

CITY OF ST. GEORGE

RESOLUTION 2026-003

A RESOLUTION DEDICATING UTILITY FRANCHISE FEES TO THE MAINTENANCE, PRESERVATION, AND IMPROVEMENT OF CITY ROADS, DRAINAGE, AND PUBLIC RIGHTS-OF-WAY; PROVIDING FOR USE, ADMINISTRATION, AND ACCOUNTING OF SUCH FUNDS; AND PROVIDING FOR RELATED MATTERS

WHEREAS, the City of St. George (“City”) is authorized under the Louisiana Constitution and applicable state law to grant utility franchises and to collect franchise fees for the use of public streets, roads, drainage facilities, and rights-of-way; and

WHEREAS, utility franchise fees are intended to compensate the City for the use, occupation, and impact upon public infrastructure by utility providers; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that dedicating franchise fee revenues to infrastructure-related purposes directly connected to the use of public rights-of-way promotes transparency, fiscal responsibility, and sound municipal governance; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to formally dedicate utility franchise fees to ensure stable funding for the maintenance, preservation, repair, and improvement of City roads, drainage facilities, and public rights-of-way;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ST. GEORGE, LOUISIANA:

Section 1. Purpose and Intent

The purpose of this resolution is to dedicate utility franchise fees collected by the City to infrastructure-related purposes that directly relate to the use and impact of public roads, drainage systems, and rights-of-way, and to establish clear guidelines for the administration and use of such funds.

Section 2. Dedication of Franchise Fees

A. All franchise fees collected by the City from utility providers, including but not limited to electric, gas, water, sewer, telecommunications, and similar utilities, are hereby dedicated revenues.

B. Such franchise fees shall be used exclusively for the following purposes:

- Maintenance, repair, and preservation of City streets, roads, and bridges;
- Maintenance, repair, and improvement of drainage systems, canals, culverts, and stormwater infrastructure;
- Maintenance, repair, preservation, and improvement of public rights-of-way,

- including sidewalks, shoulders, and related appurtenances;
- Engineering, inspection, design, permitting, and construction costs directly related to the foregoing purposes; and
 - Debt service on bonds or other lawful obligations issued for the above-described infrastructure purposes, if any.

Section 3. Prohibited Uses

Franchise fee revenues dedicated under this resolution shall not be used for:

- A. General governmental operations unrelated to infrastructure;
- B. Salaries or administrative expenses not directly attributable to infrastructure projects; or
- C. Any purpose not reasonably connected to the maintenance, preservation, or improvement of roads, drainage, or public rights-of-way.

Section 4. Accounting and Fund Administration

- A. Franchise fee revenues shall be deposited into a separate fund or dedicated account within the City's financial system, which may be titled the Infrastructure and Right-of-Way Maintenance Fund or a similar designation.
- B. The City's finance director or chief financial officer shall ensure proper accounting, tracking, and reporting of all revenues and expenditures associated with this fund.
- C. Expenditures from the fund shall be subject to all applicable budgetary controls, procurement policies, and audit requirements of the City.

Section 5. Budgeting

Amounts dedicated under this resolution shall be annually appropriated through the City's adopted budget. Any unexpended funds shall remain dedicated and shall not revert to the City's general fund.

Section 6. Relationship to Franchise Agreements

Nothing in this resolution shall be construed to impair or modify the terms of any existing or future utility franchise agreement, except to the extent such agreements recognize or permit the dedication of franchise fee revenues as provided herein.

Section 7. Severability

If any provision or application of this resolution is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of this resolution which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this resolution are declared severable.

Section 8. Effective Date

This resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

This Resolution having been submitted to vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

For: Cook, Dellucci, Edmonds, Himmel, Monachello, Murrell, Talbot

Against: None

CERTIFICATION

The above and forgoing Resolution was duly adopted at the Regular Meeting of the Council for the City of St. George held on January 13, 2026.



Lorraine Beaman, Clerk