



**SPECIAL MEETING OF FLORENCE CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, APRIL 29, 2024 – 1:00 P.M.
SURFACE WATER TREATMENT PLANT
2598 FLORENCE HARLEE BOULEVARD
FLORENCE, SOUTH CAROLINA 29506**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mayor Teresa Myers Ervin, Mayor Pro Tempore George Jebaily, Councilman J. Lawrence Smith, II, Councilwoman Lethonia Barnes, Councilman Chaquez T. McCall, Councilman Bryan A. Braddock and Councilwoman LaShonda NeSmith-Jackson.

ALSO PRESENT

Mr. Scotty Davis, City Manager; Mr. Boone Aiken, City Attorney; Mrs. Casey Moore, Municipal Clerk; Mr. Clint Moore, Assistant City Manager of Development; Chief Allen Heidler, Florence Police Department; Chief Shannon Tanner, Florence Fire Department; Mr. Michael Hemingway, Director of Utility Planning and Economic Development; Mr. Joshua Whittington, Director of Utilities; Mrs. Amanda Pope, Director of Marketing/Communications and Municipal Services; Mrs. Jennifer Krawiec, Director of Human Resources; Mr. Adam Swindler, Director of Public Works; Mr. Kevin Rawlinson, Chief Financial Officer

MEDIA PRESENT:

G.E Hinson with the Post and Courier and Shawnia Butler with WBTW News Channel 15 were present for the meeting.

A notice of the meeting was sent to the media and individuals requesting a copy of the agenda, informing them of the date, time and location of this special city council meeting.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Ervin called the April 29, 2024 special meeting of Florence City Council to order at 1:05 p.m.

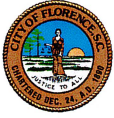
INVOCATION

Mayor Ervin provided the invocation for the meeting. The Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag followed the invocation.

BUDGET WORKSESSION

The following agenda items will be discussed:

- **Budget Totals by Fund**
- **Compensation/Benefits Changes**
- **General Fund Budget Highlights**



**FLORENCE CITY COUNCIL
WORK SESSION – APRIL 29, 2024**

- **General Fund**
- **Community Programs Funding**
- **Hospitality Special Revenue Fund**
- **Water & Sewer Enterprise Fund**
- **Stormwater Utility Enterprise Fund**
- **Water/Sewer & Stormwater Utility Construction Funds**
- **Utilities Equipment Replacement Funds**

Mr. Scotty Davis, City Manager, began by introducing the budget philosophy.

Budget Philosophy:

1. Develop operational budgets within projected available revenues.
2. Focus on goals of the Comprehensive Plan:
 - Growth Capacity
 - Land Use and Development
 - Housing and Neighborhoods
 - Transportation
 - Economic Development
 - Recreation and Amenities
3. Invest strategically in employees by providing adequate pay, benefits, training, technology resources, support, etc.
4. Balance reinvestment in the City's existing infrastructure and facilities with the creation of new opportunities for investing in the future of the City.
5. Maintain a minimum General Fund balance of at least 30% of the General Fund budget.
6. Maintain sufficient working capital in the utility funds.

BUDGET TOTALS BY FUND

Total for all funds is \$131,760,000. The following chart illustrates the proposed FY 2024-25 budgets listed by fund:

Proposed FY 2024-25 Budgets by Fund		
General Fund	\$	51,417,500
General Fund Debt Service Fund		694,000
Hospitality Fund		6,619,000
W/S Utilities Enterprise Fund		49,864,500
Stormwater Utility Enterprise Fund		1,807,000
W/S Utilities Construction Fund		19,015,000
Stormwater Utility Construction Fund		541,000
W/S Utilities Equipment Replacement Fund		1,477,000
Stormwater Equipment Replacement Fund		<u>325,000</u>
ALL FUNDS	\$	131,760,000



COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS CHANGES

The following is a summary of FY 2024-25 compensation and benefits.

- ▶ Cost of Living increase of 4% and a Merit pay increase eligibility of 2% will be effective January 1, 2025, is included in the budget.
- ▶ Effective January 1, 2025, the City’s Workers’ Compensation premium is projected to increase 10% for the City.
- ▶ Effective January 1, 2025, the City’s Health Insurance premium is projected to increase 12% for the City. The City maintained an experience rating of zero.
- ▶ Retirement System contribution will remain the same:
 - ▶ SCRS: City contribution is 18.56%
 - ▶ PORS: City contribution is 21.24%

Note: The above rates assumes that the 1% pension employer contribution credit in the FY 2024 State budget is funded at the same level in the FY 2025 State budget. If this credit is not included in the state budget, both the SCRS and the PORS contribution will increase by 1%.

Mr. Davis discussed some external factors that will influence the budget as well as some revenue and expenditure forecasts. Below are external factors influencing the budget.

- Inflation – Average inflation rate for 2023 was 3.4%
- Labor Market – Florence County Unemployment Rate is 3.6%
- Borrowing Costs
- Residential Growth
- AESC original investment plus expansion

Below are revenue forecasts. Building permit fees are down due to permits being pulled early in FY2023 for two major projects: Urban Square and renovations to Encompass Health.

- Property Tax Revenue will remain stable
- We will need to continue to “backstop” the TIF bonds with Water and Sewer funds
- Building permit revenue is down 26.9% from this time last year
- Business license revenue is about even with this time last year
- Hospitality revenue is up 4.4%
- Water revenue is up 2.3%
- Sewer revenue is up 5.48%
- Water and sewer rates will increase by 9% for inside customers and 11% for outside customers for FY2025.

Operational and Capital costs will continue to rise as a result of:

- Wage inflation
- Supply chain constraints
- Fuel price fluctuations
- Materials and supply cost increases
- Insurance premium increases



GENERAL FUND

Mr. Davis began a presentation on the General Fund, the largest fund for the city. For the FY 2024-25 General Fund Budget, original expenditure requests were \$8,431,676 higher than the original revenue projections.

**Balancing the FY 2023-24
 General Fund Budget**

Original Revenue Projections:		Original Expenditure Requests:
\$49,240,000		\$57,671,676
	Difference:	
	\$8,431,676	
	Final FY 2024-25 Balanced Budget	
	\$51,417,500	

Actions taken to balance the FY 2024-25 budget include: revenue projection adjustments, attrition savings adjustments and extended hiring timeline, operational funding request adjustments and capital funding request eliminations.

Below are the revenue projection adjustments made in balancing the budget.

**General Fund Revenue Projection Adjustments Made In
 Balancing Proposed FY 2024-25 Budget**

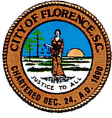
	Amount
Property Taxes	\$ 1,424,000
Licenses and Fees	288,000
Governmental Reimbursements	109,500
Interest Revenue	100,000
Other Funding Sources	255,000
Interfund Transfers	<u>1,000</u>
Total	\$ 2,177,500

The proposed budget assumes every position is funded every day of the year. Compensation and benefits cost reductions are projected at \$3,272,738.

**General Fund Compensation and Benefits
 Cost Reductions Made in Balancing Proposed FY 2024-25 Budget**

From 16-week salary & other compensation savings	\$ 970,000
Proposed increase for Firefighters	305,480
Move merit increase from July 1, 2024 to January 1, 2025	272,689
From positions proposed by not funded	<u>1,724,569</u>
Total	\$ 3,272,738

The below chart illustrates Operational and Capital Funding reductions in balancing the proposed FY 2024-25 budget. Parks, Recreation and Tourism will be a new department.



General Fund Operational & Capital Funding Reductions
Made in Balancing Proposed FY 2024-25 Budget

Department	Operations	Capital
City Council	\$ 1,500	0
City Court	300	0
City Manager	6,100	0
Finance & Accounting	1,600	0
Human Resources	13,200	0
Community Services	6,200	0
Police	41,900	1,489,000
Fire	2,000	28,000
Beautification & Facilities	93,000	140,000
Sanitation	167,800	0
Equipment Maintenance	8,000	8,000
Parks, Recreation, & Tourism	100,550	140,000
Planning, Research & Development	7,000	0
Building Permits & Inspections	42,200	0
Non-Departmental		
General Insurance/Claims	25,000	0
Community Programs	510,588	0
Non-Departmental	149,500	
Subtotal	\$ 1,176,438	\$ 1,805,000
OPERATIONS AND CAPITAL TOTAL	=	\$2,981,438

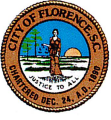
This chart outlines the reductions that were necessary to balance the budget. The reductions totaled \$6,254,176 and are detailed below.

Summary of Expenditure Adjustments
To Balance General Fund Budget

Expenditure Increases/(Reductions)	Amount
Compensation and Benefits Cost Reductions	\$ (3,272,738)
Operational Funding Reductions	(1,176,438)
Eliminated Capital Cost Reductions	<u>(1,805,000)</u>
Reductions to Balance Budget	\$ 6,254,176

Mr. Davis spoke of other items of interest in the budget. Several positions were reclassified and raised to the Florence County living wage. According to a study conducted by MIT, the Florence County living wage is \$15.00 per hour. The budget also will fund a 4% cost of living and a 2% merit increase, fully fund community funding initiatives, a rear loader for sanitation; and ESO data management for Fire.

This a recap of how the FY 2024-25 General Fund Budget was balanced. Revenue projections were adjusted by 2,177,500.



Balancing the FY 2024-25
General Fund Budget - Recap

GF REVENUES

Original Revenue Projections	\$49,240,000	
Revenue Adjustments	+ 2,177,500	
FY 2024-25 Adjusted Revenues		\$51,417,500

GF EXPENDITURES

Original Expenditure Projections	\$57,671,676	
Expenditure Reductions	- 6,254,176	
FY 2024-25 Adjusted Expenditures		\$51,417,500

Property tax operating and debt service millage remains the same as the prior fiscal year. The total property tax rate is 64.1 mills. Since 2024 is a Property Tax assessment year, this rate may change due to the countywide property tax reassessment.

The following chart illustrates the General Fund Revenue Budget by Source and the percentage of budget for each category. Property taxes and Licenses and Fees are the largest contributors to the General Fund revenues.

FY 2024-25 General Fund
Revenue Budget by Source

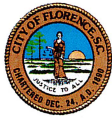
Category	FY 2024	% of Total
Property Taxes*	\$ 14,698,600	28.59%
Licenses & Fees	17,619,300	34.27%
Governmental Reimbursements	6,309,400	12.27%
Permits and Fees	3,506,400	6.82%
Fines & Forfeitures	291,500	0.57%
Miscellaneous & Other Revenues	1,484,300	2.88%
Interfund Transfers	7,508,000	14.60%
TOTAL	\$ 51,417,500	100.00%

*Local Option Sales Property Tax Credit accounts for 47.56% of the total Property Taxes category.

This is a comparison between this year's revenue budget and last year's revenue budget.

General Fund
FY 2024 & 2025 Revenue
Budget Comparison

	Original FY 2024	Budget for FY 2025	Change from Original FY 24	% Change From FY 24
Property Taxes	\$ 14,469,025	\$ 14,698,600	\$ 229,575	1.59
Business Licenses	11,517,280	12,869,300	1,352,020	11.74
Franchise Fees	4,452,690	4,750,000	297,310	6.68
Govt Reimbursements	6,273,277	6,309,400	36,123	0.58
Permits and Fees	3,345,700	3,506,400	160,700	4.80
Fines & Forfeitures	281,500	291,500	10,000	3.55
Other Revenues	1,086,100	1,484,300	398,200	36.66
Interfund Transfers	7,255,928	7,508,000	252,072	3.47
TOTAL	\$48,681,500	\$51,417,500	\$2,736,000	5.62%



This is a comparison between this year’s expenditures budget and last year’s expenditure budget.

General Fund
FY 2024 & 2025 Expenditures
Budget Comparison

	Original FY 2024	Budget for FY 2025	Change from Original FY 24	% Change From FY 24
City Council	\$ 351,920	\$ 372,100	\$ 20,180	5.73
Legal Services	173,672	194,100	20,428	11.76
City Court	678,978	722,400	43,422	6.40
City Manager’s Office	1,355,196	1,268,500	-86,696	-6.40
Finance	1,438,187	1,504,100	659,913	4.58
Human Resources	632,976	675,500	42,524	6.72
Community Services	675,545	684,450	8,905	1.31
Police	11,380,509	11,935,350	554,841	4.88
Fire	8,270,002	8,866,900	596,898	7.21
Beaut. & Facilities	3,677,994	3,415,700	-262,294	-7.13
Sanitation	5,278,391	5,273,600	-4,791	-0.09
Equip. Maintenance	703,670	811,000	107,330	15.25
Parks, Rec, & Tourism	4,378,776	5,441,850	1,063,074	24.28
Planning	584,681	688,900	104,219	17.82
Building Inspections	628,488	597,850	-30,638	-4.87
Debt Service	2,479,788	2,622,900	143,112	5.77
Other Emp. Benefits	799,000	748,000	-51,000	-6.38
General Insur/Claims	1,325,420	1,260,000	-65,420	-4.94
Community Programs	388,800	388,800	0	N/A
Non-Departmental	3,479,507	3,945,500	465,993	13.39
TOTAL	\$48,681,500	\$51,417,500	\$2,736,000	5.62%

Community Programs Funding

The following chart indicates the community programs that are included in the FY 2024-25 budget. Community programs were funded in the same amount as they were funded last fiscal year. Mr. Davis said Council may move funding within agencies that made requests but asked that they stay on budget at \$388,800. There are 5 programs that are not funded in the 2024-25 budget.

Appropriation Requests by Agency/Event FY 2024-25

Agency/Project/Event	Funded	Requested	Agency/Project/Event	Funded	Requested
Boys & Girls Club*	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	Unlock What’s Inside You		146,138
PDRTA	218,000	242,000	Isaac Wilson Project		25,000
Red Cross	10,000	12,000	J&J Leadership Academy		12,000
Keep Florence Beautiful	5,000	5,000	House of Hope		100,000
No One Unsheltered Program	68,800	70,000	BeeHelpful Transportation		<u>50,000</u>
Florence Family Support Ct.	3,000	0	Total	388,800	899,388
My Brother’s Keeper	10,000	35,000			
Foster Care Clothing Closet	7,000	20,000			
Pee Dee Coalition	5,000	20,000			
Helping Florence Flourish	1,200	25,000			
Florence Regional Airport	20,000	50,000			
G-Lab Legacies	15,000	15,000			
Leatherman Senior Center	5,800	52,250			

Note: Reference budget request documents provided by requesting agencies in budget notebook.

* In addition, PAL Programming is funded at \$500, Stadium Commission is funded at \$11,500 (a \$3,000 increase), and utilities for the Boys and Girls Club is funded at \$21,000 in other departments’ budgets.



The Stadium Commission requested an increase in the budget from \$8,500 to \$11,500. The school district is no longer utilizing the stadium and there was discussion on the maintenance to the property. American Legion currently maintains the baseball field. The Stadium Commission is working to submit a Request For Proposals for the management of the football stadium. Additionally, American Legion requested funding to relocate bleachers from several high schools to the baseball stadium; however, the request came in late and is not included in the budget.

There was discussion on the possibility of funding some of these agencies from the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) budget. Mr. Davis spoke of several issues with this. CDBG funds are federal dollars and are reimbursable. They cannot be used on salaries and can only be used on programs and activities. There was also discussion on the possibility of using 1% of the general fund budget for community programs instead of an arbitrary number each year.

There was discussion on the application process. Mr. Davis said the City does not solicit for applications. Applications are mailed to existing recipients providing them with the due date for requests.

Mr. Davis expressed his desire to finalize the community program funding before first reading of the budget. Another special meeting may need to be held in order to accomplish this.

HOSPITALITY FUND

This is the 2% tax paid on prepared food and beverage purchases in the city. The Hospitality Fund is one of the city’s growth funds but it is also a restricted fund. South Carolina Code requires any revenue generated by the hospitality fee must be used exclusively for the following purposes:

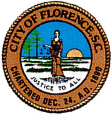
- Tourism-related buildings including, but not limited to, civic centers, coliseums, and aquariums.
- Tourism-related cultural, recreational, or historic facilities.
- Beach access and re-nourishment.
- Highways, roads, streets, and bridges providing access to tourist destinations.
- Advertisements and promotions related to tourism development.
- Water and sewer infrastructure to serve tourism-related demand.

However, because at least \$900,000 in accommodations taxes are collected annually in Florence County, State law permits hospitality funds to be spent for operations related to the above stated purposes.

Below is the hospitality fees comparison from FY 2020 to FY 2025.

<u>FY 2018-2024</u>		
<u>Hospitality Fees Comparison</u>		
Fiscal Year	Collections	% Change
2020	4,208,349	-3.15
2021	4,722,870	12.23
2022	5,351,385	13.31
2023	5,888,694	10.04
2024*	6,200,000	5.29
2025**	6,300,000	1.61

* 2024 Estimated
** 2025 Budgeted



The amount projected for FY 2024-25 is \$6,345,000.

Hospitality Fees	\$ 6,300,000
Interest Earnings	45,000
FY 24-25 Hospitality Fund Estimated Revenues	\$ 6,345,000

This is the list of recommended expenditures for the Hospitality Fund for FY 2024-25. \$60,000 of the total expenditures for the Florence Museum will end in 2025. The football field construction and the Pearl Moore gym expansion will cost approximately \$15 million, with \$3 million being funded from the hospitality fund balance and \$1.5 million from a Section 108 loan. The estimated debt service for the remaining \$11 million is \$836,000.

Hospitality Fund Expenditures

Athletic Facilities Operations	\$ 2,200,000
Florence Museum	110,000
Florence Downtown Development Corporation	54,000
Florence Downtown Economic Development Incentives	12,000
Florence Downtown Promotions	35,000
Sports Complex Debt Service (through November 2035)	605,300
Recreation Facility/Gymnasium Debt Service (through June 2034)	307,000
Football Field Const./Pearl Moore Gym Expansion Debt Service	836,000
2016 Special Obligation Bond Debt Service Appropriation (through Dec 2046)	300,000
Florence Historic District Street Lighting Operations	30,000
Florence Center (Debt Service effective through April 2040. FY 24-25 DS = \$675,700)	1,538,000
James Allen Plaza Restroom Facilities – 9 th of 10-year Lease Payment	9,000
Contingency	<u>308,700</u>
FY 24-25 Hospitality Fund Estimated Expenditures	\$ 6,345,000

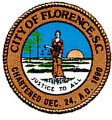
Mr. Davis said the City was approached by the local tennis association with a request to add additional tennis courts to the tennis center. The City estimates the total cost to be approximately \$2.5 million with the City potentially funding \$1 million with some potential matching grant funding available. The addition of these courts will make the Tennis Center the largest facility in the region.

Mr. Rawlinson said the City and County each pay half of the debt service and half of the operating deficit for the Florence Center. There was discussion on a recent request from the Florence Center for \$6 million in funding for upgrades. Should the City accept the request, the funding will need to be budgeted in the hospitality fund.

WATER AND SEWER UTILITIES ENTERPRISE FUND

The total Water and Sewer Revenue Fund is \$49,864,500. This chart shows the Water and Sewer Revenues by Source. Other Revenue comes from reconnection fees, tap fees, etc.

<u>Water and Sewer</u>	
<u>Revenues by Source</u>	
Water Fees & Charges	48%
Wastewater Fees & Charges	50%
Other Revenue	2%



This chart shows the Water and Sewer Expenses by Department. Included in the non-departmental accounts is an increase in Economic Development of \$1,000,000 to provide funding for an anticipated request from PDRTA to assist in funding a transportation hub.

**Water & Sewer Expenses
By Department**

Utility Finance	\$ 2,697,700	5.41%
Engineering	1,666,600	3.34%
WW Treatment	7,805,000	15.65%
Water Production	6,442,300	12.92%
Distribution Operations	3,277,500	6.57%
Collection Operations	2,010,350	4.03%
WW Compliance	548,600	1.10%
WW Maintenance	976,900	1.96%
Debt Service	11,970,000	24.01%
Non-departmental	<u>12,469,550</u>	<u>25.01%</u>
Total	\$ 49,864,500	100.00%

WATER & SEWER UTILITIES CONSTRUCTION FUND

This is the water and sewer utilities construction fund. Total budget for this fund is \$19,015,000 and consists of the items listed below. \$8,398,000 will be carried over from the previous year.

**FY 2024-25 Water & Sewer
Construction Fund Revenue**

Projected Funds on Hand on July 1, 2024	\$8,398,000
2024-25 Transfer from W/S Operating Fund	2,750,000
Capital Construction Fund Transfer	1,000,000
Florence County Infrastructure Fund Reimbursement	400,000
ARPA Funds – (Lead & Cooper Compliance)	1,017,000
Florence County Funding – Madison Avenue Water Line Replace.	200,000
SC Infrastructure Investment Program (SCIIP) Grant	5,200,000
Projected Interest Earnings	<u>50,000</u>
Total W/S Construction Fund Revenue	\$19,015,000

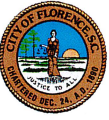
[Break: 3:08pm – 3:22pm]

This is a list of projects that are funded through the Water and Sewer Construction Fund. This fund is unique in that many of these projects can last several years and the funds can roll over from previous year.

**FY 2024-25
W/S Construction Fund Projects**

A. Projects Approved in Prior Year Budgets

1. Elevated Tank Inspection and Maintenance	\$ 500,000
2. Jeffries Creek Beaver Management (SSO Compliance)	7,000
3. Waterline Extension Requests – Florence County	400,000



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4. Hoffmeyer Road Sewer Extension	750,000
5. Sumter Street Development Sewer Improvements	200,000
6. SCDOT Alligator Rd. Widening – Utility Relocation	280,000
7. Interceptor Manhole Upgrades	500,000
8. Magna Carta (Charters) Lift Station	75,000
9. Mauldin Drive Sewer Improvements	510,000
10. Asset Management Study (AECOM)	100,000
11. Wisteria Drive Lift Station	400,000
12. Mars Hill Gravity Sewer Project	600,000
13. Water Line Renewals/Replacement/Upsizing	618,000
14. Lead and Copper Removal Rule Compliance	1,017,000
15. Madison Avenue Water Line Replacement	442,000

B. Projects Approved and Added in FY 2023-2024

1. Water Distribution Improvements #2	\$ 6,800,000
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C. Proposed Projects for FY 2024-25

1. Freedom Blvd. Water Line Ext. (Wallace Rd. to National Cemetery)	\$ 2,000,000
2. Palmer Drive Water Line Upgrade	200,000
3. McCurdy Road Water Line Extension	150,000
4. Price Road/Old Marion Highway Sewer	500,000
5. The Palms Annexation	300,000
6. Church Street Sewer Extension (Annexation)	100,000
7. Howe Springs Road Lift Station Upgrades (The Bluffs)	114,000
8. Florence Industrial Park	350,000

D. Other

1. Utility Line Engineering/Legal/Professional Services	\$ 150,000
2. Reserved for Other Projects	<u>1,952,000</u>

Total W/S Construction Fund Expenses \$19,015,000

Mr. Clint Moore, Assistant City Manager of Development, highlighted several of the projects that are already approved. The Wisteria Drive lift station will resolve some issues until the Jefferies Creek Sewer Interceptor project is completed. The water line renewals/replacement/upsizing is related to some grant funding the City is receiving. Water distribution improvements is part of the \$9 million grant the City received and it must be spent by June 26th. Mr. Moore explained the importance of looping the water system. Not only does looping the system help with water pressure, but it also helps with water quality. Looping the system allows the water to continually flow and be used. While the City has been proactive in looping the system with new development, dead end lines still exist throughout the City.

Mr. Moore also discussed some of the proposed projects. The Price Road/Old Marion Highway Sewer will accommodate a large subdivision in the area as well as future development. The Palms Annexation is associated with the development occurring on the old golf course. A new lift station will be installed that will allow the City to eliminate three other lift stations. The Howe Springs Road Lift Station upgrades will deepen the proposed lift station associated with The Bluffs subdivision in order to provide service to other large development projects occurring in the vicinity and future projects.



STORMWATER UTILITY ENTERPRISE FUND

The total Stormwater Utility Enterprise fund is \$1,807,000.

Stormwater Revenues by Source

Stormwater Fees (\$1,700,000)	94%
Other Revenue (\$107,000)	6%

Stormwater Expenses by Category

Operations (\$921,300)	51%
Debt Service (\$536,900)	30%
Nondept./Const. Fund Trf. (\$348,800)	19%

STORMWATER UTILITY CONSTRUCTION FUND

This is the stormwater utility construction fund. Total budget for this fund is \$541,000 and consists of the items listed below. \$436,000 will be carried over from the previous year.

**FY 2024-25 Stormwater
Construction Fund Revenue**

Projected Funds on Hand on July 1, 2024	\$ 436,000
2024-25 Transfer from Stormwater Operating Fund	100,000
Projected Interest Earnings	<u>5,000</u>
Total Stormwater Construction Fund Revenue	\$ 541,000

This is a list of projects that are funded through the stormwater utility construction fund.

**FY 2024-25 Stormwater
Construction Fund Projects**

A. Projects Approved in Prior Years

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| 1. Stormwater Operations Division Pipe Projects | \$ 20,000 |
| 2. NPDES Phase II Compliance | 50,000 |

B. Proposed Projects for FY 2024-25

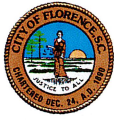
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|--------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Scriven Driven Improvements | \$ 10,000 |
|--------------------------------|-----------|

C. Other

- | | |
|---|----------------|
| 1. Stormwater Engineering/Legal/Professional Services | 20,000 |
| 2. Reserved for Other Projects | <u>441,000</u> |

Total S/W Construction Fund Expenses \$ 541,000

Mr. Davis said he and Mr. Hemingway recently met with the regional director of the SC Department of Transportation (SCDOT) to discuss the expectations of the City and the SCDOT. One topic of focus was bike lanes. The public has requested bike lanes for several years and the City will provide a study that was conducted to the SCDOT for their consideration. Another topic discussed was stormwater. Mr. Davis said there are several stormwater projects currently going on. Several of the City’s outfalls are attached to SCDOT outfalls and the SCDOT does not have the proper equipment nor the staff necessary to maintain outfalls, which can cause issues. The City often contacts the SCDOT to gain permission to access their outfalls when maintenance is necessary.



Utilities Equipment Replacement Fund

The Equipment Replacement Fund is a fund to replace utility equipment. This fund allows for the replacement of equipment when it is needed and does not require that the purchase be deferred. The General Fund currently does not have a replacement fund for equipment.

W/S Equipment Replacement Fund
Budget by Department

Department	Amount
Wastewater Treatment Plant	\$ 480,000
Water Production	275,000
Distribution Operations	125,000
Collection Operations	597,000
W/S Capital Equipment Fund Total	\$ 1,477,000

There is \$325,000 in the Stormwater Equipment Replacement Fund.

Stormwater Equipment Replacement Fund
Budget by Department

Department	Amount
Stormwater Operations	\$325,000
Stormwater Capital Equipment Fund Total	325,000

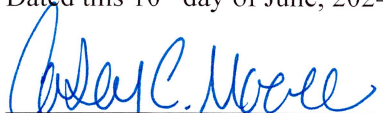
Mr. Adam Swindler, Public Works Director, the City’s recycling program and the costs associated to run the program. Only 25% of City residents participate in the recycling program. Last fiscal year, the City collected 525 tons of recycling. Of the 525 tons collected, only 8% was pushed into recycling and 92% was pushed to garbage by Waste Management. The City pays \$165 per ton for recycling versus \$60 per ton for garbage. Councilman McCall asked if other similarly sized municipalities are cutting their recycling programs. Mr. Swindler estimated that 10-15 cities in South Carolina have cut their programs. Should the City decide to cut theirs, savings will be used towards yard waste collection efforts.

Mr. Davis spoke of the recently approved \$6.5 million of funding from the unassigned fund balance from the general fund that has helped fund large projects that normally would have been requested in the budget. Shannon Tanner, Fire Chief, provided Council with an update on the status of fire trucks that were approved in that funding. Chief Tanner said they are currently working with their dealer to get “demo” trucks with similar specs to what they need and there is the possibility to have an engine in approximately a year and a ladder truck in approximately a year and a half.

ADJOURN

Without objection, the special meeting of Florence City Council was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Dated this 10th day of June, 2024.


Casey C. Moore, Municipal Clerk


Teresa Myers Ervin, Mayor