

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

FOR COMMISSION USE ONLY:

CASE NUMBER

c 2024-054

COMPLAINT FORM

COMPLAINANT: LYLE PARADISE

RESPONDENT: WINTOUS M. SAULS IV

ADDRESS: [REDACTED]

ADDRESS: [REDACTED]

TELEPHONE NUMBER: [REDACTED]

TELEPHONE NUMBER: [REDACTED]

TITLE: MR. [REDACTED]

TITLE: MR. [REDACTED]

Set forth in detail specific facts upon which you based your complaint against above-named respondent (only detailed, clear factual allegations will be considered. If additional space is needed, attach supplemental sheets).

PLEASE SEE ATTACHED 47 PAGES FOR DETAILS
BASED ON COMPLAINT.

If there is a finding of probable cause, the following documents become public record: the complaint, the response (if any) by respondent, and the notice of hearing. If a hearing is to be held, the final order and all exhibits become public record. If no hearing is held following a finding of probable cause, the final disposition of the matter becomes public record.

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF JASPER

Personally appeared before me LYLE PARADISE who, first being duly sworn, says that he/she has read and knows the contents of the above complaint and that the allegations contained therein, are true and correct to the best of his/her own knowledge, except for those matters therein based upon information and belief, and as to those he/she believes them to be true.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this
15th day of JULY, 2024

[REDACTED SIGNATURE]

Complainant Signature

[REDACTED]
N. J. MURPHY
Notary Public, State of South Carolina
My Commission expires 2/6/2028

SEC-7 (Revised 3/2022)

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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA---STATE ETHICS COMMISSION---COMPLAINT FORM

COMPLAINANT: Lyle Paradise

RESPONDENT: Linious M. Sauls IV

I respectfully request the South Carolina State Ethics Commission investigate Linious M. Sauls IV for any Ethics violations as a Jasper County Council Member. Violations could include the use of official position or office for any gain and/or conflict of interest.

The following is my belief, opinion and perception.

1. Respondent: may go by---Linious M. Sauls IV, L. Martin Sauls IV, Martin Sauls
2. Martin Sauls has served on the Jasper County Council since 2011 (14 year). Sauls is still serving and is presently Chairman (Exhibit A).
3. Martin Sauls, for at least the past 5 years, has stated the following on the annual SEI Report 2024 (Exhibit B):
 - a. Business Activity for 2023-Regulated Business Associations---"none"
 - b. Business Interests---"none"
 - c. Additional Interests in 2023-Additional Information for SEI Report-Description of Economic Interest---"none"
4. **Martin Sauls is a current Director of the Bank of the Low Country (BOL), has 0.23% Percentage of voting shares in Communitycorp, the Holding Company (Exhibit C).** it is believed Sauls continues to receive an annual Compensation from the BOL /Communitycorp. Upon request by the Commission, the Complainant will mail the full 42-page 2021 and 2022 Annual Report of Holding Companies---FR Y-6 for Communitycorp to the Ethics Commission.
5. Martin Sauls is believed to be a founding Member and/or later investor of the Bank of the Lowcountry. The Bank of the Lowcountry officially opened its doors for business under its original name, Bank of Walterboro, in 1989. Bank of Walterboro completed the legal name change in 2019 and officially opened as Bank of Lowcountry (Exhibit D)
6. Jasper County Budget for Fiscal year 2024-2025 is \$100 million (\$63,432,770-Operations and \$36,885,522-School District). The Budget was signed by L. Martin Sauls IV (Exhibit E.)
7. Jasper County has 116 Bank Accounts. Of the 116 Bank Accounts, **44 are listed under the Bank of the Low Country (38%). Almost all of the Bank of the Lowcountry accounts are CD Accounts, Money Market Accounts and Savings Accounts---interest bearing accounts.** 62 Bank Accounts under the South State bank are almost all checking accounts (Exhibit F).
8. In 2023 Jasper County voters elected a new Treasurer, Michael Skinner. The former Treasurer had been in office for 22 consecutive years. The County Treasurer serves as the County Banker, the custodian of the funds and **invests the monies** (Exhibit G).
9. Within about 6 months, the Treasurer identified 116 Bank Accounts but only has Signatory to 30. Within the 30 accounts, Skinner was able to increase some interest rates from 0.12% up to 4.98% and has generated millions in new interest revenue. The Jasper County Council, Chaired by Sauls, refused to allow the Treasurer access to ALL accounts. As such, on June 05, 2024 Michael Skinner **filed a Writ of Mandamus** directly with the State of SC Supreme Court (Exhibit H). Skinner still does not have access to all of the accounts.

Lyle Paradise

July 15, 2024

COMPLAINANT: Lyle Paradise

RESPONDENT: Linious M. Sauls IV

10. Questions (refers to those matters NOT under the control of the Jasper County Treasurer).
- a. Should Sauls have declared, on all SEI filings, that he is a Director of the Bank of the Lowcountry (BOL)?
 - b. Has Sauls gained an economic interest for himself and family by being a Director on the BOL and serving on the County Council?
 - c. Does Sauls have a conflict of interest by being a Director on the BOL, especially when almost ALL of the banking investment type accounts are with BOL?
 - d. Why has Sauls, as County Chairman, not made a motion to the County Council to post an RFP (Request for Proposal) for all banking matters to be sure the County is receiving the best competitive investments?
 - e. Why has Sauls allowed Jasper County to do business with the same banks (BOL and South State Bank---a Sauls campaign \$\$\$ contributor) for years and years?
 - f. What was the last date Sauls made a motion to the County Council to direct Jasper County to post an RFP for all Banking matters?
 - g. What were the interest rates on all 116 accounts (that are interest bearing) as of July 2023, including BOL, when the newly elected Treasurer took office?
 - h. What was the interest rates on all Closed Banking Accounts for the past 5 years?
 - i. Has Sauls used his power and influence over the years to keep BOL as the primary investment bank of Jasper County?
 - j. There is not one of the 5-member County Council that has a formal Accounting or Finance background. As such, what was the last date Sauls made a motion to the County Council to have a Forensic Audit performed of the Finance Department of Jasper County?

Signed

Lyle Paradise

Lyle Paradise

Date

July 15, 2024

Linious M. Sauls, IV

Po Box 1417, Ridgeland, SC 29936

[Profile \(/public/candidates-public-officials/person/profile?personId=45309&seid=10260\)](/public/candidates-public-officials/person/profile?personId=45309&seid=10260)

[SEI Reports \(/public/candidates-public-officials/person/sei-reports?personId=45309&seid=10260\)](/public/candidates-public-officials/person/sei-reports?personId=45309&seid=10260)

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Profile

Contact

Information

Address

Po Box 1417
Ridgeland, SC 29936

Phone Number

(843) 338-5509

Recent Offices &

Positions Held

County Council

Open Offices

All Positions Listed on SEI Reports

Office or Position Name	Entity	Type	SEI Report Year
County Council	Jasper County	Elected	2024
County Council	Jasper County	Elected	2022
County Council	Jasper County	Elected	2021
County Council	Jasper County	Elected	2020
County Council	Jasper County	Elected	2019
County Council	Jasper County	Candidate	2018
County Council	Jasper County	Elected	2016
County Council	Jasper County	Elected	2015
County Council	Jasper County	Candidate	2014
County Council	Jasper County	Elected	2018
County Council	Jasper County	Elected	2017
County Council	Jasper County	Elected	2014
County Council	Jasper County	Elected	2013
County Council	Jasper County	Elected	2012
County Council	Jasper County	Elected	2011

Closed Offices

Office Name	Start ↓	End
Jasper County Council County Council Coosawhatchie Township (/public/candidates-public-officials/person/campaign-disclosure-reports?personId=45309&seild=10260&officelid=71394)	2022	2022
Jasper County Council (/public/candidates-public-officials/person/campaign-disclosure-reports?personId=16430&seild=10260&officelid=32855)	2018	2022
Jasper County Council (/public/candidates-public-officials/person/campaign-disclosure-reports?personId=11818&seild=10260&officelid=15311)	2014	2014
Jasper County Council (/public/candidates-public-officials/person/campaign-disclosure-reports?personId=7312&seild=10260&officelid=8223)	2010	2010

Ethics Reform Act

[Title 8 Statute \(https://www.scstatehouse.gov/code/t08c013.php\)](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/code/t08c013.php)

[Title 2 Statute \(https://www.scstatehouse.gov/code/t02c017.php\)](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/code/t02c017.php)

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[Campaign Reports \(/public/campaign-reports\)](#)

[Statements of Economic Interests \(/public/statement-economic-interests\)](#)

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Linious M. Sauls, IV

Po Box 1417, Ridgeland, SC 29936

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SEI Report 2024 | Disclosures for 2023

Original Report: **Submitted March 29, 2024**

 [Create PDF](#)

Go to:

[Positions \(/public/candidates-public-officials/person/sei-reports/details?seid=10260&seiReportId=200729&disclosingYear=2023#positions\)](#)

[Personal Income \(/public/candidates-public-officials/person/sei-reports/details?seid=10260&seiReportId=200729&disclosingYear=2023#personalIncome\)](#)

[Family Income \(/public/candidates-public-officials/person/sei-reports/details?seid=10260&seiReportId=200729&disclosingYear=2023#familyIncome\)](#)

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[Creditors \(/public/candidates-public-officials/person/sei-reports/details?seid=10260&seiReportId=200729&disclosingYear=2023#creditors\)](#)

[Additional \(/public/candidates-public-officials/person/sei-reports/details?seid=10260&seiReportId=200729&disclosingYear=2023#additional\)](#)

Positions Reported

Elected Official

County Council

Jasper County

County Council

Coosawhatchie Township

Office Term

1/2023 - 12/2027

Appointed

Personal Income for 2023

Private Income

Source	Income Type
jasper county	salary

Income from an SC Governmental Entity

Source	Income Type	Income Amount for 2023
jasper county	salary	\$16,500.00

Income from Contractors Associated with Your Governmental Entity

Nothing Reported

Gifts Received

Nothing Reported

Speaking Engagement Expenses Paid for or Reimbursed

Nothing Reported

Family Members' Income for 2023

Private Income Received By Family Members

Nothing Reported

Income Received from a Governmental Entity By Family Members

Nothing Reported

Business Activity for 2023

Regulated Business Associations

Business Name	Your Relationship	Agency Regulation
none	none	none

Business Interests

Business Name	Your Relationship
none	none

Property Activity in 2023

Improvements to Real Property

Property Description	Street Address	Improvements	Property Value
none	none, none, SC, 29936	none	\$0.00

Real Property with a Potential Conflict of Interest

Nothing Reported

Real Property Sold, Leased, or Rented to a Public Agency

Nothing Reported

Lobbyist Connections in 2023

Lobbyist Immediate Family Member

Lobbyist Name	Relationship
none	none

Goods and Services Purchased by Lobbyists and Lobbyists' Principals

Nothing Reported

Creditors in 2023

Creditors Associated with Your Agency

Nothing Reported

Additional Interests in 2023

Additional Information for SEI Report

Description of Economic Interest
none

Ethics Reform Act

[Title 8 Statute \(https://www.scstatehouse.gov/code/t08c013.php\)](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/code/t08c013.php)

[Title 2 Statute \(https://www.scstatehouse.gov/code/t02c017.php\)](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/code/t02c017.php)

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Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System



Annual Report of Holding Companies—FR Y-6

Report at the close of business as of the end of fiscal year

This report is required by law: Section 5(c)(1) of the Bank Holding Company Act (12 U.S.C. § 1844(c)(1)); section 10(b)(2) of the Home Owners' Loan Act (12 U.S.C. § 1467a(b)(2)); sections 102(a)(1), 165, and 618 of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (12 U.S.C. §§ 5311(a)(1), 5365, and 1850a(c)(1)); and sections 8(a) and 13(a) of the International Banking Act of 1978 (12 U.S.C. §§ 3106(a) and 3108(a)). Return to the appropriate Federal Reserve Bank the original and the number of copies specified.

This report form is to be filed by all top-tier bank holding companies, top-tier savings and loan holding companies, and U.S. intermediate holding companies organized under U.S. law, and by any foreign banking organization that does not meet the requirements of and is not treated as a qualifying foreign banking organization under Section 211.23 of Regulation K (12 C.F.R. § 211.23). (See page one of the general instructions for more detail of who must file.) The Federal Reserve may not conduct or sponsor, and an organization (or a person) is not required to respond to, an information collection unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

NOTE: The *Annual Report of Holding Companies* must be signed by one director of the top-tier holding company. This individual should also be a senior official of the top-tier holding company. In the event that the top-tier holding company does not have an individual who is a senior official and is also a director, the chairman of the board must sign the report. If the holding company is an ESOP/ESOT formed as a corporation or is an LLC, see the General Instructions for the authorized individual who must sign the report.

I, Marc J. Bogan

Name of the Holding Company Director and Official

Chief Executive Officer

Title of the Holding Company Director and Official

attest that the *Annual Report of Holding Companies* (including the supporting attachments) for this report date has been prepared in conformance with the instructions issued by the Federal Reserve System and are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

With respect to information regarding individuals contained in this report, the Reporter certifies that it has the authority to provide this information to the Federal Reserve. The Reporter also certifies that it has the authority, on behalf of each individual, to consent or object to public release of information regarding that individual. The Federal Reserve may assume, in the absence of a request for confidential treatment submitted in accordance with the Board's "Rules Regarding Availability of Information," 12 C.F.R. Part 261, that the Reporter and individual consent to public release of all details in the report concerning that individual.

Signature of Holding Company Director and Official

03/31/2023

Date of Signature

For Federal Reserve Bank Use Only

RSSD ID _____

C.I. _____

Date of Report (top-tier holding company's fiscal year-end):

December 31, 2022

Month / Day / Year

Reporter's Name, Street, and Mailing Address

Communitycorp

Legal Title of Holding Company

PO Box 1707

(Mailing Address of the Holding Company) Street / P.O. Box

Walterboro

SC

29488

City

State

Zip Code

1100 N. Jefferies Blvd., Walterboro, SC 29488

Physical Location (if different from mailing address)

Person to whom questions about this report should be directed:

W. Frederick Austin

EVP/CFO

Name

Title

843.782.5539

Area Code / Phone Number / Extension

843.542.2752

Area Code / FAX Number

faustin@banklowcountry.com

E-mail Address

www.banklowcountry.com

Address (URL) for the Holding Company's web page

Is confidential treatment requested for any portion of this report submission?

0=No

1=Yes

In accordance with the General Instructions for this report (check only one),

1. a letter justifying this request is being provided along with the report.....

2. a letter justifying this request has been provided separately ...

NOTE: Information for which confidential treatment is being requested must be provided separately and labeled as "confidential."

Report Item 3: Security holders

Current securities holders with ownership, control or holdings of 5% or more with power to vote as of fiscal year ending 12/31/2022.

1a Name City, State, Country	1b Country of Citizenship or Incorporation	1c Number & Percentage of each class of voting securities
Estate of Peden B. McLeod Mt. Pleasant, SC USA	USA	68,729 7.89%
Pamela Robertson Chapin, SC USA	USA	56,874 6.53%
Franklin L Burke Walterboro, SC USA	USA	45,000 5.16%

Securities holders not listed in 3(1a) through 3(1c) that had ownership, control or holdings of 5% or more with power to vote during the fiscal year ending 12/31/2022.

2a Name City, State, Country	2b Country of Citizenship or Incorporation	2c Number & Percentage of each class of voting securities
Georgs W. Cone Walterboro, SC USA	USA	37,777 4.34%

Form FR Y-6
Communitycorp
December 31, 2022

Report Item 4: Insiders

1 Name City, State, Country	2 Principal Occupation if other than with Communitycorp	3a Title & Position with Communitycorp	3b Title & Position with Subsidiaries (include names of subsidiaries)	3c Title & Position with other businesses (include names of other businesses)	4a Percentage of voting shares in Communitycorp	4b Percentage of voting shares in Subsidiaries (include names of subsidiaries)	4c List names of other companies(includes partnerships) if 25% or more of voting securities are held (list names of companies and percentage voting securities held)
John Reeves McLeod Columbia, SC USA	Managing Attorney & Mediator- McLeod Law & Mediation LLC Beneficiary, Estate of Peden B McLeod	Director	Director- Bank of the Lowcountry	N/A	1.77%	0.00%	N/A
Peden B. McLeod Jr. Mt. Pleasant, SC USA	Partner in Law Firm- McLeod, Frazer & Cone Beneficiary, Estate of Peden B McLeod	Director & Chairman	Chairman- Board of Directors Bank of the Lowcountry	N/A	1.97%	0.00%	N/A
Robert Brown Hollywood, SC USA	retired- S. C. House of Representatives President & CEO of Brown and Steward Inc. Owner- Brown's Barber Shop Owner- Brown's Barber and Beauty Supply Store	Director	Director- Bank of the Lowcountry	N/A	0.32%	0.00%	100.0%- Brown's Barber Shop 100.0%- Brown's Barber and Beauty Supply Store 100.0%- Brown and Steward Inc.
L. Allen Salk IV Redland, SC USA	Manager- Farm Bureau Ins. Agency, Beaufort SC	Director	Director- Bank of the Lowcountry	N/A	0.23%	0.00%	N/A
D. Scott Rizer Wallerboro, SC USA	President- Rizer Chevrolet Oldsmobile	Director	Director- Bank of the Lowcountry	N/A	0.80%	0.00%	N/A
Marc J. Bogan Daniel Island, SC USA	N/A	CEO & Director	CEO- Bank of the Lowcountry	N/A	0.28%	0.00%	N/A
James M. Burton Jr. Wallerboro, SC USA	N/A	EVP	EVP- Market Executive Bank of the Lowcountry	N/A	2.19%	0.00%	N/A
Charles R. Hudgens Summerville, SC USA	N/A	EVP	EVP, Director of Commercial Lending Bank of the Lowcountry	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	N/A
Carl Kipostick Spartanburg, SC USA	N/A	EVP	EVP- Market Executive Bank of the Lowcountry	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	N/A
W. Frederick Austin Camden, SC USA	N/A	EVP	EVP/CFO Bank of the Lowcountry	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	N/A
Melissa T. Smyly Wallerboro, SC USA	N/A	VP	VP, ISD/Controller Bank of the Lowcountry	N/A	0.12%	0.00%	N/A

COMMUNITYCORP AND SUBSIDIARY

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS DECEMBER 31, 2022 AND 2021

	2022	2021
<u>Assets</u>		
Cash and due from banks	\$ 4,908,373	\$ 4,137,056
Interest-bearing deposits in banks	4,030,753	76,534,740
Federal funds sold	3,000,000	3,000,000
Cash and cash equivalents	11,939,126	83,671,796
Time deposits with other banks	-	1,250,000
Securities available for sale, at fair value	75,635,742	87,665,075
Restricted equity securities, at cost	148,900	552,300
Loans	180,410,785	119,943,458
Less allowance for loan losses	2,297,913	1,755,044
Loans, net	178,112,872	118,188,414
Premises and equipment, net	4,624,678	4,517,490
Accrued interest receivable	1,021,928	789,793
Foreclosed assets	96,000	96,000
Deferred tax assets (liabilities), net	3,254,395	(227,962)
Other assets	881,167	748,032
	\$ 275,714,808	\$ 297,250,938
<u>Liabilities and Stockholders' Equity</u>		
Deposits		
Noninterest-bearing	\$ 45,701,823	\$ 42,888,303
Interest-bearing	211,153,164	215,892,747
Total deposits	256,854,987	258,781,050
Federal Home Loan Bank advances	-	10,000,000
Accrued interest payable	56,376	106,248
Other liabilities	402,732	228,252
Total liabilities	257,314,095	269,115,550
Commitments and contingencies (Note 10)		
Stockholders' equity		
Preferred stock, par value \$5; 3,000,000 shares authorized; none issued	-	-
Common stock, par value \$5; 3,000,000 shares authorized; 1,200,000 and 300,000 shares issued, respectively	6,000,000	1,500,000
Surplus	1,737,924	1,737,924
Retained earnings	26,822,306	29,378,022
Accumulated other comprehensive income (loss)	(10,814,464)	861,762
	23,745,766	33,477,708
Less cost of shares acquired for the treasury 326,813 and 81,679 shares, respectively	5,345,053	5,342,320
Total stockholders' equity	18,400,713	28,135,388
	\$ 275,714,808	\$ 297,250,938

See Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

NOTE 11. CONCENTRATIONS OF CREDIT RISK

The Company originates construction real estate, mortgage real estate, agricultural real estate, commercial and industrial, and consumer loans to customers in southeastern South Carolina. The ability of the majority of the Company's customers to honor their contractual loan obligations is dependent on the economy in these areas.

Eighty-two percent (82%) of the Company's loan portfolio is concentrated in loans secured by real estate, of which a substantial portion is secured by real estate located in the Company's primary market area. Accordingly, the ultimate collectability of the loan portfolio is susceptible to changes in real estate conditions in the Company's primary market area. The other significant concentrations of credit by type of loan are set forth in Note 3.

At various times throughout the year, the Company maintains cash balances with other financial institutions. The Company monitors the capital adequacy of these financial institutions on a quarterly basis. The Company had no concentration of funds on deposit at any depository institution as of December 31, 2022 and 2021.

NOTE 12. REGULATORY MATTERS

The primary source of funds available to the Company is the payment of dividends by the Bank. The Bank is subject to certain restrictions on the amount of dividends that may be declared without prior regulatory approval.

The Bank is subject to various regulatory capital requirements administered by the federal and state banking agencies. Failure to meet minimum capital requirements can initiate certain mandatory, and possibly additional discretionary, actions by regulators that, if undertaken, could have a direct material effect on the financial statements. Under capital adequacy guidelines and the regulatory framework for prompt corrective action, the Bank must meet specific capital guidelines that involve quantitative measures of the assets, liabilities, and certain off-balance-sheet items as calculated under regulatory accounting practices. Capital amounts and classification are also subject to qualitative judgments by the regulators about components, risk weightings, and other factors. Prompt corrective action provisions are not applicable to bank holding companies.

Quantitative measures established by regulation to ensure capital adequacy require the Bank to maintain minimum amounts and ratios of total, Tier 1, and CET1 capital to risk weighted assets, as defined, and of Tier 1 capital to average assets, as defined. Management believes, as of December 31, 2022, the Bank meets all capital adequacy requirements to which they are subject.

As of December 31, 2022, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation categorized the Bank as well capitalized under the regulatory framework for prompt corrective action. To be categorized as well capitalized, the Bank must maintain minimum total risk-based, Tier 1 risk-based, and Tier 1 leverage capital ratios as set forth in the table and not be subject to any formal enforcement action. There are no conditions or events since that notification that management believes have changed the Bank's category.

The Bank's actual capital ratios are presented in the following table.



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

**To the Board of Directors
Communitycorp
Walterboro, South Carolina**

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying consolidated financial statements of Communitycorp and Subsidiary, which comprise the consolidated balance sheets as of December 31, 2022 and 2021, and the related consolidated statements of income, comprehensive income (loss), stockholders' equity, and cash flows for the years then ended, and the related notes to the consolidated financial statements.

In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Communitycorp and Subsidiary as of December 31, 2022 and 2021, and the results of their operations and their cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of Communitycorp and Subsidiary and to meet our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audits. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the consolidated financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of consolidated financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the consolidated financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about Communitycorp and Subsidiary's ability to continue as a going concern within one year after the date that the consolidated financial statements are available to be issued.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the consolidated financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements, including omissions, are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the consolidated financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the consolidated financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the consolidated financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of Communitycorp and Subsidiary's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the consolidated financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about Communitycorp and Subsidiary's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control related matters that we identified during the audit.

Mauldin & Jenkins, LLC

Albany, Georgia
April 21, 2023

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PREPARATION OF

Annual Report of Holding Companies FR Y-6

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

Who Must Report

The FR Y-6 is to be filed by all top-tier bank holding companies, U.S. intermediate holding companies, savings and loan holding companies, employee stock ownership plans, employee share ownership trusts, or trusts that are savings and loan holding companies pursuant to Regulation LL (12 CFR 238.2 (m)(2)), and securities holding companies as authorized under Section 618 of the Dodd-Frank Act, 12 U.S.C. 1850a(c)(1), (collectively, "holding companies"). In addition, the FR Y-6 must be filed by: any foreign banking organization that does not meet the requirements of and is not treated as a qualifying foreign banking organization under Section 211.23 of Regulation K (12 CFR 211.23); and by any top-tier bank holding company or top-tier savings and loan holding company that is organized under foreign law but is not a foreign banking organization.¹ Employee stock ownership plans or employee share ownership trusts that are also bank holding companies as defined under Section 2(a)(1) of the Bank Holding Company Act and Section 225.2(c) of Regulation Y or savings and loan holding companies as defined under Section 10(a)(1)(D) of the Home Owners' Loan Act and Section 238.2(m) of Regulation LL must file the FR Y-6 if the employee stock ownership plan or employee share ownership trust is the top-tier holding company. The entities listed above will hence forth be referred to as the "Reporter."

1. In general, a FBO that is or is treated as a 'qualifying foreign banking organization' under section 211.23 of Regulation K (12 CFR 211.23) is not required to file the FR Y-6. See the *Report of Changes in Organizational Structure* (FR Y-10) Glossary for definition of a 'qualifying foreign banking organization.' If the organization has a non-U.S. BHC that controls a U.S. BHC, the FR Y-6 should be submitted by the top-tier U.S. BHC. In addition, a FBO that qualifies for a limited exemption under Regulation K is not required to file the FR Y-6. Such entities instead must comply with the reporting requirements of the *Annual Reporting of Foreign Banking Organizations* (FR Y-7).

In the case of multi-tiered holding companies that are direct or indirect subsidiaries of another holding company, the top-tier holding company must file the FR Y-6 on behalf of all lower tier holding companies. The top-tier holding company must submit individual responses to Report Items 3 and 4 for itself and for each subsidiary holding company. Individual responses to Report Items 1, 2a, and 2b for each subsidiary holding company would duplicate the information submitted by the top-tier holding company and are therefore not required.

Additional copies of this instruction book may be obtained from the Federal Reserve Bank in the district where the reporting holding company submits its FR Y-6 report or may be found on the Federal Reserve Board's public web site (www.federalreserve.gov).

Where to Submit the Reports

Submit to the *appropriate Federal Reserve Bank* (see the FR Y-10 Glossary) the original report and the number of copies specified by that Reserve Bank. The original and all copies must include the required attachments.

All reports shall be made out clearly and legibly, submitted in typewritten form or in ink. Reports completed in pencil will not be accepted.

When to Submit the Report

The FR Y-6 is required to be submitted as of the end of the top-tier holding company's fiscal year end.

The FR Y-6 must be filed with and received by the appropriate Federal Reserve Bank **no later than 90 calendar days** after the top-tier holding company's fiscal year end. Holding companies filing a tiered report should file as of the fiscal year end of the top-tier holding company. The report is due at the appropriate Federal Reserve Bank by 5:00 P.M. on the submission date.

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SAVINGS



Bank of the Lowcountry is a local community bank founded in Walterboro, SC – the “front porch of the Lowcountry.” Our institution was founded by ten prominent Walterboro businessmen in October of 1988, resulting in the first commercially chartered bank organized in Walterboro in over 65 years.

Bank of the Lowcountry officially opened its doors for business under its original name, Bank of Walterboro, in 1989 with only nine original employees. To better serve our customers in Charleston County, the Bank opened its second branch in Ravenel, SC in 1997. Our third branch was opened in 2003 to help accommodate customer demand in our own hometown. Originally designed as a drive-up location, our Forest Hills branch was later converted to a full-service branch. That year we also opened a branch in Ridgeland, SC to better serve the residents of Jasper and Beaufort counties. In 2018 a Loan Production office was opened on historic King Street. In January 2020, we relocated our Charleston Loan Production Office to Mt. Pleasant where we opened a full service branch in order to serve the Mt. Pleasant and Charleston areas.

Bank of Walterboro completed the legal name change in 2019 and officially opened as Bank of the Lowcountry across all markets to represent the widespread communities we have grown to serve, as well as the communities and customers that have been instrumental to the banks success for the past 30 years.



↖ Main Branch: 1100 North Jefferies Blvd., Walterboro, SC 29488

☎ Phone: (843) 549-2265

📠 Fax: (843) 549-5476

Lobby and Drive Thru Hours:
8:30am – 5:00pm Monday - Thursday

8:30am – 5:30pm Friday



↖ Ravenel Branch: 6225 Savannah Hwy., Ravenel, SC 29470

☎ Phone: (843) 605-0102

📠 Fax: (843) 889-6956

Drive Thru Hours:
8:30am – 5:00pm Monday - Thursday

8:30am – 5:30pm Friday

Lobby Hours:
9:00am – 5:00pm Monday - Thursday

9:00am – 5:30pm Friday



↖ Ridgeland Branch: 8058 E. Main St., Ridgeland, SC 29936

☎ Phone: (843) 726-3168

📠 Fax: (843) 726-6112

Drive Thru Hours:
8:30am – 5:00pm Monday - Thursday
8:30am – 5:30pm Friday

Lobby Hours:
9:00am – 5:00pm Monday - Thursday
9:00am – 5:30pm Friday

↖ Mt. Pleasant Branch: 767 Johnnie Dodds Boulevard, Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464

☎ Phone: (843) 884-4250

📠 Fax: (843) 884-4251

Lobby and Drive Thru Hours:
9:00am – 5:00pm Monday - Friday

↖ Beaufort Loan Production Office: 186 Sea Island Parkway, Beaufort, SC 29907

☎ Phone: (843) 605-0102

📠 Fax: (843) 605-9070

9:00am – 5:00pm Monday - Friday



↖ West Ashley Branch: 1923 Sam Rittenberg Blvd. Charleston, SC 29407

☎ Phone: (843) 867-4999

📠 Fax: (843) 284-9140

Drive Thru Hours:
8:30am – 5:00pm Monday - Friday
Lobby Hours:
9:00am – 5:00pm Monday - Friday

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Jasper County
FY 2024 – 2025 Budget
Adopted June 3, 2024

**STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF JASPER
Ordinance #O-2024-13
An Ordinance
of Jasper County Council**

To provide for the levy of tax for public purposes in Jasper County for the fiscal year beginning July 1st, 2024 and ending June 30th 2025 and to make appropriations for said purposes; to adopt and approve the Jasper County capital and operations budget for fiscal year 2024-2025, to adopt and approve the Jasper County School District capital and operations budget for fiscal year 2024-2025; to provide for the levy of taxation for fiscal year 2024-2025; to limit the disbursements by the county treasurer to those appropriated by law; to provide that expenditures not exceed appropriations; to authorize tax anticipation notes; to make authorization of certain transfers; to provide for additional appropriations and borrowing; to codify Jasper County rates and fees; to provide for lapsing funds and continuing appropriations for subsequent years; to require certain agencies and departments to file accountings; to require the treasurer to sign general fund checks; to provide special rules for travel and training disbursements; to provide for travel reimbursements; to provide compliance with act no. 317 of 1990; to provide certain benefits to council members; to provide for county commission and committee stipends; to provide for jury mileage; to adopt property values; and to provide for effective date of this ordinance.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Jasper County Council in council duly assembled and by the authority of the same:

SECTION 1. Appropriation for Jasper County Capital and General Operations Budget. There is hereby appropriated from revenues to be collected from the stated sources the following sums for the Jasper County Capital and Operational needs and for the purposes set forth for fiscal year 2024 – 2025:

JASPER COUNTY
CAPITAL AND GENERAL OPERATIONS BUDGET
FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025

REVENUE		EXPENDITURES	
County Property Tax Levy	\$ 32,945,400	Emergency Services	\$ 17,978,791
Local Option Sales Tax	\$ 4,862,500	Sheriff	\$ 10,000,200
Fee in Lieu	\$ 2,100,000	Detention Center	\$ 4,139,000
S.C. Local Government Fund Allocation	\$ 1,350,300	Engineering Services and Solid Waste	\$ 4,250,700
Cash Carry Forward	\$ 5,968,620	Agency Appropriations	\$ 2,723,079
All Other Revenue	<u>\$ 13,085,550</u>	All Other Expenditures	<u>\$ 21,220,600</u>
Total Revenue	\$ 60,312,370	Total Expenditures	\$ 60,312,370
County Debt Tax Levy	<u>\$ 3,120,400</u>	County Debt	<u>\$ 3,120,400</u>
County Grand Total	<u>\$ 63,432,770</u>	County Grand Total	<u>\$ 63,432,770</u>

The detailed Operations Budget containing line-by-line accounts by department and /or agency is hereby adopted as part of this Ordinance. Management of individual accounts for the functions of elected officials shall be the responsibility of that elected official.

SECTION 2. Appropriation for Jasper County School District Capital and General Operations Budget. There is hereby appropriated to the School Operations Budget the remaining non-appropriated funds collected through School District ad valorem taxation in Fiscal Year 2023-2024, which were in excess of School District funds appropriated by the FY 2023- 2024 budget ordinance. There is further hereby appropriated from revenues to be collected from the stated sources the following sums for the Jasper County School District Capital and Operational needs and for the purposes set forth for fiscal year 2024 - 2025:

**JASPER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
CAPITAL AND GENERAL OPERATIONS BUDGET
FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025**

REVENUES

School Property	
Operations Tax Levy	\$ 30,384,644
School Debt	<u>\$ 6,500,878</u>
School Grand Total	\$ 36,885,522

APPROPRIATIONS

School District	
Operations Tax Levy	\$ 30,384,644
School Debt	<u>\$ 6,500,878</u>
School Grand Total	\$ 36,885,522

SECTION 3. Levy. There is hereby levied upon the taxable property of Jasper County a sufficient number of mills by the County Council from assessment of the property therein which, together with fines, forfeitures and taxes collected by various tax offices and all income of the County shall raise the amount therein appropriated and for the purpose herein stated.

	Millage
County	138.00
County Debt	12.00
School	166.00
School Debt	<u>25.00</u>
Total Mills	341.00
 Cherry Point Fire District	 31.00

SECTION 4. Disbursement by Treasurer. The Treasurer is directed to disburse to or on behalf of the activities described in Sections 1 and 2 no more than the amount appropriated and to hold all additional revenues referred to herein and all revenues collected as a result of and through the levied millage, over and above the appropriations stated herein, in an interest bearing account of the County, pending future appropriation by the County Council. In the event that the actual collection of revenue shall be less than the appropriations made in Section 1 or 2, then appropriations shall be reduced to a sum equal to the amount of revenue actually collected.

SECTION 5. Expenditures Not to Exceed Appropriations. Expenditures shall not exceed appropriations without the consent of the County Council. County Council authorization to amend the budget shall be ratified by ordinance through a budget amendment.

SECTION 6. Tax Anticipation Notes Authorized. For the purpose of paying in cash for the foregoing and all other general ordinary County expenses for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 as authorized by this ordinance or by any other appropriation ordinance hereafter passed in and for said fiscal year, the County Council of Jasper County is hereby authorized, empowered, and directed to borrow from time to time as may be necessary on

the official note or notes of Jasper County, or other evidence or evidences of indebtedness, in anticipation of the collection of the taxes herein levied, provided that all loans made from private persons, firms, or corporations shall not exceed \$6,000,000 in the aggregate. Such borrowing shall be sold in such manner and upon such terms as the County Administrator shall deem in the best interest of Jasper County, upon the advice of the County's financial advisor and counsel. Such borrowing may take the form of a public or private sale, as deemed appropriate by the Administrator. Such sum or sums so borrowed shall constitute a valid and prior claim against the said taxes herein levied and against Jasper County, and shall also be secured by a pledge of the full faith, credit, and taxing power of Jasper County. The Administrator, and any other officers or staff of Jasper County as are deemed by the Administrator necessary or convenient to the accomplishment of the borrowing authorized herein, are hereby authorized to execute all agreements, contracts, certificates, undertakings, disclosures, and other documentation as is convenient or necessary to facilitate such borrowing.

SECTION 7. Authorization of Transfer of Funds. Each department head is permitted, subject to the County Administrator's (or his designee's) approval, to transfer appropriation(s) between object classifications codes within that department. Transfers from objects 2000 through 2080 (personnel codes) are not permitted under any circumstances without the approval of the County Administrator. The County Administrator is permitted, when it is in the best interest of the individual County departments or agencies, to transfer appropriations between departments (from one department to another department) and between the County's General Fund, Capital Projects Fund and Capital Improvements Fund (from one fund to another fund up to \$50,000.

SECTION 8. Additional Appropriations and Borrowing. If circumstances arise which, in the judgment of a majority of County Council, require the expenditure of a greater amount than herein above enumerated then the County Administrator shall have and is hereby given the right by this Ordinance to transfer funds between the County's General Fund, Special Revenue Funds, and Capital Projects Funds and may also appropriate available funds for a purpose not mentioned or referred to in this Ordinance, and the County Treasurer is authorized to borrow, if necessary, such amount as may be required to meet such increases or additional appropriations and may pledge the full faith and credit of Jasper County for the payment of the amount borrowed. Should actual funding sources be greater than projected in this Ordinance, the County Administrator may revise budgeted revenues and expenditures or direct the increase to be held for future year's disbursements.

SECTION 9. Jasper County Rates and Fees. The rates and fees attached hereto that are not included or provided for in either South Carolina law or other Jasper County law shall hereby be declared to be part thereof this Ordinance and shall be followed during implementation of the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget for Jasper County.

SECTION 10. Lapsing of Funds and Continuing Appropriations for Subsequent Year. Budget appropriations of monies received by County departments and existing at the close of the fiscal year shall revert to the appropriate fund of the County. Departments wishing to carry over appropriations into the next succeeding fiscal year must submit the request in writing to the County Administrator no later than August 1, 2024, for approval

by the County Council. These carryovers must be for specific items budgeted in the 2023 - 2024 fiscal year for which unforeseen circumstances prevented the funds from being spent during the current year. Any "excess" funds accumulated at the end of the fiscal year shall be used only with the approval of County Council either to fund capital assets or other expenditures needed by the County or placed in the appropriate reserve fund by the County Administrator. Departments charged with the proper keeping and reporting of County accounts shall maintain both revenue and expenditure ledgers, and under no circumstances, except in such instances as over-payment errors, authorized transfers, or supplemental appropriations, shall entries except those enumerated in this Ordinance, be recorded on appropriations and/or expenditure ledgers.

Should the County Council in any subsequent year fail to enact an appropriation ordinance for Jasper County, the appropriation and tax levy herein set forth shall be the appropriation ordinance for such subsequent year for Jasper County.

SECTION 11. Agencies and Departments to File Accounting. Agencies or departments receiving appropriated funds under this ordinance, at the County Council's request, shall file an accounting for use of such funds. This accounting shall be available for examination or inspection by the citizens of Jasper County.

SECTION 12. Treasurer to Sign Checks. The Jasper County Treasurer or the Treasurer's designee shall sign all general fund checks.

SECTION 13. Special Rules for Travel and Training Disbursements. The elected officials, appointed officials and/or department heads who receive an annual appropriation for travel and training shall be required to present an itemized statement and all appropriate receipts for reimbursement of the same. No official or department head shall be reimbursed in excess of their annual appropriation unless such expenditures are approved in advance by the County Administrator.

SECTION 14. Travel Reimbursements. All Jasper County employees who have reason to travel outside of Jasper County on official County business shall be reimbursed for same with respect to the County mileage rate and the latest approved subsistence schedule both of which are published in the Jasper County Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual. All out of state travel must be approved in advance by the County Administrator.

SECTION 15. Compliance with Act No. 317 of 1990. Section 1 of the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget Ordinance contains provisions for the rollback against County property tax of \$3,926,500 of local option sales tax revenue for the fiscal year 2024-2025. The \$3,926,500 meets or exceeds the amount required as rollback in Act No. 317, 1990 Acts and Joint Resolutions 1822. All other local option tax discount revenue shall become general fund expenditures, as budgeted in the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget. The local option sales tax discount factor for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 shall be .0007 which determines the amount of discount on individual tax bills. The factor was determined by using the formula prescribed by Act No. 317, 1990 Acts and Joint Resolutions 1822.

SECTION 16. Council Member Benefits. The Council Members wishing to be on the County Health Insurance Plan may do so under the same guidelines as the other County

employees. Council Members, who do not choose to be on the County's Health Insurance Plan, may be compensated with additional benefits not to exceed the value of a County employee's health insurance benefit paid by the County. Additional benefits that may be offered in lieu of health insurance include, but are not limited to, life insurance, dental insurance, existing 401K, new 401K accounts, existing IRA accounts or new IRA accounts, deferred compensation and credit union. These benefits will be limited to those plans already in place by the County and the County Administrator will have full discretion as to which benefits are offered. These benefits may not be exchanged for monetary compensation under any circumstances.

SECTION 17. Commission and Committee Stipends. This budget ordinance limits the payment of stipends to members of the Jasper County Planning Commission to one stipend per month in the amount of \$100.00. These stipends shall be paid providing the member attends the scheduled meeting. A quorum of the committees must be in attendance at the scheduled meeting for the stipend to be paid. The Board of Assessment Appeals and the Board of Zoning Appeals members will be paid an annual stipend of \$500.00.

SECTION 18. Juror Mileage. The Clerk of Court is hereby authorized and required to reimburse jurors for mileage for each day's attendance upon court at the current Internal Revenue Service published rate for mileage.


SECTION 19. Property Values Adopted. The property values established by the County Auditor, County Assessor and the South Carolina Department of Revenue, based on Dec. 31, 2023, valuation are adopted and ordered implemented for tax year 2024.

SECTION 20. Effective Date. This ordinance shall take effect on July 1, 2024.

Jasper County Council

BY: 
L. Martin Sayles IV, Chairman

ATTEST:


Wanda H. Giles,
Clerk to Council

First Reading: 5/06/2024
Second Reading: 5/20/2024
Public Hearings: 5/20/2024
Adopted: 6/03/2024

Reviewed for form and draftsmanship by the Jasper County Attorney.


David Tedder


Date

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REALITY★CHECK

Frozen out: FOIA reveals 119 Jasper Co. bank accounts, the treasurer can't access 75%

BY ISABELLA DOUGLAS

UPDATED JULY 03, 2024 2:27 PM

Since 1967, the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) has provided the public the right to request access to records from any federal agency. It is often described as the law that keeps citizens in the know about their government. BY DEPT. OF JUSTICE

REALITY★CHECK

Lunch programs for the school district, inmate welfare funds and airport construction are just some of the titles listed among the now 89 bank accounts that a first-time Jasper County treasurer is suing his own county to have access to.

A public record request filed by the Island Packet and Beaufort Gazette reveals the bank account types and titles Treasurer Michael Skinner has on file. An updated list

shows that of the 119 bank accounts, Skinner is only signatory to 30 — leaving the other 75% of the bank account's contents unknown to him.

Skinner has been in a legal dispute with Jasper County since the beginning of the month. He filed a complaint, known as a Writ of Mandamus, with South Carolina's Supreme Court to order Jasper County Administrator Andrew Fulghum and Director of Jasper County Administrative Services Kimberly Burgess to add him as a signatory to all bank accounts. On Tuesday, the county responded by hiring their own legal counsel — Parker Poe, a law firm that has represented many of the Southeast's largest companies and local governments in transactions, regulatory issues and complex litigation, according to the firm's website — to challenge Skinner's filing as well as initiate an investigation into his use of county funds for hiring Bland Richter Law Firm to assist in the suit.

Skinner had first reached out to local banks South State Bank, Bank of the Lowcountry and Regions Bank to become a signatory; however, the banks denied his request, stating the other signatories, alleged in court documents to be Fulghum and Burgess, denied his request.

Public records show that accounts filed under South State Bank include the Jasper County School District, Jasper County Sheriff's Office and Jasper County Probate Court among others.

Eleven of the bank accounts are listed under the Jasper County School District, with all but one account under checking. The sole account under savings is identified as a lunch program for the school district. Skinner only has access to three of the school district's checking accounts, two of which are bond accounts.

The remaining 62 accounts under South State Bank are almost all checking accounts, with only two identified as MM accounts. Only 24 of the accounts are known to Skinner and cover various aspects of financial management such as real estate, cash management, taxes, court-related funds, payroll, fire department funds, sheriff's department funds, sales tax, child support enforcement and more. Of the 38 accounts unknown to Skinner, they include business licensing, local hospital taxes, county taxes and delinquent tax collections. The Sheriff's Office accounts cover

everything from petty cash to drug seizure funds. The probate court accounts oversees marriage licenses, probate fees and more.

There are 44 bank accounts listed under the Bank of the Lowcountry. Three of the accounts are known to Skinner and are now closed. Of the remaining accounts, eight are business accounts, 16 are CD accounts, three are MMA accounts and 14 are saving accounts.

All except the closed accounts, one CD account and one business account are directed to the Clerk of Court. The business account is directed to SDU, the CD account is directed to probate and the closed accounts were transferred to other accounts.

There is no additional reference in the paperwork to identify whether the initials MM and MMA refer to money market accounts. There is similar uncertainty of the context in which SDU is used. It may be shorthand for a state disbursement unit but that is not clarified in the documents.

For the Regions Bank, there are two unknown account types directed to Jasper County and specifically towards EMS.

If granted access to all of the county's bank accounts, Skinner said he would withdraw his petition to the Supreme Court.

This story was originally published June 28, 2024, 2:23 PM.

From the Courtroom

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FOLLOW MORE OF OUR REPORTING ON REALITY CHECK

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Treasurer

[HOME](#)

[FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS](#)

[TAX SEARCH, VIEW AND PAY](#)



Treasurer
Michael T. Skinner



Deputy Treasurer
Tony Perez-Silva



Senior Customer Service Clerk
Mary Darien



Customer Service Clerk
Elicia Mouzan



Customer Service Clerk
Mary Darien

Phone: (843) 717-3601 Fax: (843) 726-7795
Window Hours: Monday - Friday 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Lobby Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Department Functions

The Treasurer serves as the custodian for funds of most county departments. These departments deposit their funds with the treasurer who invests these monies, along with tax collections, to generate additional revenues for the county in the form of interest earnings.

The Treasurers' Office collects real, personal, motor vehicle and other taxes and oversees their disbursement to county government, municipalities, schools and maintains records of all revenues collected.

This office provides notification of taxes due for taxpayers, generates refund checks to taxpayers overpayments, acts as paying agent for bond and other debt issues for the county and special districts, collects fees on behalf of the State, pays over to State agencies and provides information to the public and legal professionals.

While our most important responsibility is customer service and public relations with the citizens of Jasper County, Have you ever wondered what what we really do!

Jasper County is located near the coast of the South Carolina, and has a population of approximately 28,791. Jasper County's seat is Ridgeland, and the largest community is Hardeeville.

The County's mission is to provide efficient government services and manage growth while protecting Jasper County's rich environmental heritage and quality of life.

The county has a total of 27 County departments and offices that work together to serve Jasper County residents. [Click Here](#) for a full Treasurer's Office Assessment

If you receive a tax notice for a vehicle you no longer own, or have a question concerning your bill, you will need to contact the [Auditor's Office](#).

If you have a question concerning your real property (home/land), you will need contact the [Assessor's Office](#).

If you have a question concerning you past due taxes, you will need to contact the [Tax Collector's Office](#).

FOR
GOVERNMENTS

County Treasurer Resources



[Banking](#)



[Bond and Debt Information](#)



[Court Fines And Fees](#)



[Digital Assets](#)



**[Local Government
Investment Pool](#)**



**[Unclaimed Property
Reporting](#)**



[Investment Management](#)



[Audit Information](#)



[County Treasurers](#)

[County Treasurer Digital
Resources](#)

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Check back in the future for additional resources and updates!

The Role of a County Treasurer

The county treasurer serves as the county's banker, responsible for the safekeeping and investing of public funds. As the lawful custodian of county funds, this also includes the responsibility of receipt and disbursement of funds.

As a part of receipting, many county treasurers often receipt all current real and personal property taxes. County treasurers also issue receipts, vehicle decals and registrations, which helps facilitate the registration of boats, motors and vehicles with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources and South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles.

County treasurers also distribute county funds, which includes school system taxes and pass throughs from the state. Some county treasurers assist municipalities, special purpose districts and fire departments in the collection of their taxes and fees.

Resources

The South Carolina Treasurer's Office works to ensure our local partners have all the resources necessary to best serve the Palmetto State. Please find below a sample of tools aimed to educate, train and assist county treasurers.

Investments

- [Local Government Investment Pool](#)
- [iPAS Login](#)

Taxes

- [SCDOR Local Government Services Applications Login](#)
- [Property Tax Information](#)

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Ronald L. Richter, Jr.

Eric S. Bland*

Scott M. Mongillo, Associate

*Also admitted in PA & FL
www.blandrichter.com

June 5, 2024

VIA EMAIL ONLY:

Patricia A. Howard, Clerk of Court
South Carolina Supreme Court
1231 Gervais Street
Columbia, SC 29201
supctfilings@sccourts.org

**RE: Michael Skinner v. Andrew Fulgham, Jasper County Administrator
and Kimberly Burgess, Director Jasper County Administrative Services**

Dear Ms. Howard

Enclosed herewith for filing, please find Petitioner's Petition for Writ of Mandamus, Verified Complaint, Petitioner's Verification and Exhibit A for the same. I have also included a Certificate of Service for the same.

Please let me know the amount owed for this filing and I will promptly send a check.

If you should have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Ronald L. Richter, Jr.

Ronald L. Richter, Jr.
RLR/ebh

cc: (via email)
Eric S. Bland, Esq.
Scott M. Mongillo, Esq.
Client

Reply to:
Peoples Building
Mezzanine Level
18 Broad Street
Charleston, SC 29401
Phone: 843.573.9900
Fax: 843.573.0200
ronnie@blandrichter.com
scott@blandrichter.com

Offices also at:
105 West Main Street
Suite D
Lexington, SC 29072
Phone: 803.256.9664
Fax: 803.256.3056
ericbland@blandrichter.com

H

IN THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
In the Supreme Court

IN THE ORIGINAL JURISDICTION

County of Jasper

Michael SkinnerPetitioner

v.

Andrew Fulgham, Jasper County Administrator and Kimberly Burgess, Director Jasper County
Administrative Services.....Respondents

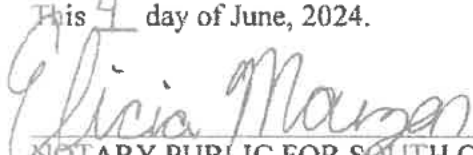
VERIFICATION

MICHAEL SKINNER, being duly sworn, hereby swears and affirms that he is the
Petitioner in this action that he has read the foregoing Verified Complaint and knows the contents
thereof; that the same is true to his knowledge, except as to those matters therein stated to be
alleged upon information and belief, and that as to those matters, he believes them to be true.



Michael Skinner

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED before me
This 4 day of June, 2024.


NOTARY PUBLIC FOR SOUTH CAROLINA
My Commission Expires: 12/07/2032



IN THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
In the Supreme Court

IN THE ORIGINAL JURISDICTION

County of Jasper

Michael SkinnerPetitioner

v.

Andrew Fulgham, Jasper County Administrator and Kimberly Burgess, Director Jasper County
Administrative Services.....Respondents

PETITION FOR WRIT OF MANDAMUS AND MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT

BLAND RICHTER, LLP

Ronald L. Richter, Jr. (SC Bar No. 66377)
Scott M. Mongillo (SC Bar No. 16574)
Peoples Building
18 Broad Street, Mezzanine
Charleston, South Carolina 29401
843.573.9900 (telephone)
843.573.0200 (facsimile)
ronnie@blandrichter.com (e-mail)
scott@blandrichter.com (e-mail)

Eric S. Bland (SC Bar No. 64132)
105 West Main Street, Suite D
Lexington, South Carolina 29072
803.256.9664 (telephone)
803.256.3056 (facsimile)
ericbland@blandrichter.com (e-mail)

Petition

Petitioner Michael Skinner, Jasper County Treasurer, hereby moves and petitions this Court for an Order, pursuant to Rule 245 of the South Carolina Rules of Appellate Procedure, directing Respondents Andrew Fulgham, Jasper County Administrator, and Kimberly Burgess, Director Jasper County Administrative Services, to take such steps as are necessary to add Michael Skinner, as the duly elected Treasurer of Jasper County, as a signatory and responsible party to all Jasper County government bank accounts.

Memorandum in Support

1. Factual Background

Michael Skinner (“Skinner”) is the duly elected Treasurer of Jasper County, having unseated the incumbent treasurer in a general election on November 8, 2022. Although elected on November 8, 2022, Skinner did not take his office until July 1, 2023, the beginning of the new fiscal year for Jasper County government. Prior to taking his office, and despite the fact that there were nearly eight (8) months between the time of the election and the time Skinner was to assume the office of the Treasurer, Skinner received no transition from the outgoing Treasurer who had held the office for 22 years. To the contrary, upon entering his office, Skinner encountered chaos and disorder suggestive of efforts to sabotage his ability to perform the duties of his office. The County Treasurer’s website had been taken offline. Documents had been removed from the Treasurer’s office and placed into storage without any indication as to what records were removed or where they had been stored. The petty cash drawer was discovered three (3) days after Skinner took his office locked in the office of another Jasper County official. Toner cartridges had been removed from the printers in the office. There were no apparent written policies and procedures

for Skinner to follow, and there was not so much as a memo left behind to aid in the smooth transition of authority from the outgoing Treasurer.

As Skinner has tried to transition into his office, he has faced delays and obfuscation from other government officials. Requests for access to the outgoing Jasper County Treasurer's office government email account were denied and Skinner was instructed instead to seek the information through a Freedom of Information Act request. While Skinner is unaware of any audit of the outgoing Treasurer's office for the past 22 years, he has been subjected to two (2) separate audits and a third has been commissioned to review Skinner's activities in office, activities representing approximately eight (8) months of service.

While these obstacles appear to have been directed to impede Skinner's ability to perform the duties of his office, the most disturbing issue involves access to the bank accounts of Jasper County. Skinner has discovered that there are at least ninety-six (96) bank accounts existing which are deposit accounts for Jasper County and/or its political subdivisions and which are not within the oversight of the Office of the Treasurer. Of these ninety-six (96) accounts discovered, Skinner has access to only twenty-three (23). He demanded that he be added to all additional accounts. By Jasper County Ordinance, all fees collected received by the County's departments' employees and/or elected officials "shall be timely deposited with the county treasurer's office." Code of Ordinances, Jasper County, South Carolina, Section 2-66. After discovering the accounts, Skinner has made requests to the County administration to provide him with access to the accounts and to make him a signatory on the accounts. His requests have been denied. After communicating his concerns to the South Carolina State Treasurer, Curtis Loftis, on March 13, 2023, Skinner and Loftis co-signed letters to South State Bank, the Bank of the Lowcountry, Bank of America and Regions Bank to grant signatory authority to Skinner on all bank accounts associated with the Tax

ID's and Jasper County agency names or entities. Copies of the letters are attached hereto as **Exhibit A**. The banks refuse to grant Skinner access to the accounts without the consent of the existing signatories to the accounts. Upon information and belief, the existing signatories are the Respondents. Upon further information and belief, rather than add Skinner to the accounts, efforts are underway to close the accounts.

2. Argument

A writ of mandamus is a coercive writ that orders a public official to perform a ministerial duty. *Plum Creek Dev. Co. v. City of Conway*, 334 S.C. 30, 512 S.E.2d 106 (1999). A ministerial act or duty is one which a person performs because of a legal mandate which is defined with such precision as to leave nothing to the exercise of discretion. *Wilson v. Preston*, 378 S.C. 354, 662 S.E.2d 583 (2008). Mandamus will issue only to compel a public official to perform a mandatory legal duty. *Redmond v. Lexington County School Dist. No. Four*, 314 S.C. 431, 445 S.E.2d 441 (1994).

A writ of mandamus requiring the performance of an act must assert facts supporting the following elements: (1) a duty to perform the act; (2) the ministerial nature of the act; (3) the petitioner's specific legal right for which discharge of the duty is necessary; and (4) a lack of any other legal remedy. *HHHunt Corp. v. Town of Lexington*, 389 S.C. 623,640, 699 S.E.2d 699, 707, citing *Sanford*, 385 S.C. at 494, 685 S.E.2d at 606 (setting forth the elements necessary to obtain a writ of mandamus).

Skinner is the duly elected Treasurer of Jasper County. By Jasper County Ordinance, all fees collected in Jasper County through its employees and subdivisions are to be deposited with the Jasper County Treasurer's Office. Skinner has a duty to oversee these accounts. The only impediment to Skinner's ability to perform the duties of his office in overseeing the accounts of

Jasper County is the ministerial act of having those government officials who have signatory authority to execute the forms required by the banks to add Skinner to the accounts. To the extent that the accounts (or any of them) have been closed, Skinner should be granted the authority to receive all past records related to the accounts, including the periodic bank statements. There is no legal basis upon which the Respondent's, and/or other Jasper County officials, can deny Skinner access to the accounts of the County. Skinner is without other legal remedy.

Conclusion

Based on the foregoing the Petitioner respectfully requests that this Petition for Writ of Mandamus be granted and the Respondents to ordered to execute such forms as are necessary with any and all banks or other financial institutions that receive the money of Jasper County and/or its subdivisions to add Skinner as a signatory with full access.

Respectfully submitted,

Charleston, South Carolina
June 5, 2024

BLAND RICHTER, LLP
Attorneys for Petitioner

s/Ronald L. Richter, Jr.

Ronald L. Richter, Jr. (SC Bar No. 66377)

s/Scott M. Mongillo

Scott M. Mongillo (SC Bar No. 16574)

Peoples Building

18 Broad Street, Mezzanine

Charleston, South Carolina 29401

843.573.9900 (telephone)

843.573.0200 (facsimile)

ronnie@blandrichter.com (e-mail)

scott@blandrichter.com (e-mail)

/Eric S. Bland

Eric S. Bland (SC Bar No. 64132)

105 West Main Street, Suite D

Lexington, South Carolina 29072

803.256.9664 (telephone)

803.256.3056 (facsimile)

ericbland@blandrichter.com (e-mail)

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
COUNTY OF RICHLAND)

BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF:)

Complaint C2024-054)

Lyle Paradise)
Complainant.)

NOTICE OF HEARING

Linious M. Sauls, IV)
Respondent.)

The State Ethics Commission has determined that there is probable cause pursuant to Section 8-13-320(10)(i), Code of Laws, South Carolina, 1976, as amended, in the above-captioned complaint. The State Ethics Commission will, therefore, convene a formal hearing into the matters, in accordance with Section 8-13-320(10)(i) & (j), Code of Laws, South Carolina, 1976, as amended, and State Ethics Commission Regulations, S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 52-707 (1997 Cum. Supp.) on Thursday, April 17, 2025 at 9:30 a.m. at the State Ethics Commission Hearing Room located at: 201 Executive Center Drive, Suite 150, Columbia, South Carolina 29210.

The following allegations will be heard:

COUNT ONE
FAILURE TO FILE A STATEMENT OF ECONOMIC INTERESTS
SECTION 8-13-1140 S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Linious M. Sauls, IV, Jasper County Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to timely file a 2023 Statements of Economic Interests (SEI), in violation of Section 8-13-1140.

COUNT TWO
FAILURE TO REPORT INCOME ON STATEMENT OF ECONOMIC INTERESTS
SECTION 8-13-1120(A) S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Linious M. Sauls, IV, Jasper County Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to disclose Respondent’s income from Bank of the Lowcountry on his 2021 SEI, in violation of

Section 8-13-1120(A).

COUNT THREE
FAILURE TO REPORT INCOME ON STATEMENT OF ECONOMIC INTERESTS
SECTION 8-13-1120(A) S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Linious M. Sauls, IV, Jasper County Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to disclose Respondent's income from Bank of the Lowcountry on his 2022 SEI, in violation of Section 8-13-1120(A).

COUNT FOUR
FAILURE TO REPORT INCOME ON STATEMENT OF ECONOMIC INTERESTS
SECTION 8-13-1120(A) S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Linious M. Sauls, IV, Jasper County Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to disclose Respondent's income from Bank of the Lowcountry on his 2024 SEI, in violation of Section 8-13-1120(A).

COUNT FIVE
FAILURE TO REPORT INCOME ON STATEMENT OF ECONOMIC INTERESTS
SECTION 8-13-1120(A) S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Linious M. Sauls, IV, Jasper County Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to disclose income from an immediate family member on his 2022 SEI, in violation of Section 8-13-1120(A).

COUNT SIX
FAILURE TO REPORT INCOME ON STATEMENT OF ECONOMIC INTERESTS
SECTION 8-13-1120(A) S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Linious M. Sauls, IV, Jasper County Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to disclose income from an immediate family member on his 2023 SEI, in violation of Section 8-13-1120(A).

COUNT SEVEN
FAILURE TO REPORT INCOME ON STATEMENT OF ECONOMIC INTERESTS
SECTION 8-13-1120(A) S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Linious M. Sauls, IV, Jasper County Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to disclose income from an immediate family member on his 2024 SEI, in violation of Section 8-13-1120(A).

COUNT EIGHT
FAILURE TO REPORT INCOME ON STATEMENT OF ECONOMIC INTERESTS
SECTION 8-13-1120(A) S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Linious M. Sauls, IV, Jasper County Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to disclose income from Farm Bureau on his 2024 SEI, in violation of Section 8-13-1120(A).

You have the right to be represented by counsel, the right to call and examine witnesses, the right to introduce exhibits, and the right to cross-examine opposing witnesses. This hearing will be open to the public as required by Section 8-13-320(10)(j), Code of Laws, South Carolina, 1976, as amended. The procedures to be followed are set forth in the Administrative Procedures Act, Section 1-23-10, et seq., Code of Laws, South Carolina, 1976, as amended, the State Ethics Act, Section 8-13-100, et seq., Code of Laws, South Carolina, 1976, as amended, and State Ethics Commission Regulations S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 52-707 (1997 Cum. Supp.).

A pre-hearing conference may be scheduled prior to the hearing to allow exchange of witness lists and evidence, marking of exhibits, and disposition of motions or pleadings. In the event you fail to appear, judgment by default will be rendered against you. If there are any questions concerning the above notice or hearing times, please contact the State Ethics Commission.


Meghan Walker Dayson, Executive Director
State Ethics Commission

Dated this 19th day,
of September 2024.

Certificate of Service by Certified Mail

I hereby certify that a copy of this **NOTICE OF HEARING** was duly served on Respondent's Attorney Michael R. Burchstead, PO Box 11390, Columbia, SC 29211 by depositing said **NOTICE OF HEARING** in the United States mail, Columbia, South Carolina on this 23rd day of September 2024, by **CERTIFIED MAIL, E-RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**, appropriate postage affixed, and a return address clearly indicated on said envelope.



Rachael O'Bryan, Administrative Assistant

State Ethics Commission

(803) 253-4192

Columbia, South Carolina

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
COUNTY OF RICHLAND)
IN THE MATTER OF:)
COMPLAINT C2024-054)
Lyle Paradise,)
Complainant,)
Linious M. Sauls, IV,)
Respondent.)
_____)

BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

CONSENT ORDER

This matter comes before the State Ethics Commission (Commission) by way of a Complaint filed on July 16, 2024. Pursuant to Section 8-13-320(10)(i) of the South Carolina Ethics, Government Accountability, and Campaign Reform Act (Ethics Act), the Complaint against Linious M. Sauls, IV (Respondent) was considered by the Commission and probable cause was found to warrant an evidentiary hearing. Prior to the call of the case, Respondent agreed to entry of the following:

STATEMENTS OF FACT

1. Respondent has served on Jasper County (County) Council since 2011.
2. Respondent failed to file a 2023 Statement of Economic Interests (SEI) by March 30, 2023.
3. On July 16, 2024, the Commission received the Complaint.¹
4. On July 17, 2024, Respondent filed his 2023 SEI.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based upon the Statements of Fact, the Commission concludes, as a matter of law:

¹ The Complaint asserts that Respondent violated the Ethics Act by using his official position for personal gain by procuring Bank of the Lowcountry (BOL) as the County's primary investment bank. The Commission's investigation revealed that, at all relevant times, the County used BOL as its primary investment bank, Respondent served on the BOL board of directors, and Respondent was a BOL shareholder. The Commission's investigation further revealed that the County Clerk of Court chose BOL without consultation from Council or Respondent and that Respondent has not participated in Council discussions regarding the County's selection of financial institutions. In summary, the Commission's investigation revealed that Respondent did not use his official position to obtain an economic interest for himself or a business with which he was associated as alleged in the Complaint.

The Complaint further asserts that Respondent used his official position to deny the County Treasurer access to the County's accounts and that Respondent did not utilize the proper procurement procedures. However, this is not within the Commission's jurisdiction and therefore not addressed herein.

LMS

JK #1

1. At all times relevant, Respondent was a "public official" pursuant to Section 8-13-100(27).

Therefore, the Commission has personal and subject matter jurisdiction.

2. Section 8-13-1140 provides, in relevant part:

A person required to file a [SEI] under this chapter annually shall file, pursuant to Section 8-13-365, an updated statement for the previous calendar year, no later than noon on March thirtieth of each calendar year . . .

3. Section 8-13-1510(A) provides:

. . . a person required to file a report or statement under this chapter who files a late statement or report . . . must be assessed a civil penalty as follows: (1) a fine of one hundred dollars if the statement or report is not filed within five days after the established deadline provided by law in this chapter . . .

4. Section 8-13-130 allows the Commission to "levy an enforcement or administrative fee on a person who is in violation" of the Ethics Act.

DISCUSSION

The Commission found probable cause to charge Respondent with one (1) count of violating Section 8-13-1140 for failing to timely file a 2023 SEI.² Through this Consent Order, Respondent admits he violated the Ethics Act in this instance. In mitigation, Respondent states his noncompliance was an oversight and that he came into compliance prior to receiving notice of the Complaint from the Commission. The Commission acknowledges that Respondent filed his SEI one (1) day after the Commission received the Complaint.

DISPOSITION

1. The Commission hereby finds Respondent in violation of one (1) count of violating Section 8-13-1140.
2. The Commission hereby adopts the Statements of Fact, Conclusions of Law, Discussion, and

² The Commission also found probable cause to charge Respondent with violating seven (7) counts of Section 8-13-1120(A) for failing to report sources of income on his 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024 SEIs. However, given that Respondent has since properly disclosed all sources of income on his SEIs, the Commission declines to proceed as to these counts.

LMS


JX #2

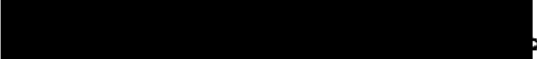
Disposition as agreed upon by the Respondent.

THEREFORE, the Commission hereby issues a Public Warning and orders the Respondent to pay the Commission a late-filing penalty of \$100.00 and an administrative fee of \$300.00, for a total of \$400.00.³

AND IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 23rd DAY OF January 2024.

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION


LINIOUS M. SAULS, IV
RESPONDENT


MICHAEL R. BURCHSTEAD
RESPONDENT'S ATTORNEY

³ As of the time of full execution of this Consent Order, Respondent has remitted full payment to the Commission.