUMMERSVILLE WV 26651-0525 Letter Id: ssued:

L1449592096

05/24/2022

# West Virginia State Tax Department

## **Statement of Good Standing**

**EFFECTIVE DATE: May 24, 2022** 

A review of tax accounts indicates that TOWN OF SUMMERSVILLE is in good standing as of the effective date of this document. Please note, this Statement of Good Standing expires on August 22, 2022.

The issuance of this Statement of Good Standing shall not bar any audits, investigations, assessments, refund or credits with respect to the taxpayer named above and is based only on a review of the tax returns and not on a physical audit of records.

Sincerely,

Micole Grant

Nicole Grant, Tax Unit Supervisor **Taxpayer Services Division** 

atL103 v.31



August 1, 2022

The Honorable David Hardy
Cabinet Secretary and Chairman
West Virginia Municipal Home Rule Board
State Capitol Complex, Room W-300
1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East Charleston, West Virginia 25305

RE:

City of Summersville, West Virginia

Municipal Home Rule Application and Written Plan

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board:

We have acted as counsel to the City of Summersville (the "City") in connection with its application and proposed written plan to the West Virginia Municipal Home Rule Board (hereinafter referred to as the "Application"). For the purposes of the opinions contained in this letter, we have examined West Virginia Code §8-1-5a as amended, as well as the Application provided to us by the City. As to any facts relevant to our opinion which we did not independently establish, we have relied upon factual representations contained within the Application, and any documentation submitted contemporaneously therewith.

We find that the Application does not include any proposals that are prohibited by West Virginia Code §8-1-5a(i). Further, we find that the Application's proposal regarding taxation complies with the relevant provisions of West Virginia Code §8-1-5a(i)(14), and the City shall use the services of the State Tax Commissioner to administer, enforce, and collect the tax required by the provisions of West Virginia Code §11-15-1 et seq., §11-15A-1 et seq., and §11- 15B-1 et seq. and all applicable provisions of the Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Agreement.

Finally, as evidenced by the documentation enclosed with the Application, the City made available a copy of its proposed Application and Home Rule Written Plan for public viewing and published thirty days advance notice of a public hearing on the Application, conducted such a public hearing, and adopted an ordinance authorizing the City to submit the Application. Moreover, the Mayor has certified herewith that the City is current in payment of all state taxes and fees to the State of West Virginia.

Based upon the foregoing, we opine that the City of Summersville's Application does not violate the provisions of the West Virginia Code §8-1-5a, as amended. This opinion is solely for the benefit of the West Virginia Municipal Home Rule Board in connection with the Application of the City of Summersville to the permanent Municipal Home Rule Program and without our written consent, this opinion letter may not be used or relied upon by any other person for any other purpose whatsoever.

Sincerely,

White Law Offices, PLLC



ROBERT L. SHAFER, MAYOR

August 1. 2022

To the Members of the Home Rule Board,

Please use this as confirmation that the City of Summersville, West Virginia, submitted a draft municipal sales and use tax to the West Virginia Tax Department (See, Exhibit 1). The Tax Department has acknowledged receipt of the draft ordinance and it is currently under review.

The City will fully comply with the provisions of the West Virginia Code pertaining to municipal sales and use tax ordinance adoption as well as any applicable rules and regulations governing municipal sales and use tax. Because the City intends to proceed under its home rule plan as presented herein, the City must also reduce its B&O tax in the retail classification before imposing sales and use taxes. The City will comply with the Tax Department's Legal Division requirement for written confirmation of the reduction as well as submit a copy of the passed ordinance and a copy of the Municipal Sales and Use Tax Check List at least 180 days before the taxes are imposed. Furthermore, the City has provided the Tax Account Administration Division a complete boundaries database and map at least 180 days before the taxes are imposed.

CITY OF SUMMERSVILLE, WEST VIRGINIA

By: Robert Shafer

Its: Mayor

Ordinance	Number:	
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AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A CITY OF SUMMERSVILLE MUNICIPAL SALES AND SERVICE TAX AND A MUNICIPAL USE TAX IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS HOME RULE PLAN, CREATING A NEW ARTICLE, IMPOSING MUNICIPAL SALES AND USE TAXES AT A RATE OF ONE PERCENT, AND TO BE THE "CITY OF SUMMERSVILLE MUNICIPAL SALES TAX ORDINANCE"

#### **AUTHORITY UNDER W. Va. Code § 8-1-5a**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SUMMERSVILLE, THAT THERE IS HEREBY CREATED AND ESTABLISHED "ARTICLE \_\_. MUNICIPAL SALES AND USE TAXES" OF THE CITY CODE AND CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF SUMMERSVILLE IMPOSING MUNICIPAL SALES AND USE TAXES AS FOLLOWS:

## ARTICLE\_\_\_. MUNICIPAL SALES AND USE TAXES.

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## § 1. City Council Findings.

(a) The Municipal Home Rule Board on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_, 2022, approved the home rule plan submitted by the City of Summersville, West Virginia (hereinafter "City"), thereby allowing the City to adopt a municipal sales and service tax and a municipal use tax pursuant to W. Va. Code § 8-1-5a without the limiting restrictions in W. Va. Code § 8-13C-1 et.seq. In accordance with its home rule plan, the City Council hereby finds and declares that the adoption by this City for its municipal sales and service tax and its municipal use tax

provisions of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to imposition, administration, collection and enforcement of the State consumers sales and service tax codified in W. Va. Code § 11-15-1 *et seq.*, the State use tax codified in W. Va. Code § 11-15A-1 *et seq.*, and the Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Act codified in W. Va. Code § 11-15B-1 *et seq.* will (1) simplify collection of the City's sales and use taxes, (2) simplify preparation of municipal sales and use tax returns by taxpayers, and (3) improve enforcement of the City's sales and use taxes.

(b) The City Council does, therefore, declare that this article be construed so as to accomplish the foregoing purposes.

## § 2. Definitions.

(a) Terms used in this article or in the administration, collection and enforcement of the taxes imposed by this article and not otherwise defined in this article shall have the meanings ascribed to them in articles nine, ten, fifteen, fifteen-a and fifteen b, chapter

eleven of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended.

#### (b) As used in this article:

- (1) "Business" includes all activities engaged in or caused to be engaged in by any person with the object of gain or economic benefit, direct or indirect, and all activities of the state and its political subdivisions, which involve sales of tangible personal property or the rendering of services when those service activities compete with or may compete with the activities of other persons.
  - (2) "City" or "this City" means the City of Summersville, West Virginia.
- (3) "Code of West Virginia" or "W. Va. Code" means the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended from time to time by the West Virginia Legislature.
- (4) "Person" means any individual, partnership, association, corporation, limited liability company, limited liability partnership or any other legal entity, including this state or its political subdivisions or an agency of either, or the guardian, trustee, committee, executor or administrator of any person.
- (5) "Purchase" means any transfer, exchange or barter, conditional or otherwise, in any manner or by any means whatsoever, for a consideration;
- (6) "Purchase price" means the measure subject to the taxes imposed by this article and has the same meaning as sales price;
- (7) "Purchaser" means a person who purchases tangible personal property, custom software or a service taxed by this article.
- (8) "Sale," "sales" or "selling" have the meaning ascribed to those terms in article fifteen-b, chapter eleven of the Code of West Virginia.
- (9) "Sales and use taxes" means the taxes imposed by sections [3] and [4] of this article.

- (10) "Sales price" has the meaning ascribed to that term in article fifteen-b, chapter eleven of the Code of West Virginia.
  - (11) "Sales tax" means the tax levied by section [3] of this article.
- (12) "Service" or "selected service" have the meaning ascribed to those terms in article fifteen-b, chapter eleven of the Code of West Virginia.
- (13) "State sales tax" means the tax levied by article fifteen, chapter eleven of the Code of West Virginia, as amended.
- (14) "State use tax" means the tax levied by article fifteen-a, chapter eleven of the Code of West Virginia, as amended.
- (15) "Tax" means the taxes imposed by this article and includes additions to tax, interest and penalties levied under article ten, chapter eleven of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended.
- (16) "Tax Commissioner" means the Chief Executive Officer of the Tax Division of the Department of Revenue of this State, as provided in W. Va. Code § 11-1-1.
  - (17) "This state" means the State of West Virginia.
- (18) "Ultimate consumer" or "consumer" means a person who uses or consumes services, tangible personal property or custom software.
- (19) "Use" for purposes of the tax imposed by section [4] of this article means and includes:
- a. The exercise by any person of any right or power over tangible personal property or custom software incident to the ownership, possession or enjoyment of the property, or by any transaction in which possession of or the exercise of any right or power over tangible personal property, custom software or the result of a taxable

service is acquired for a consideration, including any lease, rental or conditional sale of tangible personal property or custom software; or

b. The use or enjoyment in this state of the result of a taxable service. As used in this definition, "enjoyment" includes a purchaser's right to direct the disposition of the property or the use of the taxable service, whether or not the purchaser has possession of the property.

The term "use" does not include the keeping, retaining or exercising any right or power over tangible personal property, custom software or the result of a taxable service for the purpose of subsequently transporting it outside the City for use thereafter solely outside this City.

- (20) "Use tax" means the tax imposed by section [4] of this article.
- (21) "Vendor" means any person engaged in this City in furnishing services taxed by this article or making sales of tangible personal property or custom software. "Vendor" and "seller" are used interchangeably in this article.

## § 3. Imposition of Municipal Sales and Service Tax.

For the privilege of selling tangible personal property or customer software and for the privilege of furnishing certain selected service, a vendor doing business in this City shall collect from the purchaser the taxes imposed by this section and pay the amount of taxes collected to the tax commissioner at the same time and in the same manner as the consumers sales and service tax imposed by article fifteen, chapter eleven of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, are paid to the tax commissioner. The rate of tax shall be one percent of the sales price, as defined in section [2] of this article of the tangible personal property, custom software or taxable service purchased or leased.

## § 4. Imposition of Municipal Use Tax.

An excise tax is hereby levied and imposed on the use in this city of tangible personal property, custom software and the results of taxable services, to be collected and paid to the tax commissioner as agent for the City in the same manner that state use tax is collected under article fifteen-a and article fifteen-b, chapter eleven of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, and remitted to the tax commissioner. The rate of tax shall be one percent of the purchase price, as defined in section [2] of this article, of the tangible personal property, custom software or taxable service used within the City.

## § 5. Calculation of Tax on Fractional Parts of Dollar.

The tax computation under section [3] and section [4] of this article shall be carried to the third decimal place and the tax rounded up to the next whole cent whenever the third decimal place is greater than four and rounded down to the lower whole cent whenever the third decimal place is four or less. The vendor may elect to compute the tax due on a transaction on a per item basis or on an invoice basis provided the method used is consistently used during the reporting period but the method used shall be the same as that used for purposes of computing the state sales or use tax.

#### § 6. State and Local Tax Bases.

The taxable base of the taxes imposed by sections [3] and [4] of this article shall be identical to the sales and use tax base of this State except as provided in section [7] of this article, unless otherwise prohibited by federal law, as required by W. Va. Code § 11-15B-34.

## § 7. Exceptions.

The taxes imposed by this article do not apply to:

- (1) The sale or use of motor fuel, as defined in article fourteen-c, chapter eleven of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended.
- (2) The sale or use of motor vehicles upon which the tax imposed by section threec, article fifteen, chapter eleven of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, is paid.
- (3) The purchase or use of any tangible personal property, custom software or service that the city is prohibited from taxing under the laws of this state or the United States.
- (4) The sales tax imposed by section [3] of this article does not apply to any transaction that is exempt from the tax imposed by article fifteen, chapter eleven of the Code of West Virginia.
- (5) The use tax imposed by section [4] of this article does not apply to any purchase upon which the sales tax imposed by section [3] has been paid.

## § 8. Credit Against Municipal Use Tax.

(a) A person is entitled to a credit against the use tax imposed by section [4] of this article on the use of a particular item of tangible personal property, custom software or results of a taxable service equal to the amount, if any, of sales tax lawfully paid to another municipality for the acquisition of that property, custom software or service: *Provided*, that the amount of credit allowed may not exceed the amount of use tax imposed by section [4] of this article on the use of the tangible personal property, custom software or results of the taxable service in this City.

### (b) For purposes of this section:

(1) "Sales tax" includes a sales tax or compensating use tax imposed on the sale or use of tangible personal property, custom software or the results of a taxable

service by the municipality in which the sale occurred; and

- (2) "Municipality" includes municipalities of this state or of any other state of the United States.
- (c) No credit is allowed under this section for payment of any sales or use taxes imposed by this State or any other state. For purposes of this paragraph, "state" includes the 50 states of the United States and the District of Columbia but does not include any of the several territories organized by Congress.

#### § 9. Tax cumulative.

The taxes imposed by this article are in addition to other taxes imposed on the sale or use of tangible personal property, custom software or taxable services including, but not limited to, the State consumers sales and service tax imposed by article 15, chapter 11 of the W. Va. Code; the State use tax imposed by article 15A, chapter 11 of the W. Va. Code; the public utility tax imposed by this City pursuant to W. Va. Code § 8-13-5a; the amusement tax imposed by this City pursuant to W. Va. Code § 8-13-6; the tax on sales of alcoholic liquors and wine imposed by this City pursuant to W. Va. Code § 8-13-7; the hotel occupancy tax imposed by this City pursuant to article 18, chapter 7 of the W. Va. Code; and the special district excise taxes imposed by a county pursuant to W. Va. Code § 7-22-1 et seq. or a municipality pursuant to W. Va. Code § 8-38-1 et seq.

## § 10. Local Rate and Boundary Data Base; Changes.

(a) The tax commissioner is required by W. Va. Code § 11-15B-35 to maintain a database for all jurisdictions levying a sales or use tax in this State. The Recorder shall furnish the tax commissioner with information the tax commissioner requires for that database that will allow the tax commissioner to maintain a database that assigns each

five-digit and nine-digit zip code within the City to the proper rate of tax. If any nine-digit zip code area includes area outside this City, the single state and local rate assigned to that area in the tax commissioner's database will be the lowest rate applicable to that area: *Provided*, that, when sales occur at and are sourced to a physical location of the seller located in the City in that nine-digit zip code area, the seller shall collect the tax imposed by section [3] of this article.

- (b) Whenever boundaries of the City change, whether by annexation or deannexation, the Recorder shall promptly notify the tax commissioner in writing of the change in boundaries; provide the tax commissioner with the nine-digit zip code or codes for the area annexed or de-annexed; and any other information the tax commissioner may require to maintain the database. An ordinance annexing property into the City, or an ordinance removing property from the corporate limits of the City may not take effect any sooner than the first day of a calendar quarter that begins 60 days after the City provides written notice to the tax commission of a change in the municipal boundaries.
- (c) The nine-digit database shall be maintained by the City until such time as the tax commissioner allows use of a different system to determine whether a location is within or outside the corporate limits of the City.

#### § 11. State level administration.

(a) The tax commissioner is responsible for administering, collecting, and enforcing the taxes imposed by this article as provided in W. Va. Code § 8-13C-6 and § 11-15B-33. The city may enter into a written agreement with the tax commissioner that will allow employees of the City auditing a vendor whose primary business location is in the City for compliance with the City's business and occupation tax to also audit that business location for compliance with the sales and use tax laws of this State and this City and

obligate the City to share that information with the tax commissioner.

- (b) The tax commissioner may retain from collections of the taxes imposed by this article the fee allowed by W. Va. Code § 11-10-11c or by any other state law or legislative rule.
- (c) The tax commissioner shall deposit all the proceeds from collection of the taxes imposed by this article, minus any fee for collecting, enforcing and administering taxes retained under this section, in the subaccount for this City established in "municipal sales and services tax and use tax fund," an interest bearing account created in the State treasury pursuant to W. Va. Code § 8-13C-7. All moneys collected and deposited in the subaccount for the City shall be remitted at least quarterly by the State Treasurer to the City Recorder, as provided W. Va. Code § 8-13C-7.

## § 12. Administrative procedures.

Each and every provision of the West Virginia Tax Procedure and Administration Act set forth in article ten, chapter eleven of the Code of West Virginia applies to the administration, collection and enforcement of the sales and use taxes imposed pursuant to this article, except as otherwise expressly provided in article thirteen-c, chapter eight of the Code of West Virginia, with like effect as if that act were applicable only to the taxes imposed by this article and were set forth in extenso in this article, as provided in W. Va. Code § 8-13C-6.

## § 13. Criminal Penalties.

Each and every provision of the West Virginia Tax Crimes and Penalties Act set forth in article nine, chapter eleven of the Code of West Virginia applies to the administration, collection and enforcement of the municipal sales and use taxes imposed pursuant to this article with like effect as if that act were applicable only to the taxes

imposed pursuant to this article and were set forth in extenso in this article, as provided in W. Va. Code § 8-13C-6: *Provided*, that the criminal penalties imposed upon conviction for a criminal violation of this article may not exceed the maximum penalties allowed by law for a similar violation of the ordinances of this City.

#### § 14. [Reserved].

## § 15. Automatic Updating.

Any amendments to articles nine, ten, fifteen, fifteen-a and fifteen-b, chapter eleven of the Code of West Virginia shall automatically apply to the municipal sales and use tax imposed pursuant to this article, to the extent they are applicable to the taxes imposed by this article.

## § 16. Deposit of Taxes Collected in a Special Revenue Fund.

- (a) There is hereby established a special revenue fund in the City Treasury which shall be designated and known as the City Sales and Use Tax Fund. The City Sales and Use Tax Fund shall consist of:
  - All revenues received from collection of the City's sales and use taxes, including any interest, additions to tax and penalties deposited with the City;
  - b. All appropriations to the fund;
  - c. All interest earned from investment of the fund; and
  - d. Any gifts, grants or contributions received and placed by the City into the
     City Sales and Use Tax Fund.
- (b) Revenues in the City Sales and Use Tax Fund shall not be treated by any

person to be a general revenue of the City. Revenues in the City Sales and Use Tax Fund shall be disbursed in the manner and consistent with the priorities set forth for in subsection (c) of this Section.

- (c) Revenues in the City Sales and Use Tax Fund shall be used:
  - a. First, to satisfy the debt service requirements each fiscal year on any bonds issued by, or other obligations incurred by, the City, from time to time, allocated or tied to such dedicated revenue account including any refunding bonds; to finance civic improvement projects; as well as citywide infrastructure and economic development projects; and, for any other economic development or public safety projects, including the funding of any reserve funds relating to any such bonds or other obligations, and/ or to make lease payments which secure bonds issued to finance improvements to such projects;.
  - Second, to pay for capital improvement projects on a pay as you go basis;
     and
  - c. Third, after providing for payment of first priority items, any unencumbered revenue in the City Sales and Use Tax Fund may periodically be transferred as necessary or convenient to the City's General Revenue Fund.

## § 17. Issuance Of Revenue Bonds.

(a) The City shall have the power and authority to issue its revenue bonds or other obligations or refunding revenue bonds or other obligations, as appropriate, under and pursuant to Chapter 8, Article 16 or other appropriate provisions of the West Virginia Code as may be applicable from time to time (the "Bond Act") for the purposes of

financing or refinancing costs of infrastructure improvements or economic development activities and projects within the City. The City may pledge or otherwise utilize the collections of the municipal sales and use taxes imposed by this article and the funds on deposit from time to time in the City Sales and Use Tax Fund to satisfy the debt service requirements and any prior debt service requirements deficit each fiscal year on, and to fund or replenish any required reserves in accordance with the bond documents for, any bonds or other obligations issued by the City from time to time, including any refunding bonds, to finance or refinance infrastructure improvements or economic development activities and projects within the City, including the funding or replenishing of any reserve funds relating to any such bonds or other obligations, and/or to make lease payments which repay the debt service or otherwise secure bonds or other obligations issued to finance or refinance infrastructure improvements or economic development activities and projects within the City.

(b) The City may utilize the procedures established pursuant to the Bond Act in connection with the issuance of such bonds or other obligations and in connection therewith it is hereby clarified and directed that the municipal sales and use taxes imposed by this article shall not be considered to be taxation solely for the purposes of and as contemplated by Chapter 8, Article 16 of the West Virginia Code.

## § 18. Severability and Savings Clause.

If any provision of this article or the application thereof to any person or circumstances is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of this article which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this article are severable. The City Council declares that it would have adopted this article irrespective of the invalidity of any particular portion thereof and intends that the invalid portions should be severed and the balance of the article be enforced.

### § 19. Effective Date.

(a) This article shall become effective upon its adoption by the City Council of this City on \_\_\_\_\_\_, 2022. However, the City Council hereby suspends imposition and collection of the municipal sales and use taxes imposed by this article until July 1, 2023, or such later first day of July as required by the legislative rule codified in W. Va. Code St. R. § 110- 28-1 *et seq*.

## § 20. Notification of Tax Commissioner.

Upon adoption of this ordinance by City Council, the city Recorder shall forthwith send to the Tax Commissioner a certified copy of this ordinance, the rate and the boundary database required by section [10] of this article, along with a description of the boundaries of the City, and such other information as the Tax Commissioner may need to administer, collect and enforce the taxes imposed by this Article.

Passed on First Reading:, 2022	
Adopted on Second Reading:, 20	022
Notice of Public Hearing Published:	_, 2022
Date of the public hearing prior to second reading required by W. Va. Code § 8-11-4(a)(2):	, 2022

## **CERTIFICATION**

The undersigned Recorder of the City of Summers the attached is a true, accurate and sealed copy of the Summersville on, authorizing the City of Su service tax and a municipal use tax. This submission is a Virginia Code §8-15-5a, as amended.	Ordinance enacted by the City Council of mmersville to adopt a municipal sales and
Given under my hand and seal on thisth day of	, 2022.
City of Summersville, WEST VIRGINIA	
	By: Gary Withee Its: Recorder