

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

A PUBLIC HEARING SHALL BE HELD ON THE QUESTION OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE BEREA FIRE SERVICE AREA.

By resolution adopted November 3, 2020, the County Council of Greenville County (the “*County Council*”), the governing body of Greenville County, South Carolina (the “*County*”), determined to consider the establishment of the “Berea Fire Service Area” (the “*Fire Service Area*”) pursuant to the provisions of Title 4, Chapter 19 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina 1976, as amended (the “*Fire Service Area Act*”). As required by Section 4-19-20 of the Fire Service Area Act, you are advised of the following:

1. **Public Hearing.**

(a) ***Order of Public Hearing.*** The County Council has ordered that a public hearing be held on the question of the establishment of the Fire Service Area (the “*Public Hearing*”). The Public Hearing shall be held electronically via the Zoom web-conference application on November 23, 2020, at 4:00 p.m., the live-stream of which may be accessed at the following web address: www.greenvillecounty.org/livestream.aspx.

(b) ***In-Person Participation.*** Those who lack access to suitable technology to participate in the Public Hearing electronically may appear at County Square, located at 301 University Ridge, Greenville, South Carolina 29601, on November 23, 2020, by 4:00 p.m. The County will provide a means for those registered to speak at the Public Hearing to do so electronically. In order to ensure the safety of citizens and the County’s staff and officials, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic the County will impose occupancy limitations on any space made available.

(c) ***Registration.*** Anyone wishing to speak at the Public Hearing, whether via Zoom or in-person, must register at the following web address, which may also be accessed from the County’s website: www.greenvillecounty.org/apps/Citizencomments. Individuals who do not have access to the registration website may register with the Office of the Clerk to County Council by calling (864) 467-7118. Registration for the Public Hearing will begin at 9:00 a.m., Friday, November 13, 2020, at which time the preceding web address shall become accessible, and shall remain open until 5:00 p.m., Sunday, November 22, 2020. The Public Hearing shall be conducted publicly in the manner above stated and both proponents and opponents of the establishment of the Fire Service Area shall be given a full opportunity to be heard. Following the Public Hearing, the County Council shall determine whether the Fire Service Area shall be established.

2. **Description of Fire Service Area.** If established, the boundaries of the Fire Service Area shall comprise, embrace, and consist of the former boundaries for Fire Service of Berea Public Service District. A map of the boundaries of the Fire Service Area has been placed on file with the Clerk to County Council and is available for review at the County’s offices during normal business hours.

3. Ad Valorem Taxes and Rates and Charges. If established, the County Council will be authorized to levy an *ad valorem* tax in each fiscal year in such amount as the County Council may determine to provide for the operation and maintenance of the Fire Service Area. The County Council may further determine from year to year to impose rates and charges within the Fire Service Area to defray the cost of the operation and maintenance thereof.

4. General Obligation Bonds. If established, in order to raise monies to establish, maintain, and operate a fire protection system within the Fire Service Area, to purchase the necessary fire-fighting equipment, and to construct, acquire, and build the necessary fire stations and acquire sites for such stations within the Fire Service Area, the County may issue, without election and from time to time, general obligation bonds of the County on behalf of the Fire Service Area, such bonds to be payable from a special *ad valorem* tax levied within the Fire Service Area, and further secured by the full faith and credit of the County.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF GREENVILLE COUNTY