

Resolution Authorizing the Chimney Rock Village to Accept Cash Donations into the General Fund for Hurricane Helene Relief

LEGISLATIVE INTENT/PURPOSE:

WHEREAS, the National Weather Service has issued a Tropical Storm Watch/Warning for Chimney Rock Village (hereinafter “Village”) beginning on September 25, 2024, Tropical Storm Helene, which included heavy rainfall, flash flooding, significant flooding of streams/rive, high winds, downed trees, power outages, and hazardous travel conditions for which the declaration of a state of emergency will trigger the ability to take measures to address all of the following conditions as necessary; and,

WHEREAS, the Chimney Rock Village (“Village”) was devastated by the effects of Hurricane Helene in September 2024, including the loss of homes, businesses, and lives; and,

WHEREAS, in the wake of the catastrophic damage done to the Village, a “Give-Send-Go” account (“Account”) was set up on the Village’s website/FACEBOOK page to allow for private citizens to make monetary donations to be given directly to the Village for hurricane relief and rebuilding efforts, and the Account continues to be active, with over \$ 100,000 donated to date; and,

WHEREAS, the Village Council wishes to authorize acceptance of all monies donated to the Account into the Village’s General Fund, Village Relief Fund at United Bank in Forest City Branch, as restricted funds to be used for the sole purpose of hurricane relief, including but not limited to rebuilding efforts or certain individual losses by the Village Residents and Businesses allowing limited but direct disbursement to citizens and business owners of the Village; and,

WHEREAS, these donations will provide immediate relief to the Village community and businesses, and will assist in meeting basic needs of the Village’s citizens in the wake of damage done from Hurricane Helene; and,

WHEREAS all funds currently in the Account, and all funds donated to the Account in the future, until the account is closed, will be placed into the same restricted funds account to be used for the purposes described in this resolution.

THEREFORE, BE RESOLVED:

THAT, the Village is hereby authorized to accept the donated funds from the Give-Send-Go account set up on the Chimney Rock Village website/FACEBOOK for the purpose of relief from Hurricane Helene.

THAT, all funds accepted will be restricted funds, which are only to be used for the sole purpose of hurricane relief, including but not limited to rebuilding efforts by the Village and will allow direct disbursement to citizens and business owners of the Village, at the direction of the Village Council.

THAT, the Finance Officer, with the consent of the Village Council, is hereby authorized to close the Give-Send-Go account at any time the Council deems appropriate, and this account shall be active for up to twenty-four (24) months from the date of this resolution. Unless extended by the Village Council, the account will be closed and any funds remaining will be donated to an appropriate Chimney Rock Village support organization, with a 501-C-3 designation, or similar. The Village Council may extend the active status of this account but not for a period of another 12 months.

THAT, an accompanying budget ordinance will be done to allocate these funds, and future ordinances will come to the Village Council to allocate additional funds, as they are received and need to be appropriated.

This Resolution is approved, this the 15th day of October 2024.

Peter O’Leary, Mayor

Clerk to the Council