

The following ordinance having been introduced at a meeting held on May 7, 2024, notice of its introduction having been published in the official journal and a public hearing having been held in connection therewith on this date, was offered for final adoption by Mr. Ronnie Hayes and seconded by Mr. Clint Hardy:

**PROPOSITION NO. 342 ORDINANCE NO. 844**

An ordinance providing for the continued levy within the Town of Welsh, State of Louisiana, effective April 1, 2026, of a 1% sales and use tax (the "Tax") upon the sale at retail, the use, the lease or rental, the consumption, and the storage for use or consumption, of tangible personal property and upon the sale of services in said Town and for the assessment, collection, payment thereof and the dedication of the proceeds of said Tax and the purpose for which the proceeds of the Tax may be expended, said Tax having been authorized at a special election held in the Town on April 27, 2024.

WHEREAS, under the provisions of Article VI, Section 29 of the Constitution of the State of Louisiana of 1974, and other constitutional and statutory authority and an election held on April 27, 2024, the Town of Welsh, State of Louisiana (the "Town"), acting through the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Welsh, State of Louisiana, as its governing authority (the "Governing Authority"), is authorized to levy and collect within the Town, a 1% sales and use tax (the "Tax"), upon the sale at retail, the use, the lease or rental, the consumption, and the storage for use or consumption, of tangible personal property and upon the sale of services defined in applicable statutory authority, pursuant to the following proposition which was approved at said election held on April 27, 2024:

**PROPOSITION  
(SALES TAX RENEWAL)**

Shall the Town of Welsh, State of Louisiana (the "Town"), be authorized to continue to levy a sales and use tax of 1% (the "Tax") in accordance with Louisiana law (an estimated \$580,000 reasonably expected at this time to be collected from the levy of the Tax for an entire year), for a period of 15 years from and after April 1, 2026, with the proceeds of the Tax (after paying the reasonable and necessary expenses of collecting and administering the Tax), to be dedicated and used for the purpose of paying the costs of constructing, improving, re-surfacing and maintaining public streets, alleys and sidewalks, including drainage incidental thereto, and acquiring equipment therefor?

WHEREAS, in compliance with the aforesaid constitutional and statutory authority and said special election of April 27, 2024, it is the desire of this Governing Authority to provide for the levy and collection of the Tax and to provide for distribution of the proceeds thereof and other matters in connection therewith as hereinafter provided in this ordinance;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Welsh, State of Louisiana, acting as the governing authority of the Town of Welsh, State of Louisiana, that:

**SECTION 1. Imposition.** Pursuant to the authority of a special election held in the Town on April 27, 2024, the Tax is hereby levied upon the sale at retail, the use, the lease or rental, the consumption, and the storage for use or consumption, of tangible personal property, and upon the lease or rental of tangible personal property and on the sales of services in the Town of Welsh, State of Louisiana, as defined by law. The Uniform Local Sales Tax Code, as enacted by Act 73 of the 2003 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature and as it may be amended, shall apply in the assessment, collection, administration and enforcement of the Tax, the provisions of which are hereby incorporated by reference.

**SECTION 2. Rate of Tax.** The Tax is levied at the rate of 1% of the sales price of each item or article of tangible personal property when sold at retail in the Town, the Tax to be computed on gross sales for the purpose of remitting the amount of tax due to the Town, and to include each and every retail sale. The Tax is levied at the rate of 1% of the cost price of each item or article of tangible personal property

when the same is not sold but is used, consumed, distributed, or stored for use or consumption in the Town, provided there shall be no duplication of the Tax. The Tax is levied at the rate of 1% of the gross proceeds derived from the lease or rental of tangible personal property, as defined by law, where the lease or rental of such property is an established business, or part of an established business, or the same is incidental or germane to the said business, or of the monthly lease or rental price paid by lessee or rentee, or contracted or agreed to be paid by lessee or rentee to the owner of the tangible personal property. The Tax is levied at the rate of 1% of the amount paid or charged for taxable services, as defined by law, performed in the Town.

SECTION 3. Effective Date. The Tax shall be effective on April 1, 2026.

SECTION 4. Term. The Tax shall remain in effect for fifteen (15) years (April 1, 2026 through March 31, 2041).

SECTION 5. Purposes. The proceeds of the Tax shall be used for the purposes set forth in the proposition approved by the voters in the special election held in the Town on April 27, 2024, authorizing the Tax, which proposition is set forth in the preamble hereto.

SECTION 6. Vendor's Compensation. For the purpose of compensating the dealer in accounting for and remitting the Tax levied by this ordinance, each dealer shall be allowed two percent (2%) of the amount of Tax due and accounted for and remitted to the Town's collector in the form of a deduction in submitting its report and paying the amount due by the dealer, provided the amount due was not delinquent at the time of payment, and provided the amount of any credit claimed for taxes already paid to a wholesaler shall not be deducted in computing the commission allowed the dealer hereunder.

SECTION 7. Exclusions and Exemptions. The Governing Authority adopts none of the optional exclusions or exemptions allowed by State sales and use tax law, nor does this Governing Authority adopt any exclusions or exemptions authorized by legislation enacted under Article VI, Section 29 (D)(1) of the Constitution of the State of Louisiana of 1974, that are not allowed as an exclusion or exemption from State sales and use tax. Included within the base of the Tax is every transaction, whether sales, use, lease or rental, consumption, storage or service, with no exclusions or exemptions except for those mandated upon political subdivisions by the Constitution or statutes of the State of Louisiana, including the Act.

SECTION 8. Interest on Unpaid Amount of Tax Due. The interest on unpaid amounts of the Tax which are due shall be at the maximum rate of interest provided for in La. R.S. 47:337.69 and any subsequent amendments that may be made thereto.

SECTION 9. Delinquency Penalty. The delinquency penalty shall be at the maximum rate provided for in La. R.S. 47:337.70 and any subsequent amendments that may be made thereto.

SECTION 10. Penalty for False, Fraudulent or Grossly Incorrect Return. The penalty as authorized by La. R.S. 47:337.72 shall be fifty percent (50%) of the amount of the Tax found to be due.

SECTION 11. Negligence Penalty. The penalty as authorized by La. R.S. 47:337.73 shall be five percent (5%) of the unpaid amount of the Tax found to be due, or ten dollars (\$10.00), whichever is greater.

SECTION 12. Penalty for Insufficient Funds Check. The penalty as authorized by La. R.S. 47:337.74 shall be an amount equal to the greater of one percent (1%) of the check or twenty dollars (\$20.00).

SECTION 13. Attorney Fees. The collector is authorized to employ private counsel to assist in the collection of any taxes, penalties or interest due under this ordinance, or to represent him in any proceeding under this ordinance. If any taxes, penalties or interest due under this ordinance are referred to an attorney at law for collection, an additional charge of attorney fees, in the amount of ten per centum (10%) of the taxes, penalties and interest due, shall be paid by the tax debtor.

SECTION 14. Penalty for Costs Incurred. As provided by R.S. 47:337.75, and under the circumstances set forth therein, a penalty shall be added to the amount of Tax due in an amount as itemized by the Collector to compensate for all costs incurred in making an examination of books, records or

documents, or an audit thereof, or in the holding of hearings or the subpoenaing and compensating of witnesses.

SECTION 15. Distrain Penalty. The penalty as provided by R.S. 47:337.76 in cases where the distraint procedure is used in the collection of the Tax shall be ten dollars (\$10.00).

SECTION 16. Limits on Interest, Penalty and Attorney Fees. Should the interest, penalties or attorney fees herein, or the combined interest, penalties and attorney fees be declared to be in excess of limits provided by other law, including relevant jurisprudence, then the maximum interest, penalties and attorney fees allowed by such other law shall apply.

SECTION 17. Collector. The Tax levied by this ordinance is authorized to be collected by a "Collector" which term shall mean the Jefferson Davis School Board Sales and Use Tax Department.

SECTION 18. Powers of Collector. The Collector is hereby authorized, empowered and directed to carry into effect the provisions of this ordinance, to appoint deputies, assistants or agents to assist it in the performance of its duties, and in pursuance thereof to make and enforce such rules as it may deem necessary.

SECTION 19. Agreement to Collect Tax on Vehicles. With regard to the collection of the Tax on any motor vehicle, automobile, truck, truck-trailer, trailer, semi-trailer, motor bus, home trailer, or any other vehicle subject to the vehicle registration license tax, the Town, acting through its Mayor, is authorized to enter into an agreement or agreements on behalf of the Town with the Vehicle Commissioner, Department of Public Safety and Corrections, for the collection of the Tax on such vehicles, as provided by R.S.47:303(B).

SECTION 20. Revenues of Tax. All taxes, revenues, funds, assessments, moneys, penalties, fees or other income which may be collected or come into the possession of the Collector under any provision or provisions of this ordinance relating to the Tax shall be promptly deposited by the Collector for the account of the Town in the special fund established and maintained for the deposit of such proceeds, which fund shall be a separate bank account established and maintained with the regularly designated fiscal agent of the Town; provided, however, any amount which is paid under protest or which is subject to litigation may be transferred to a separate account established by the Collector with said fiscal agent pending the final determination of the protest or litigation.

In compliance with the said special election of April 27, 2024, authorizing the Tax, after all reasonable and necessary costs and expenses of collecting and administration of the Tax have been paid as provided for above, the remaining balance in said special fund shall be available for appropriation and expenditures by the Governing Authority solely for the purposes designated in the proposition authorizing the levy of the Tax.

SECTION 21. Severability. If any or more of the provisions of this ordinance shall for any reason be held to be illegal or invalid, such illegality or invalidity shall not affect any other provision of this ordinance, but this ordinance shall be construed and enforced as if such illegal or invalid provisions had not been contained herein. Any constitutional or statutory provision enacted after the date of this ordinance which validates or makes legal any provision of this ordinance which would not otherwise be valid or legal, shall be deemed to apply to this ordinance.

SECTION 22. Uniform Sales Tax Controlling. If any provision of this ordinance shall be in conflict with the provisions of the Uniform Local Sales Tax Code, the provisions of the Uniform Local Sales Tax Code shall be controlling.

SECTION 23. Effective Date of Ordinance. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect immediately upon its adoption, being an ordinance affecting the public peace, health and safety.

SECTION 24. Publication and Recordation. This ordinance shall be published in one issue of the official journal of this Governing Authority as soon as is reasonably possible. A certified copy of this ordinance shall be recorded in the mortgage records of the Parish of Jefferson Davis, State of Louisiana.

The final adoption of the foregoing ordinance having been duly moved and seconded, the roll was called and the following vote was taken and recorded:

YEAS: Andrea King, Ronnie Hayes, Lawrence Mier, Clint Hardy, Jackie Balmer.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

There being a favorable vote on the ordinance of at least a majority of the authorized members of the Governing Authority, the ordinance was declared adopted on this the 4<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2024.

/s/ Eva C. Kibodeaux

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Clerk

Presented to Mayor on June 4, 2024 for action as evidenced by his signature:

Approved:           /s/ Karl Arceneaux          

Disapproved: \_\_\_\_\_

Returned to Clerk on June 4, 2024

STATE OF LOUISIANA

PARISH OF JEFFERSON DAVIS

I, the undersigned Clerk of the Town of Welsh, State of Louisiana, do hereby certify that the foregoing pages constitute a true and correct copy of an ordinance adopted by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of said Town on June 4, 2024, providing for the continued levy within the Town of Welsh, State of Louisiana, effective April 1, 2026, of a 1% sales and use tax (the "Tax") upon the sale at retail, the use, the lease or rental, the consumption, and the storage for use or consumption, of tangible personal property and upon the sale of services in said Town and for the assessment, collection, payment thereof and the dedication of the proceeds of said Tax and the purpose for which the proceeds of the Tax may be expended, said Tax having been authorized at a special election held in the Town on April 27, 2024.

IN FAITH WHEREOF, witness my official signature at Welsh, Louisiana, on this, the 4<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2024.

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Clerk