



**REGULAR MEETING OF FLORENCE CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 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; Mrs. Jennifer Krawiec, Director of Human Resources; Mr. Michael Hemingway, Director of Utilities; Mrs. Amanda Pope, Director of Marketing/Communications and Municipal Services; and Mr. Chuck Pope, Director of Public Works.

MEDIA PRESENT

Mr. Matthew Christian of the Florence Morning News and Mr. Curtis Graham of WBTW News were present for the meeting.

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.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Ervin called the September 13, 2021 regular meeting of Florence City Council to order at 1:03 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

Councilman Schofield made a motion to adopt the minutes of the July 27, 2021 Comprehensive Plan Work Session and the August 9, 2021 Regular Meeting and Councilwoman Barnes seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously adopted.



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ADDENDUM TO THE AGENDA

Mayor Ervin said there are two addendums to the agenda before Council for consideration.

Executive Session

To receive legal advice related to a Downtown Economic Development Project.

Pro tem Jebaily made a motion to add this Executive Session item to the September 13, 2021 meeting agenda and Councilman Schofield seconded the motion. Council voted unanimously (7-0) to add this item to the agenda.

Resolution No. 2021-33

A Resolution by the City of Florence recognizing Billy D. Williams for his considerable contributions to the Florence community.

Councilwoman Moore made a motion to add Resolution No. 2021-33 to the September 13, 2021 meeting agenda and Pro tem Jebaily seconded the motion. Council voted unanimously (7-0) to add this item to the agenda.

PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing on the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant regarding a request for law enforcement equipment.

Mayor Ervin opened the public hearing at 1:37 p.m.

Chief Allen Heidler reported that this public hearing is required as part of the process for the police department's annual application for the Department of Justice Byrne Memorial Law Enforcement Equipment Grant. This year the police department is seeking to purchase a compact robot and computer equipment for the information technology unit.

There being no one present to speak, Mayor Ervin closed the public hearing at 1:39 p.m.

APPEARANCE BEFORE COUNCIL

Ms. Madie Robinson, Pee Dee Healthy Start – Executive Director

Ms. Madie Robinson appeared before Council to give an update on the Pee Dee Healthy Start program. She said they have been in the community since 1991 and provide services in 7 counties. To promote and raise awareness of their services, they requested to have a music street festival downtown Florence on October 16th from 5-8pm. She said they contacted the Downtown Development office, and it seemed the intent was to deny their application for the street festival. She was told the event could be disruptive to downtown businesses and could be costly. She said her team met with city officials in which they were told, based on their mission and the population they serve, it would be best to hold their festival on Sanborn Street. She said Sanborn Street may be a more convenient location for their festival due to COVID but she does not like the way she and her staff were treated during the process. She addressed Council and said she wants to continue the partnership her organization has with the city, but she will not have her services, participants and people characterized and judged in a manner that is not conducive with society.



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Mayor Ervin asked if they currently have a date for their event. Ms. Robinson said their event will be October 23rd at the City Center Farmers Market.

Ms. Joanne Durant, Resident

Ms. Joanne Durant appeared before Council to speak on the intersection of Oakland Avenue and Royal Street. Her nephew was involved in a fatal hit-and-run accident at this intersection, and she asked Council for their help in placing a traffic light there. Ms. Durant said this is a school zone and a bus stop and should be safe for kids walking to and from school.

Councilman McCall said many accidents have happened at this location and he wishes the city could put a traffic light there, but it is a state road. He said the City has already submitted a request to the SC Department of Transportation (SCDOT) to complete a study at this intersection.

Mayor Ervin asked Mr. Randy Osterman, City Manager, if there are any updates. Mr. Osterman confirmed the City submitted a request to the SCDOT that they begin a study at the location to see if it meets their requirements for a traffic light. He said they have not received a response yet.

ORDINANCES IN POSITION

Bill No. 2021-27 – Second 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.

Councilwoman Moore made a motion to adopt Bill No. 2021-27 on second reading and Councilman Schofield seconded the motion.

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

Bill No. 2021-28 – Second 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 adopt Bill No. 2021-28 on second reading and Councilman Braddock seconded the motion.

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

Bill No. 2021-29 – Second 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 adopt Bill No. 2021-19 on second reading and Councilwoman Barnes seconded the motion.

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

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES



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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. 2021-30 – First Reading

An Ordinance authorizing the execution and delivery of a lease purchase agreement in the amount not exceeding \$3,000,000 for lighting equipment at the athletic complex and other matters related thereto.

Councilman Braddock made a motion to pass Bill No. 2021-30 on first reading and Councilwoman Moore seconded the motion.

Mr. Kevin Yokim, Assistant City Manager of Finance/Administration, reported the cost for the sports complex project has increased from its original estimate. To keep the project on budget, a decision was made to lease the lights and other various equipment for this project separately.

Councilman Braddock asked for clarification on the expenditure of the \$3,000,000. Mr. Yokim replied the lighting will cost approximately \$2,000,000 and the bleachers, netting, and various other equipment will cost approximately \$1,000,000.

Councilman Schofield asked Mr. Yokim to provide more data on the fixtures, the manufacturer and size, so Council can compare them to other fixtures that were recently purchased. Mr. Yokim replied he would.

Councilman McCall asked if this \$3,000,000 was included in the bond for the sports complex. Mr. Yokim explained the original estimate for the project was in the \$15-16 million range and a bond was issued for \$15 million. Since the issuance of the bond, the cost for the project has increased and the lease for the equipment is necessary to balance the budget.

Councilman Braddock asked how the lease is being funded. Mr. Yokim replied the lease will be funded from excess local option sales tax revenues.

Council voted unanimously to pass Bill No. 2021-30.

Bill No. 2021-31 – First Reading

An Ordinance to rezone three parcels located at 900 Oakland Avenue and 607 Maxwell Street, specifically identified as Florence County Tax Map Parcels 90114-13-001, 90114-13-002, and 90114-13-013.

Councilwoman Moore made a motion to pass Bill No. 2021-31 on first reading and Councilwoman Barnes seconded the motion.

Pro tem Jebaily made a motion to enter into Executive Session to receive legal advice on this matter. Without objection, Council entered into Executive Session at 2:15 p.m.

Council resumed open session at 3:30 p.m.



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Mr. Jerry Dudley, Planning Director, reported this proposal was originally before Council on March 8, 2021 and was referred back to Planning Commission to take a closer look at the Commercial Reuse (CR) zoning designation. Staff drafted some amendments to the CR district, but Commission members felt there may be some unintended consequences throughout the city and did not approve them. During the process, the applicant brought forth some restrictive covenants on the properties that specifically addressed land use. Upon the adoption of the Unified Development Ordinance, the properties were applied the zoning designation of Neighborhood Conservation-6.1 (NC-6.1). Prior to the adoption of the Unified Development Ordinance, the properties were zoned B-2, Convenience Business District and have historically contained a small convenience/grocery store that sells beer and wine as a continuing existing non-conforming use. The proposed restrictive covenants for the three parcels state: 1) there shall be no private clubs on the premises; 2) property owner is prohibited from selling alcohol for onsite consumption; 3) the City of Florence shall have the right to enforce the covenants.

On August 10, 2021 Planning Commission voted 4-3 in favor of the proposed restrictive covenants, which accompany the proposed rezoning request to the CR district.

Council voted unanimously (7-0) to pass Bill No. 2021-31.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 2021-30

A Resolution by the City of Florence recognizing Hispanic Heritage Month.

Councilman McCall made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2021-30 and Councilwoman Barnes seconded the motion.

Councilwoman Moore read the Resolution and presented it to Mrs. Erica Robinson.

Council voted unanimously (7-0) to adopt Resolution No. 2021-30.

Resolution No. 2021-31

A Resolution by the City of Florence recognizing the 65th Anniversary of Saint Anthony Catholic School.

Pro tem Jebaily made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2021-31 and Councilman Schofield seconded the motion.

Pro tem Jebaily read the Resolution and presented it to the principal of and students at Saint Anthony Catholic School.

Council voted unanimously (7-0) to adopt Resolution No. 2021-31.

Resolution No. 2021-32

A Resolution by the City of Florence declaring its intent to reimburse certain funds or accounts of the city from proceeds of a tax-exempt borrowing for certain public infrastructure capital improvements.

Councilwoman Barnes made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2021-32 and Councilman Braddock seconded the motion.



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Mr. Yokim reported this Resolution accompanies Bill No. 2021-30 discussed earlier. Since the lease is a tax-exempt lease, Internal Revenue Service (IRS) regulations require that the city adopt a Resolution to reimburse itself for expenditures incurred before the lease is closed. The first invoice for the lighting equipment will be due in late September. The lease will close after the October Council meeting.

Council voted unanimously (7-0) to adopt Resolution No. 2021-32.

Resolution No. 2021-33

A Resolution by the City of Florence recognizing Billy D. Williams for his considerable contributions to the Florence community.

Councilwoman Moore made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2021-33 and Councilman Schofield seconded the motion.

Councilman McCall read the Resolution and presented it the family of Billy D. Williams.

Mayor Ervin thanked the family for supporting Billy Williams as he served the citizens and the community.

Councilwoman Barnes, Councilwoman Moore, Pro tem Jebaily and Councilman McCall spoke on the loss of Billy Williams and the impact he had on them and his contributions to the community.

Council voted unanimously (7-0) to adopt Resolution No. 2021-33.

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 made a motion appoint Jacquelyn Campbell for a term to begin immediately and expire on June 30, 2024.

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.

Aesthetics Advisory Committee

Councilwoman Barnes deferred her nomination to the Committee.

Councilman McCall deferred her nomination to the Committee.



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Mayor Ervin deferred her nomination to the Committee.

Councilman Schofield made a motion to appoint Clara Brockington for an initial term of three years to begin immediately and expire on June 30, 2024.

Being no additional applicants, the remaining appointments were deferred.

Resilience and Sustainability Advisory Committee

Being no applicants, the remaining appointments were deferred.

Public Safety Citizen's Review Board

Councilwoman Barnes made a motion to appoint Marion McDowell to an initial term of two years to begin immediately and expire on June 30, 2023.

Mayor Ervin deferred her appointment to the Board.

Pro tem Jebaily made a motion to appoint Victor Webster to an initial term of three years to begin immediately and expire on June 30, 2024.

Parks and Beautification Commission Annual Report

Mr. Roger Malfatti, Chairman of the of Parks and Beautification Commission, thanked Council for the support they've given the Parks program. He reported there are many activities and improvements underway. Freedom Florence Park has recently been refurbished and replacing playground equipment at all the parks has started. He said the basketball and tennis courts are being resurfaced, dugouts are being upgraded and new community centers have been built. Enhancing the trail system to connect to downtown is being developed. Repairs to Veterans Park have been completed, the soccer complex is being expanded to include track and field events, and the new sports complex will be the home to the Florence Flamingos.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Business Development Committee, Chaired by Pro tem Jebaily

Pro tem Jebaily reported the Business Development Committee met and received input from Briana Dennis with the business incubator. He said the Committee also discussed the city's corridors and how they can address the corridors and make some improvements to enhance business opportunity throughout the city.

Community Development Committee, Chaired by Councilwoman Barnes

Councilwoman Barnes reported the Committee will continue its listening tour with a meeting with the faith-based community on October 14th to brainstorm on ways to better the community.

Marketing and Public Relations Committee, Chaired by Councilman McCall

Councilman McCall said they discussed partnerships and collaborating with other entities on marketing the city. He also said they continued discussion on the next steps to take for the city to pursue the All-



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American City designation. They received a hint on what the theme will be in 2023 and the city is taking steps to develop a plan. They also discussed the current branding and how they could move from the Full Life. Full Forward. brand to something unique for the city.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Ervin said Council will be entering into Executive Session to receive legal advice related to the COVID-19 pandemic and to receive legal advice related to a Downtown Economic Development Project. Councilwoman made a motion to enter into Executive Session and Councilwoman Barnes seconded the motion. Council entered into Executive Session at 3:55 p.m.

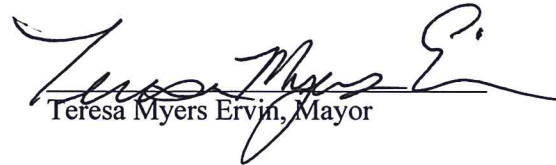
Council reconvened open session at 5:22 p.m. and no action was taken.

ADJOURN

Without objection, the September 13, 2021 Regular meeting of City Council was adjourned at 5:24 p.m.

Dated this 11th day of October 2021.


Casey C. Moore, Municipal Clerk


Teresa Myers Ervin, Mayor