



**REGULAR MEETING OF FLORENCE CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, AUGUST 9, 2021 – 1:00 P.M.
CITY CENTER – COUNCIL CHAMBERS
324 WEST EVANS STREET
FLORENCE, SOUTH CAROLINA**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mayor Teresa Myers Ervin, Mayor Pro Tempore George Jebaily, Councilwoman Pat Gibson-Hye Moore, Councilwoman Lethonia Barnes, Councilman Chaquez T. McCall, Councilman Bryan A. Braddock and Councilman C. William Schofield.

ALSO PRESENT

Mr. Randall S. Osterman, City Manager; Mr. James W. Peterson, Jr., City Attorney; Mrs. Casey Moore, Municipal Clerk; Mr. Scotty Davis, Deputy City Manager; Mr. Clint Moore, Assistant City Manager of Development; Mr. Kevin Yokim, Assistant City Manager of Administration/Finance; Chief Allen Heidler, Florence Police Department; Chief Shannon Tanner, Florence Fire Department; Mr. Jerry Dudley, Director of Planning; Mr. Michael Hemingway, Director of Utilities; and Mrs. Jennifer Krawiec, Director of Human Resources.

MEDIA PRESENT

Notices of this regular meeting of City Council were provided to the media and individuals requesting a copy of the agenda informing them of the date, location and time of the meeting.

Mr. Matthew Christian with the Florence Morning News and Mrs. Tonya Brown with WPDE were present for the meeting.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Ervin called the August 9, 2021 regular meeting of Florence City Council to order at 1:06 p.m.

INVOCATION

Mayor Ervin gave the invocation for the meeting. The pledge of allegiance to the American Flag followed the invocation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Pro tem Jebaily made a motion to adopt the minutes of the July 12, 2021 Regular and Councilwoman Moore seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously adopted.

APPEARANCE BEFORE COUNCIL

Mr. Carl Humphries, HopeHealth CEO



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Mr. Carl Humphries appeared before Council to give an update on HopeHealth. He said HopeHealth is the second largest Federally Qualified Health Center in South Carolina. HopeHealth has 50,000 patients and a budget of over \$140 million, 15 sites in 5 counties, and has recently exceeded the 600 mark of employees. According to a survey, HopeHealth health center resulted in a \$27 million savings in Medicaid and a \$64 million savings in the health care system overall. Mr. Humphries said they are very proud of the work they do with uninsured patients; approximately 8,000 of their patients last year were uninsured. HopeHealth recently opened a new pediatrics office on Second Loop Road and a primary care site on Pine Needles Road. The downtown location is also in the process of expanding and they are offering programs for seniors, veterans and young adults.

Councilmembers expressed their appreciation for HopeHealth and the many contributions they have made to the community.

ORDINANCES IN POSITION

Bill No. 2021-25 – Second Reading

An Ordinance authorizing the conveyance of the real estate described in detail on the list attached hereto as exhibit “A”, said properties being acquired by the city as part of the Neighborhood Redevelopment efforts to be utilized by facilitating the construction/rehabilitation of homes which will be marketed for sale at prices based on fair market value in order to help revitalize neighborhood areas within the city.

Councilwoman Moore made a motion to adopt Bill No. 2021-25 on second reading and Councilman Schofield seconded the motion.

Council voted unanimously (7-0) to adopt Bill No. 2021-25.

Bill No. 2021-26 – Second Reading

An ordinance to annex and zone the parcel located at 2924 West Palmetto Street, identified as Florence County Tax Map Parcel 00100-01-30.

Councilman Schofield made a motion to adopt Bill No. 2021-26 on second reading and Councilwoman Barnes seconded the motion.

Council voted unanimously (7-0) to adopt Bill No. 2021-26.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

Bill No. 2021-12 – First Reading

An Ordinance to annex and zone a portion of Lake Oakdale and the Lake Oakdale dam, identified as a portion of Florence County Tax Map Parcel 00751-01-049.

Mayor Ervin said the applicants have requested that this item be deferred. Without objection, this item was deferred.

Bill No. 2021-27 – First Reading

An ordinance to amend the budget for the City of Florence, South Carolina for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022.



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Councilwoman Moore made a motion to pass Bill No .2021-27 on first reading and Councilwoman Barnes seconded the motion.

Mr. Kevin Yokim, Assistant City Manager of Finance/Administration, reported this proposed ordinance is to amend the General Fund budget for Fiscal Year 2021-22 to appropriate funds to fund early purchases. These are items that were requested to be funded in the current budget but were removed in order to balance the budget. These items will be purchased by the savings from the previous year's budget.

Council voted unanimously (7-0) to pass Bill No. 2021-27.

Bill No. 2021-28 – First Reading

An Ordinance to amend the budget for the City of Florence, South Carolina for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022.

Councilman Schofield made a motion to pass Bill No. 2021-28 on first reading and Pro tem Jebaily seconded the motion.

Mr. Yokim reported this proposed ordinance is to amend the General Fund budget for Fiscal Year 2021-22 to re-appropriate funds from the fiscal year 2020-21 budget to provide funding in the current budget to complete projects and purchases that were not finalized at the end of fiscal year 2020-21.

Council voted unanimously (7-0) to pass Bill No. 2021-28.

Bill No. 2021-29 – First Reading

An Ordinance to annex the parcel located at 1524 McKenny Court, identified as Florence County Tax Map Parcel 01461-02-005.

Councilman Schofield made a motion to pass bill No. 2021-29 on first reading and Councilman McCall seconded the motion.

Mr. Jerry Dudley, Planning Director, reported this property is located in the Spaulding Heights area. The proposed zoning is Neighborhood Conservation-15 (NC-15) which is in agreement with the surrounding properties and water and sewer services are currently available.

Planning Commission held a public hearing on this matter and voted unanimously to recommend the zoning of NC-15, pending annexation.

Council voted unanimously (7-0) to pass Bill No. 2021-29.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 2021-26

A Resolution by the City of Florence commemorating the Jewish Community in Florence.

Pro tem Jebaily made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2021-26 and Councilman Schofield seconded the motion.

Pro tem Jebaily read the Resolution and presented it to Mr. Barnett Greenberg, Mr. Larry Faulk and other members of the Jewish community in Florence.



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Council voted unanimously (7-0) to adopt Resolution No. 2021-26.

Resolution No. 2021-27

A Resolution by the City of Florence recognizing August 31, 2021 as International Overdose Awareness Day.

Councilman Schofield made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2021-27 and Councilwoman Moore seconded the motion.

Councilman Schofield read the Resolution and presented it to the Rybak family who lost their son and brother to an overdose.

Council voted unanimously (7-0) to adopt Resolution No. 2021-27.

Resolution No. 2021-28

A Resolution by the City of Florence recognizing National Health Center Week.

Councilman Schofield made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2021-28 and Councilwoman Moore seconded the motion.

Mayor Ervin read the Resolution and presented it Kimberly Johnson and Tiffany Strauss, representatives with HopeHealth.

Council voted unanimously (7-0) to adopt Resolution No. 2021-28.

Resolution No. 2021-29

A Resolution of City Council approving Downtown Redevelopment Grants for First Quarter, FY22.

Mayor Ervin said this item will be discussed in Executive Session.

REPORTS TO COUNCIL

Appointments to Boards and Commissions

Mr. Scotty Davis, Deputy City Manager, presented the packet of appointments to Boards and Commissions to Council.

Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee

Councilwoman Moore deferred her nomination to the Committee.

Board of Zoning Appeals

Councilman McCall deferred his nomination to the Board.

Construction & Maintenance Board of Adjustments and Appeals

Being no applicants, Mayor Ervin deferred her two nominations to the Board.



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Aesthetics Advisory Committee

Councilman Braddock made a motion to appoint Joey Robinson for an initial term of one year. Joey Robinson was appointed by unanimous consent with a term to begin immediately and expire on June 30, 2022.

Pro tem Jebaily made a motion to appoint Tim Cunningham for an initial term of one year. Tim Cunningham was appointed by unanimous consent with a term to begin immediately and expire on June 30, 2022.

Being no additional applicants, the remaining appointments were deferred.

Resilience and Sustainability Advisory Committee

Councilman Braddock made a motion to appoint Lyles Cooper Lyles for an initial term of one year. Lyles Cooper Lyles was appointed by unanimous consent with a term to begin immediately and expire on June 30, 2022.

Pro tem Jebaily made a motion to appoint Ron Roberts for an initial term of one year. Ron Roberts was appointed by unanimous consent with a term to begin immediately and expire on June 30, 2022.

Being no additional applicants, the remaining appointments were deferred.

Public Safety Citizen's Review Board

Councilwoman Barnes deferred her appointment to the Board.

Councilman McCall made a motion to appoint James Cattenhead for an initial term of two years. James Cattenhead was appointed by unanimous consent with a term to begin immediately and expire June 30, 2023.

Mayor Ervin deferred her appointment to the Board.

Councilman Schofield made a motion to appoint Isaac Wilson for an initial term of four years. Isaac Wilson was appointed by unanimous consent with a term to begin immediately and expire June 30, 2025.

Councilwoman Moore made a motion to appoint Larry Jackson for an initial term of four years. Larry Jackson was appointed by unanimous consent with a term to begin immediately and expire June 30, 2025.

Councilman Braddock made a motion to appoint Riley Propps for an initial term of three years. Riley Propps was appointed by unanimous consent with a term to begin immediately and expire June 30, 2024.

Pro tem Jebaily deferred his appointment to the Board.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Business Development Committee, Chaired by Pro tem Jebaily

Pro tem Jebaily said the committee has met twice since the last Council meeting. Much of the discussion has been to identify what incentives and processes are currently in place and how they can build and grow



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in a sustainable way. He said Hannah Davis, Downtown Manager, appeared before the committee and spoke on the current incentives downtown. She also explained what the downtown office does and provided insight on the business life cycle. The committee also met with Comprehensive Plan consultants, Kendig Keast, and shared with them the vision they had for expanding business opportunities throughout the entire city. Pro tem Jebaily said the city has done well to develop business opportunities in the downtown area. The current focus is to continue building downtown but also expand that work through the entire city. Various partnerships were discussed at the meetings and how the city can seek economic development opportunities and attract industry to grow the business base in the city.

Community Development Committee, Chaired by Councilwoman Barnes

Councilwoman Barnes said the committee just held a Windshield Survey/“listening tour” of the city in which the committee, along with community leaders and city staff, toured each community of the city on a PDRTA bus. She said Hoffmeyer Baptist Church has a “love where you live” campaign and they expressed their desire to work with the city to clean-up certain areas of Florence. Councilwoman Barnes said the committee also discussed identifying properties and gaining permission from property owners to help mow and clean-up. Councilwoman Barnes said the committee will hold another “listening tour” which will involve local members of the faith-based community in hopes to develop a partnership and change the mindset of the community. Councilwoman Barnes mentioned a Community Development Corporation (CDC) and said Councilman McCall made a motion at the committee meeting to request staff to research the process for a CDC. She said Mayor Ervin began the process for a CDC when she was elected to Council and a board was selected; however, those board members would have tenured out. Councilwoman Barnes said the committee would like to move forward with the recommendation to Council today and formally ask staff to research the process for a CDC.

Mayor Ervin thanked Councilwoman Barnes for her report and said based on the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), this action cannot be taken because it needed to be listed on the agenda. She then asked Jim Peterson, City Attorney, to explain the requirements of FOIA. Mr. Peterson said in order to comply with FOIA, the agenda must contain an item indicating committee would be making a recommendation for Council to take action on. FOIA requires a 24-hour notice, and the purpose is to notify the public that Council may take action on the item. As the agenda is currently set up, there is no way the public could know Council may take action. Mr. Peterson suggested adding it as an action item on next month’s agenda and asked that the committee chairperson alert staff in the future if there is a recommendation for Council to take action on and staff will include it on the agenda. Councilman McCall expressed frustration, saying the paper has been reporting on this for nearly a month and everyone knew these recommendations were coming before Council today. He said the pettiness is going too far at this point. He said he hates that Council gets to the meeting today with intentions to vote on the recommendations only to have Mr. Peterson tell them they have to wait another month. Mr. Peterson reminded Council of the deadline for adding action items to the agenda and an addendum can be added up to 24 hours before the meeting.

Councilman Braddock asked if the motion and second in the committee meeting is not enough to initiate the action at the Council meeting and asked what needs to happen to make sure it does get added to the agenda. Mr. Randy Osterman, City Manager, approached the podium. He said in the future, staff will be sure to include any recommendations from the committee meetings in the Council agenda. Councilman Braddock asked if the majority of Council votes to add an item to the agenda, can it not be brought before Council the day of. Mr. Peterson said under Robert’s Rules of Order, 2/3 majority of members can vote to add an item to the agenda but FOIA requires a 24-hour notice for any action item.



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Councilwoman Barnes requested the CDC recommendation to be added to the next agenda. She also expressed frustration because the meeting minutes from the committee meetings were included in Council's agenda packet and these minutes stated their intentions to bring the recommendations to Council. She said it is disappointing because citizens are excited about the CDC. Councilwoman Barnes said there was investigation and conversation that occurred and now she is being told during the meeting that the recommendations cannot be brought forward. If this was known about 24 hours in advance, the ones bringing forth the recommendations to Council should have been the first to know.

Marketing and Public Relations Committee, Chaired by Councilman McCall

Councilman McCall said he would be brief on his report because it is all in the record. He said the committee continued discussions on the city's branding and if they wanted to continue with "Full Life, Full Forward" or explore other ideas. He said he also planned on bringing forth a couple recommendations to Council and reiterated his frustrations. One recommendation was to ask staff to research a smart growth annexation study, and another was to request staff to develop a plan and process for achieving an All-American City designation.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Pro tem Jebaily made a motion to enter into Executive Session and Councilman Schofield seconded the motion. Council entered into Executive Session at 2:35 p.m. for a discussion of matters relating to a proposed economic development project and a discussion of matters relating to an unnamed Economic Development Project and discussion of negotiations incident to proposed Contractual Arrangements.

Council reconvened open session at 3:09 p.m. and took action on the following items:

Resolution No. 2021-29

A Resolution of City Council approving Downtown Redevelopment Grants for First Quarter, FY22.

Councilwoman Moore made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2021-29 to approve a grant for roof repair at 166 West Evans Street and Councilman Schofield seconded the motion.

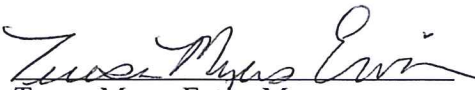
Council voted unanimously (7-0) to adopt Resolution No. 2021-29.

ADJOURN

Without objection, the August 9, 2021 Regular meeting of City Council was adjourned at 3:11 p.m.

Dated this 13th day of September 2021.


Casey C. Moore, Municipal Clerk


Teresa Myers Eryin, Mayor