



**REGULAR MEETING OF FLORENCE CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, JULY 11, 2022 – 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 Lethonia Barnes, Councilwoman Pat Gibson-Hye Moore, Councilman Chaquez T. McCall, Councilman Bryan A. Braddock and Councilman C. William Schofield.

ALSO PRESENT

Mr. Scotty Davis, Deputy City Manager; Mr. James W. Peterson, Jr., City Attorney; Mrs. Casey Moore, Municipal Clerk; 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; Mrs. Jennifer Krawiec, Director of Human Resources; Mr. Jerry Dudley, Director of Planning; 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. Chris Day of the Florence Morning News, Mrs. Tonya Brown of WPDE News Channel 15 and Mr. Jack Bilyeu of WBTW News Channel 13 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 July 11, 2022 regular meeting of Florence City Council to order at 1:02 p.m.

INVOCATION

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

ADDENDUM TO THE AGENDA

Resolution No. 2022-24

A Resolution approving an amendment to the Conditional Grant and Development Agreement dated July 30, 2022 between the City of Florence and Urban Development Services.



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Pro tem Jebaily made a motion to add Resolution No. 2022-24 to the July 11, 2022 meeting agenda and Councilwoman Barnes seconded the motion. Without objection, Resolution No. 2022-24 was added to the agenda of the July 11, 2022 regular meeting of Florence City Council. (See action taken under **INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS.**)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Schofield made a motion to adopt the minutes of the June 13, 2022 regular meeting and Councilwoman Barnes seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously adopted.

APPEARANCES BEFORE COUNCIL

Mindy Taylor, District Manager – Duke Energy

Ms. Taylor appeared before Council. In March, the Duke Energy Foundation announced they were going to grant over \$500,000 in micro-grants to help increase community's resiliency and their ability to help residents prepare for and recover for devastation brought forth by significant weather events. These grants will help first responders with the tools and training necessary to tackle these significant weather events. Ms. Taylor presented the City of Florence with a \$20,000 grant to help the city purchase equipment for water searches and rescues.

Suzanne La Rochelle

Ms. La Rochelle spoke of her concerns with the recent violence in the community. She said she is a community activist and recently participated in a peaceful protest. While protesting, her group was approached by several individuals that disagreed with their stance and displayed behavior that made her afraid. She asked if the Florence Police Department has identified individuals in the community that are so angry they could be a potential threat. She briefly spoke of the mass shooting in Highland Park and said something needs to be done before there's a shooting at a parade in Florence. She shared some articles that spoke of ways the city can address community violence and said they need to be able to protest peacefully and not in fear.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

Bill No. 2022-19 – First Reading

An Ordinance to annex and zone CG the parcel located at 2640 West Palmetto Street and identified as Florence County Tax Map Parcel 90004-01-026.

Mayor Ervin said this item will be discussed in Executive Session. Without objection, this item will be discussed in Executive Session.

Bill No. 2022-20 – First Reading

An Ordinance to rezone from RG-3 to NC-6.3 the parcel located on Harmony Street, identified as Florence County Tax Map Parcel 00122-01-054.

Mayor Ervin said the applicant has requested to withdraw this item. Without objection, this item was withdrawn.

Bill No. 2022-21 – First Reading



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An Ordinance to annex and zone OSR the parcel located at 1300 East Palmetto Street, identified as Florence County Tax Map Parcel 90117-23-004.

Councilwoman Moore made a motion to pass Bill No. 2022-21 on first reading and Councilwoman Barnes seconded the motion.

Mr. Jerry Dudley, Planning Director, reported this location is the site of the old motel proposed to be demolished. The proposed zoning is OSR, Open Space and Recreation, as its intended use is to be added to the open space associated with Levy Park.

Planning Commission held a public hearing on this matter and voted unanimously to recommend the zoning designation of OSR and city staff concurs with Planning Commission's recommendation.

Council voted unanimously (7-0) to pass Bill No. 2022-21.

Bill No. 2022-22 – First Reading

An Ordinance to rezone from NC-6.2 to NC-6.3 the parcels located at 702, 706, and 708 Norfolk Street, identified as Florence County Tax Map Parcels 90100-03-002, 90100-03-001, and 90101-01-004.

Mayor Ervin said the applicant has requested to withdraw this item. Without objection, this item was withdrawn.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 2022-20

A Resolution to commemorate the many contributions of Frank Willis to the City of Florence and the community.

Pro tem Jebaily made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2022-20 and Councilwoman Barnes seconded the motion.

Mr. Scotty Davis, Deputy City Manager, reported Frank Willis served as Mayor of the City of Florence from 1995 to 2008, making him the third-longest serving mayor of Florence. Upon adoption, the city's Surface Water treatment plant will be formally designated as the "Frank E. Willis Pee Dee River Regional Water Plant".

Pro tem Jebaily read the resolution and presented it to Marguerite Willis, wife of Frank Willis. Mrs. Willis accepted the Resolution, thanked Council and spoke of the mark Mayor Willis left on the community.

Council voted unanimously (7-0) to adopt Resolution No. 2022-20.

Resolution No. 2022-21

A Resolution to approve a Memorandum of Understanding between the Florence County Sheriff's Office and the Florence Police Department.

Councilwoman Moore made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2022-21 and Councilman Schofield seconded the motion.



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Chief Allen Heidler, Florence Police Department, said this is a task force agreement between the Florence Police Department and the Florence County Sheriff's Office. The governing board will be created, and it will be co-chaired by Chief Heidler and the Sheriff. The agreement will also temporarily extend the jurisdiction of City officers into Florence County.

Pro tem Jebaily asked how many officers will be assigned to the task force and how will it work. Chief Heidler said one of the main reasons for this task force was due to staffing shortages in both agencies. The number of officers needed will vary depending on the case.

Council voted unanimously (7-0) to adopt Resolution No. 2022-21.

Resolution No. 2022-22

A Resolution to reallocate \$28,000 of the City of Florence's 2020-2021 CDBG Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) budget.

Councilwoman Moore made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2022-22 and Councilman Schofield seconded the motion.

Councilman Braddock made a motion to move this item to the Finance, Audit and Budget Committee for review and for them to bring a recommendation back to Council and Councilman Schofield seconded the motion. Councilwoman Moore withdrew her motion to adopt Resolution No. 2022-22.

Council voted unanimously (7-0) to refer Resolution No. 2022-22 to the Finance, Audit and Budget Committee for evaluation.

Resolution No. 2022-23

A Resolution to honor all Florence School District One high school students that graduated high school with an Associate Degree from Florence Darlington Technical College.

Councilman Schofield made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2022-23 and Councilman McCall seconded the motion.

Mr. Davis reported the Early College program was established in Florence School District One in 2014 and it offers students the opportunity to take college classes leading to an Associate of Arts degree from Florence Darlington Technical College. A total of eleven Florence School District One students graduated with a diploma and an Associate of Arts degree from Florence Darlington Technical College this year.

Councilman McCall read the Resolution and presented it to Principal Robinson of Wilson High School.

Councilman McCall applauded the partnership between Florence Darlington Technical College and Florence School District One. This program will allow students to enter college as sophomores and juniors and will help alleviate some of the financial burden that comes along with receiving an education.

Council voted unanimously (7-0) to adopt Resolution No. 2022-23.

Resolution No. 2022-24

A Resolution approving an amendment to a Conditional Grant and Development Agreement dated July 30, 2021 between the City of Florence and Urban Development Services.



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Mayor Ervin stated this item will be discussed in Executive Session. Without objection, this item will be discussed in Executive Session.

REPORTS TO COUNCIL

Appointments to Boards and Commissions

Councilman McCall made a motion to discuss Appointments to Boards and Commission in Executive Session and Councilwoman Barnes seconded the motion. Without objection, Council entered into Executive Session at 2:10 p.m. for discussion and the receipt of legal advice regarding appointments to city boards and commissions.

Council resumed Open Session at 2:30 p.m. and proceeded with Appointments to Boards and Commissions.

Mr. Davis presented the packet of appointments to Boards and Commissions to Council.

Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee

Councilman Schofield made a motion to reappoint Steven Doulaveris. By unanimous consent, Steven Doulaveris was reappointed to the Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee with a term to begin immediately and expire on June 30, 2025.

Councilwoman Moore made a motion to reappoint Daniel Paola. By unanimous consent, Daniel Paola was reappointed to the Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee with a term to begin immediately and expire on June 30, 2025.

Agriculture Commission

Councilman Braddock made a motion to reappoint Jesse Adams. By unanimous consent, Jesse Adams was reappointed to the Agriculture Commission with a term to begin immediately and expire on June 30, 2025.

Planning Commission

Pro tem Jebaily made a motion to reappoint Andrew Chaplin. By unanimous consent, Andrew Chaplin was reappointed to the Planning Commission with a term to begin immediately and expire on June 30, 2025.

Councilwoman Barnes made a motion to reappoint Charles Howard. By unanimous consent, Charles Howard was reappointed to the Planning Commission with a term to begin immediately and expire on June 30, 2025.

Councilman McCall made a motion to appoint Jerry Keith. By unanimous consent, Jerry Keith was appointed to the Planning Commission with a term to begin immediately and expire on June 30, 2025.

Mayor Ervin made a motion to reappoint Betty Gregg. By unanimous consent, Betty Gregg was reappointed to the Planning Commission with a term to begin immediately and expire on June 30, 2025.



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Board of Zoning Appeals

Councilman Schofield made a motion to reappoint Larry Chewning. By unanimous consent, Larry Chewning was reappointed to the Board of Zoning Appeals with a term to begin immediately and expire on June 30, 2025.

Councilwoman Moore made a motion to reappoint Larry Adams. By unanimous consent, Larry Adams was reappointed to the Board of Zoning Appeals with a term to begin immediately and expire on June 30, 2025.

Civic Center Commission

Councilman Braddock made a motion to appoint Molly Lee. By unanimous consent, Molly Lee was appointed to the Civic Center Commission with a term to begin immediately and expire on June 30, 2026.

Construction and Maintenance Board of Adjustments and Appeals

Being no applicants, Mayor Ervin deferred nominations for this Board.

Housing Authority

Mayor Ervin made a motion to reappoint Elishann Redden. By unanimous consent, Elishann Redden was reappointed to the Housing Authority with a term to begin immediately and expire on June 30, 2027.

Parks and Beautification Commission

Pro tem Jebaily made a motion to appoint Michael Henderson. By unanimous consent, Michael Henderson was appointed to the Parks and Beautification Commission with a term to begin immediately and expire on June 30, 2027.

Councilwoman Barnes made a motion to appoint Darryl Mitchell. By unanimous consent, Darryl Mitchell was appointed to the Parks and Beautification Commission with a term to begin immediately and expire on June 30, 2027.

Pee Dee Regional Airport Authority

Mayor Ervin deferred her nomination.

Councilman McCall made a motion to appoint Robby Hill. By unanimous consent, Robby Hill was appointed to the Pee Dee Regional Airport Authority with a term to begin immediately and expire on June 30, 2026, pending affirmation of appointment from the Governor's Office.

Aesthetics Advisory Committee

Councilwoman Moore deferred her nomination.

Mayor Ervin deferred her nomination.



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Councilman Schofield made a motion to reappoint Tim Cunningham. By unanimous consent, Tim Cunningham was reappointed to the Aesthetics Advisory Committee with a term to begin immediately and expire on June 30, 2025.

Resilience and Sustainability Advisory Committee

Pro tem Jebaily made a motion to reappoint Leo Woodberry. By unanimous consent, Leo Woodberry was reappointed to the Resilience and Sustainability Advisory Committee with a term to begin immediately and expire on June 30, 2025.

Councilwoman Moore made a motion to reappoint Lyles Cooper. By unanimous consent, Lyles Cooper was reappointed to the Resilience and Sustainability Advisory Committee with a term to begin immediately and expire on June 30, 2025.

Councilman Braddock made a motion to appoint Hunter Morgan. By unanimous consent, Hunter Morgan was appointed to the Resilience and Sustainability Advisory Committee with a term to begin immediately and expire on June 30, 2025.

Dr. Jerrod Moultrie, Board Member – Housing Authority

Mayor Ervin said Dr. Moultrie wishes to give a report on the Housing Authority and, if there is no objection, this report will be taken in Executive Session. Without objection, this report will be taken in Executive Session.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Business Development Committee, Chaired by Pro tem Jebaily

Pro tem Jebaily said the Committee received an update on ongoing stormwater projects, discussed infrastructure needs in the City, and received a report on roads. Pro tem Jebaily asked Mr. Michael Hemingway, Utilities Director, to provide a brief update on some recent water concerns.

Mr. Hemingway said the city has recently had some water quality issues with the center part of the city. This has been attributed to a failure in the well pump motor at the Darlington Street water plant that stopped the water from being pumped from the Black Creek Aquifer into the water plant. However, the clear well motor continued to pump water into the distribution system, draining the clear well down enough to cause sediment to be pumped into the distribution system. Once staff identified the motor failure, the plant was taken off-line and approximately 6 million gallons of water was flowed out of approximately 150 hydrants to remove the excess sediment from the system. It will take approximately 17 weeks to get replacement parts in and the plant back on-line. In the interim, this part of the city will be back-fed water from the surface water facility, South Edisto Plant, East Pine Street Plant and the Highway 52 Plant. Pro tem Jebaily said he understands additional wells may be off-line for various reasons and asked Mr. Hemingway to elaborate. Mr. Hemingway said the GE well and the Liberty Chapel well are also off-line. It is the hopes to utilize a federal package to drill a new well at GE and they are waiting on parts and materials to get the Liberty Chapel well back on-line. Pro tem Jebaily mentioned water quality and water safety and the reddish color some people experience with their water. Mr. Hemingway said Florence sits on top of iron deposits. There is a filtration system in place at each groundwater facility in which water is pumped from the wells into this system first where it is filtered, then aerated and chemically treated before it enters the distribution system. However, the customers will sometimes experience dissolved iron that still makes its way into the system, but this water is still safe. An Asset



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Management Plan is in place in which the City’s engineering consultant, AECOM, will come in and look at all the assets in the utility system (pipes, parts, motors, facilities, etc.). This Plan will help put in a place a priority of replacement of the assets in the utility system. This is a ten-year project with \$100,00 budgeted per year.

Councilman Schofield asked if the tanks have float systems to prevent water that is not suitable. Mr. Hemingway explained the situation that occurred with the Darlington Street Plant. There was still water in the clear well, but there was too much sediment in the tank. Staff has a schedule in place for cleaning the tanks; however, the motor failure occurred before the cleaning cycle came around. Councilman Schofield asked how frequently the tanks are purged and Mr. Hemingway replied they are usually cleaned and purged in the winter months.

Community Development Committee, Chaired by Councilwoman Barnes

Councilwoman Barnes said there is nothing to report at this time.

Marketing and Public Relations Committee, Chaired by Councilman Braddock

Councilman Braddock said there was no meeting held this month. The next meeting will feature a speaker conducting a community civic health assessment.

Finance, Audit and Budget Committee, Chaired by Councilman McCall

Councilman McCall said there is nothing to report at this time.

Judicial Review Committee

Mayor Ervin said this item is to be discussed in Executive Session. Without objection, this item will be discussed in Executive Session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Ervin said Council will be entering into Executive Session to receive legal advice on an annexation request, for a discussion of a proposed economic development project, for a discussion of a report regarding an appointed member of a public body and receipt of legal advice regarding same, and for a personnel matter.

Without objection, Council entered into Executive Session at 3:00 p.m.

Council reconvened Open Session at 4:35 p.m. and took action on the following items:

Bill No. 2022-19 – First Reading

An Ordinance to annex and zone CG the parcel located at 2640 West Palmetto Street and identified as Florence County Tax Map Parcel 90004-01-026.

Councilwoman Barnes made a motion to pass Bill No. 2022-19 on first reading and Councilman Schofield seconded the motion.

Council voted unanimously (7-0) to pass Bill No. 2022-19.



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Resolution No. 2022-24

A Resolution approving an amendment to the Conditional Grant and Development Agreement dated July 30, 2022 between the City of Florence and Urban Development Services.

Councilman Schofield made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2022-24 and Councilman Braddock seconded the motion.

Council voted unanimously (7-0) to adopt Resolution No. 2022-24.

REPORTS TO COUNCIL

Dr. Jerrod Moultrie, Board Member – Housing Authority

Based on the report received, Councilman Schofield made a motion to request that staff facilitate an internal examination of the situation and report back to Council at a future meeting and Councilman Braddock seconded the motion.

Councilwoman Moore recused herself from the vote due to a personal relationship with a Housing Authority Commission member. (A copy of the recusal statement is attached and made part of the minutes.)

Council voted 6-0 on the motion, with Councilwoman Moore having recused herself.

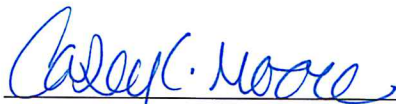
Judicial Review Committee

Councilman McCall said the Committee would like to defer this matter until next month.

ADJOURN

Without objection, the July 11, 2022 Regular meeting of City Council was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Dated this 8th day of August 2022.


Casey C. Moore, Municipal Clerk


Teresa Myers Ervin, Mayor

RECUSAL STATEMENT

Member Name: Pat Gibson-Hye Moore

Meeting Date: 07/11/2022

Agenda Item: Section 2022 Number: _____

Topic: Housing Authority

The Ethics Act, SC Code §8-13-700, provides that no public official may knowingly use his office to obtain an economic interest for himself, a family member of his immediate family, an individual with whom he is associated, or a business with which he is associated. No public official may make, participate in making, or influence a governmental decision in which he or any such person or business has an economic interest. Failure to recuse oneself from an issue in which there is or may be conflict of interest is the sole responsibility of the council member (1991 Op. Atty. Gen. No. 91-37.) A written statement describing the matter requiring action and the nature of the potential conflict of interest is required.

Justification to Recuse:

_____ Professionally employed by or under contract with principal

_____ Owns or has vested interest in principal or property

Other: Related to member of
Housing Authority Commissioner

Date: 07/11/2022 Pat Gibson-Hye Moore
Member

Approved by Parliamentarian: 