

**ORDER APPROVING APPLICATION OF
HOWARD INDUSTRIES, INC. TRANSFORMER DIVISION
FOR AN AD VALOREM TAX EXEMPTION FOR A PERIOD OF
TEN YEARS AS AUTHORIZED BY SECTION 27-31-101, ET SEQ.,
MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972 AS AMENDED**

There came on for hearing this day before the Mayor and Council of the City of Laurel, Jones County, Mississippi, the sworn application of Howard Industries, Inc., for an initial exemption from ad valorem taxation, except state ad valorem taxation, ad valorem taxes for school district purposes and "mandated municipal levies", of all of its real property used in connection with and necessary to the operation of said Howard Industries, Inc., industrial plant in the City of Laurel, Second Judicial District, Jones County, Mississippi, under provisions of Section 27-31-101, et seq., Mississippi Code of 1972 Annotated, as amended and other pertinent statutes; the Mayor and Council having considered same and being fully advised in the premises finds as follows:

I.

That Howard Industries, Inc., is a corporation duly created and existing under the laws of the State of Mississippi and is presently doing business in Laurel, Jones County, Mississippi.

II.

That Howard Industries, Inc. is now operating as a manufacturing industry within Laurel, Jones County, Mississippi, which factory is a bona fide expanded enterprise of public utility within the meaning of Section 27-31-101 et seq., and related sections of the Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended, and is eligible for the initial exemption granted by the above-mentioned section by specific enumeration, namely "manufacturing, processors and refineries".

III.

That Howard Industries, Inc., commenced its operation pursuant to a contract made and entered into on the 19th day of January 1968, amended on the 15th day of August, 1968, amended on the 29th day of August, 1972, and amended on the 21st day of August, 1978, by and between the City of Laurel, Mississippi, Jones County, Mississippi, the Laurel Airport Board, Laurel Industrial Committee of 100 and Howard Industries, Inc., and pursuant to Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity No. 663 issued by the Mississippi Board of Economic Development of the State of Mississippi, and that by and under the terms and provisions of said contract, the Mayor and Board of Commissioners of the City of Laurel, Mississippi, and Jones County, Mississippi, agreed, as an added inducement and part of the consideration for the petitioner's covenants therein, upon petition by this Company for exemption from ad valorem and other taxes upon any property owned by Company, that City and Board, and each of them, will grant to Company such tax exemptions to the full extent and for the maximum period now authorized by law and approved by the Agricultural and Industrial Board.

IV.

That the petitioner has added additional equipment which was completed during 2024, within the meaning of the applicable statutes of the State of Mississippi, and that the granting to Howard Industries, Inc., of such initial exemption from ad valorem taxation for ten (10) years, except state ad valorem taxation and ad valorem taxes for school district purposes and “mandated municipal levies” is authorized by Section 27-31-101 through 27-31-117, of the Mississippi Code of 1972, as last amended.

V.

That Howard Industries, Inc., is a manufacturing concern manufacturing electrical transformers. That all of the personal property will be used for said manufacturing purposes and that attached hereto as Exhibit "A" and by reference incorporated herein is a description of said real property owned by Howard Industries, Inc., with a statement of the true values thereof in the amount of **\$6,965,142.00**.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED, subject to the approval of the State Tax Commission, that the application of Howard Industries, Inc., for an initial exemption from ad valorem taxation, except state ad valorem taxation, ad valorem taxes for school district purposes and “mandated municipal levies”, be and it is hereby granted, and that all the real property described in said application, and exhibited thereto, in the amount of **\$6,965,142.00** shall be reported in the real property assessment form filed annually by Howard Industries, Inc., which for calendar year 2025, be and it is hereby initially exempted from all ad valorem taxation except state ad valorem taxation, ad valorem taxation for school district purposes and “mandated municipal levies”, for ten (10) years, commencing January 1, 2025, and concluding December 31, 2034.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that the Clerk shall transmit a certified copy of this Order, to the State Tax Commission, thereby signifying the desire of the Mayor and City Council of the City of Laurel, Jones County, Mississippi, that said Board shall approve its action as herein set forth.

Motion was made by Councilperson _____, seconded by Councilperson _____, that the above Order be adopted.

Upon roll call vote, the result was as follows:

YEAS:

NAYS:

ABSTAINING:

ABSENT:

The President thereupon declared the motion carried and the Order adopted this the 8th day of July, A.D., 2025.

PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

ATTESTED AND SUBMITTED TO THE MAYOR BY THE CLERK OF THE COUNCIL ON
JULY _____, 2025.

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

APPROVED () DATE_____

VETOED () DATE_____

MAYOR

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

*** **

Min. of July 08, 2025; Min. Book No. 104, Page No. _____; Agenda Item No. _____

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

COUNTY OF JONES

I, **Kristal Jones**, City Clerk, City of Laurel, Jones County, Mississippi do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of an order duly adopted by the Mayor and Council of the City of Laurel, Jones County, Mississippi at a regular meeting of said Board held in Laurel, Mississippi, on this the 8th day of July, 2025.

Given under my hand and official seal on this the 8th day of July, 2025.

City Clerk

(SEAL)