

## REGULAR MEETING OF FLORENCE CITY COUNCIL MONDAY, JULY 8, 2024 – 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, Councilman Chaquez T. McCall, Councilman Bryan A. Braddock, Councilwoman LaShonda NeSmith-Jackson and Councilman J. Lawrence Smith, II

### **ALSO PRESENT**

Mr. Scotty Davis, City Manager; Mr. Benjamin T. Zeigler, 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; Mrs. Victoria Nash, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Sports Tourism; Mrs. Amanda Pope, Director of Marketing/Communications and Municipal Services; Mr. Kevin Rawlinson, Chief Financial Officer and Ms. Patrice Rankin, Administrative Coordinator

### **MEDIA PRESENT**

Mr. Seth Taylor and Mr. Shybleke Gregg with the Post and Courier and Ms. Shawnia Butler with WPDE News Channel 15 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 8, 2024 regular meeting of Florence City Council to order at 1:00pm.

### **INVOCATION**

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

Mayor Ervin acknowledged the passing of Reverend Dr. Mack T Hines. Reverend Hines was well known in the community and loved serving people.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson made a motion to adopt the minutes of the June 10, 2024 Regular Meeting and Councilwoman Barnes seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously (6-0) adopted, with Councilman Smith having not yet arrived.





## APPEARANCES BEFORE COUNCIL

### Shonette Richardson, Pee Dee Coalition

Ms. Shonette Richardson, Shelter Coordinator for the Emergency Safe Shelter, appeared before Council to provide an update on the Pee Dee Coalition. Pee Dee Coalition is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the reduction of sexual assault, family violence, child abuse, and meeting the needs of victims in the community. Pee Dee Coalition has been in existence in Florence since 1986, and will celebrate the 35<sup>th</sup> year of the emergency safe shelter program this year. This program provides shelter to women and children who are in eminent danger. Over the last 35 years, the organization has provided over 3,494 services to women and children, and over 200,000 nights of stay to homeless individuals. Their theme for this year is "A Place to Lay Their Heads." Ms. Richardson thanked the City of Florence for their support over the years.

Ms. Brooke Humphries, Board Member with the Florence County Chapter of Pee Dee Coalition, thanked the City of Florence for their continued support. She expressed her gratitude for the life altering services that are offered by the Pee Dee Coalition for those in need in Florence County. The organization received a notification of funding from the city and she requested that any additional funding be considered for Pee Dee Coalition.

Mayor Ervin thanked the Pee Dee Coalition for all they do for the community and the Pee Dee region.

### **Barbara Brooks**

Ms. Barbara Brooks appeared before Council to speak on traffic signals and safety. Ms. Brooks shared reasons why cameras should be installed on all traffic signals. She was involved in two separate motor vehicle accidents due to someone running a red light. A camera installed on the traffic light was able to catch the driver of the first accident who ran the red light. Ms. Brooks made safety suggestions to Council to include recruiting additional law enforcement officers that can be present and observe intersections throughout the city, and to work with the South Carolina State Legislators to change the traffic law that states speeding tickets may not be given based on photographic evidence.

## Mindy Taylor, District Manager- Duke Energy

Mrs. Mindy Taylor, District Manager, Duke Energy appeared before Council to present the Florence Fire Department with a \$20,000 Duke Energy Emergency Preparedness and Storm Resiliency Grant. Shannon Tanner, Fire Chief, accepted the grant on behalf of the Florence Fire Department.

Mayor Ervin thanked Duke Energy for being a dedicated partner with the City of Florence.

### **ORDINANCES IN POSITION**

### Bill No. 2024-11- Second Reading

An Ordinance to amend the Unified Development Ordinance regarding tattoo facilities.

Councilman Braddock made a motion to adopt Bill No. 2024-11 on second reading and Councilwoman Barnes seconded the motion.

Council voted unanimously (6-0) in favor of the motion, with Councilman Smith having not yet arrived. Bill No. 2024-11 was adopted.



### Bill No. 2024-12 - Second Reading

An Ordinance to rezone 1401 Fairfax Road from OSR to NC-15, identified as Florence County Tax Map Number 90029-01-005.

Councilwoman Barnes made a motion to adopt Bill No. 2024-12 on second reading and Pro tem Jebaily seconded the motion.

Council voted unanimously (6-0) in favor of the motion, with Councilman Smith having not yet arrived. Bill No. 2024-12 was adopted.

(Councilman Smith arrived at 1:23pm).

### **INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS**

### Resolution No. 2024-29

A Resolution honoring Innovate Florence as an innovative partnership for small business in Florence.

Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson made a motion to pass Resolution No. 2024-29 and Mayor Ervin seconded the motion.

The motion failed 2-5 with Councilman Smith, Councilman McCall, Pro tem Jebaily, Councilwoman Barnes and Councilman Braddock voting in opposition and Mayor Ervin and Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson voting in favor of the motion.

### Resolution No. 2024-30

A Resolution authorizing staff to negotiate grant agreements with organizations in the amounts as shown in "Exhibit A" in compliance with the South Carolina Opioid Recovery Act. (Note: This item may be discussed in Executive Session.)

Mayor Ervin said this item will be discussed in Executive Session. Having no objection, this item will be discussed in Executive Session.

### REPORTS TO COUNCIL

## Appointments to Boards and Commissions

Mayor Ervin said this item will be discussed in Executive Session. Having no objection, this item will be discussed in Executive Session.

### **MAYORAL REPORT**

Mayor Ervin asked Mr. Scotty Davis, City Manager, to provide an update on the city's water quality. Mr. Davis said on Thursday, June 27<sup>th</sup>, the city experienced some water quality issues. City staff was performing maintenance on a valve at the Surface Water Treatment Plant when a malfunction occurred. resulting in discolored water entering the system. City staff took bacterial samples of the water and there were no issues found.



Mr. Davis introduced Mr. Porter Rivers, Senior Project Manager, AECOM, engineering consultant. City staff asked AECOM to conduct an assessment on groundwater plants and Mr. Rivers presented the assessment to Council. He provided background information on why the groundwater condition assessment was necessary, the assessment's findings, recommendations, and the action items the city has taken to address some of the findings. The City of Florence Water System Groundwater Condition Assessment presentation is attached to and made a part of the minutes.

Mayor Ervin thanked Mr. Rivers for presenting Council with the Groundwater Condition Assessment. She said that next month South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) would provide an update.

Mr. Davis said funding has been identified to address some of the assessment's findings and Mr. Michael Hemingway, Director of Utility Planning and Economic Development, is working on securing additional grants for the city. He also provided an update on staffing and said city staff is looking to continue to add positions going forward.

Mayor Ervin asked for an update on the corridor improvements and study. Mr. Clint Moore, Assistant City Manager of Development, said the Lucas Street Corridor Study is funded through an EPA grant that the city received two years ago to conduct different studies regarding properties for brownfields assessments and planning studies. A kickoff meeting with city staff; Stantec, the city's consultant conducting the study; local utility companies; South Carolina Department of Transportation (DOT); Florence County and key stake holders was held to receive ideas and concerns regarding the Lucas Street Corridor. The Lucas Street Corridor spans from Interstate 95 to the end of the bridge at Church Street. A master plan will be developed after the completion of the study to illustrate the best use of properties along this corridor. The final study should be ready for Council to review in the fall.

Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson inquired on the possibility of any brownfields and Mr. Moore responded petroleum tanks and oil tanks associated with gas stations could be present. Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson asked for clarity on the corridor boundaries and Mr. Moore responded it is the intersection where Darlington Street turns into Oakland Avenue and Church Street turns into Lucas Street.

Mayor Ervin also encouraged everyone to attend the Pee Dee Youth Day Initiative event on Saturday, July 13<sup>th</sup>.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

## Business Development Committee, Chaired by Pro tem Jebaily

Pro tem Jebaily said the committee received an in-depth presentation from the Stantec group regarding the city's corridors. He encouraged everyone to attend the public meeting regarding the Lucas Street Corridor. The committee also received an update on the current utility projects and the South Carolina Infrastructure and Investment Program.

### Community Development Committee, Chaired by Councilwoman Barnes

Councilwoman Barnes said the committee is working on the five points of a crime plan. The committee is also continuing to work on efforts to beautify the community.



## Marketing and Public Relations Committee, Chaired by Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson

Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson said the city has officially launched "Cy", the city's new AI powered chatbot and shared how residents can sign up to receive notifications from "Cy." She also said the city's website is currently being revamped and the committee is continuing to work on several awareness campaigns.

## Finance, Audit and Budget Committee, Chaired by Councilman McCall

Councilman McCall said the committee reviewed the monthly financial reports and also discussed the opioid funding requests. Nine applications for opioid funding were received, and the committee has recommended five applicants receive funding. The applications will be discussed in Executive Session.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mayor Ervin said Council will be entering into Executive Session for a discussion of matters related to a contractual matter, for a discussion regarding appointments to City Boards and Commissions, for a discussion of a contractual matter and to receive legal advice regarding PFAS litigation, and for a personnel matter.

Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson made a motion to enter into Executive Session and Councilman McCall seconded the motion. Council voted unanimously (7-0) to enter into Executive Session at 2:11pm.

Council resumed open session at 4:04pm and took action on the following items:

### Resolution No. 2024-30

A Resolution authorizing staff to negotiate grant agreements with organizations in the amounts as shown in "Exhibit A" in compliance with the South Carolina Opioid Recovery Act.

Councilman McCall made a motion to pass Resolution No. 2024-30 and Councilman Smith seconded the motion.

Mr. Kevin Rawlinson, Chief Financial Officer, said the city received \$634,000 from the state in September 2023 for the opioid recovery funding. The city received a total of \$1,644,560 in funding requests and Council awarded a total of \$607,860 to five applicants. In May 2024, the city received notice from the state that additional funding would be granted. The available funding for 2024 is \$557,484.96. The city received \$1,938,978 in funding requests from ten agencies. The Finance, Audit, and Budget Committee recommended that Council award five agencies: Potter House Recovery, Inc, Tenacious Grace, Pee Dee Healthy Head Start, Circle Park Peer Support Specialist, and House of Hope with funding, totaling \$557,484.

Mayor Ervin asked Mr. Rawlinson to name the agencies that were previously awarded funding. Mr. Rawlinson said House of Hope, Resurrection Restoration Center for the Homeless, Tenacious Grace, Circle Park Peer Support Specialist, and the City of Florence were all previously awarded funding.

Councilman McCall raised a point of information and asked if the current motion is to approve the recommendation from the Finance Committee. Mayor Ervin said yes, unless there is an amendment.

Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson made a motion to amend to award \$250,000 to Putting You First Counseling Services, LLC. Mayor Ervin asked where the funding would come from. Councilwoman



NeSmith-Jackson said that the \$250,000 will go to Putting You First Counseling Services, LLC instead of House of Hope. Mayor Ervin seconded the motion. The motion failed 2-5 with Councilman Smith, Councilman McCall, Pro tem Jebaily, Councilwoman Barnes and Councilman Braddock voting against and Mayor Ervin and Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson voting in favor of the motion.

Council voted 5-2 in favor of the motion to pass Resolution No. 2024-30 with Councilman Smith, Councilman McCall, Pro tem Jebaily, Councilwoman Barnes, and Councilman Braddock voting in favor and Mayor Ervin and Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson voting in opposition. Resolution No. 2024-30 was passed.

### **REPORTS TO COUNCIL**

### **Appointments to Boards and Commissions**

Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson said, at the direction of Council, staff has conducted an audit of all appointees to boards and commissions to ensure compliance with state law and the City Code of Ordinances regarding residency, representation of businesses or other organization within the city, and the professional or other qualifications required for each respective position. Based on the responses received from the questionnaire sent to each member, as well as failures to respond, Council has determined that several members of the City boards and commissions do not meet the qualifications. Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson made a motion to declare the following seats vacated:

Construction and Maintenance Board of Adjustments and Appeals: James Cooper Jr., Joe Linder,

Chaznick T. Rivers, and Harry Cook Housing Authority: Jerrod J. Moultrie

Aesthetic Advisory Committee: Joey Robinson

Resilience and Sustainability Advisory Committee: Lenora Rabon Parks and Beautification Commission: Cecil Floyd and Simon Lee

Councilman Braddock seconded the motion. Council voted unanimously (7-0) in favor of the motion.

Councilman McCall made a motion to table all appointments to boards and commissions until the Business Development Committee makes a recommendation at a subsequent city council meeting and Councilwoman Barnes seconded the motion.

Mayor Ervin made a motion to amend to have city staff, city council and the city attorney review the current process and how to proceed moving forward. Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson seconded the motion. The motion failed 2-5 with Councilman McCall, Councilman Smith, Councilman Braddock, Councilwoman Barnes and Pro tem Jebaily voting against and Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson and Mayor Ervin voting in favor of the motion.

Councilman Braddock said the subcommittees do not take action or vote on matters. The Business Development Committee can review the process and make a recommendation to the whole Council.

Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson said it is the duty of all councilmembers to resolve an issue and all members should have an input regarding the boards and commission process. Some councilmembers were not on council when certain issues took place, and they should not be excluded from this process. Council needs to come together to resolve this issue.



Tussa Myrs Eryin, Mayor
Teresa Myers Eryin, Mayor

Mayor Ervin said Council chose to develop subcommittees in 2021. Information should come to Council first and then Council can decide to defer it to a subcommittee if additional information is needed. Every councilmember needs to be informed of information in advance.

The motion to table all appointments to boards and commissions until the Business Development Committee makes a recommendation at a subsequent city council meeting is on the table. Council voted 5-2 in favor of the motion with Councilman Smith, Councilman McCall, Pro tem Jebaily, Councilwoman Barnes, and Councilwoman Braddock voting in favor and Mayor Ervin and Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson voting against the motion. The motion passed.

### **ADJOURN**

Without objection, the July 8, 2024 Regular meeting of City Council was adjourned at 4:25pm.

Dated this 12<sup>th</sup> day of August 2024.

Casey C. Moore, Municipal Clerk

Page 7 of 7



# City of Florence Water System

Groundwater Condition Assessment Florence City Council Meeting

July 8, 2024

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Agenda



## Background

Groundwater Condition Assessment

Findings

Recommendations

Action Items

## Florence Drinking Water System

## Background



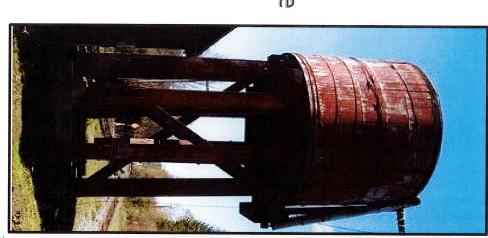
## Florence Water System

Initiated as a groundwater system

Has evolved as a complex, multi-source system

Current Production Capacity:

Surface Water @ 37 % (10 MGD)
Groundwater @ 63 % (23 MGD)







## City of Florence Drinking Water Distribution System

1946

FLORENCE, S. C. PROPOSED ADDITIONS TO

WATER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

1. -600' 2015-5-11, 5,1949

THE HARMOOD BEER COMPANY

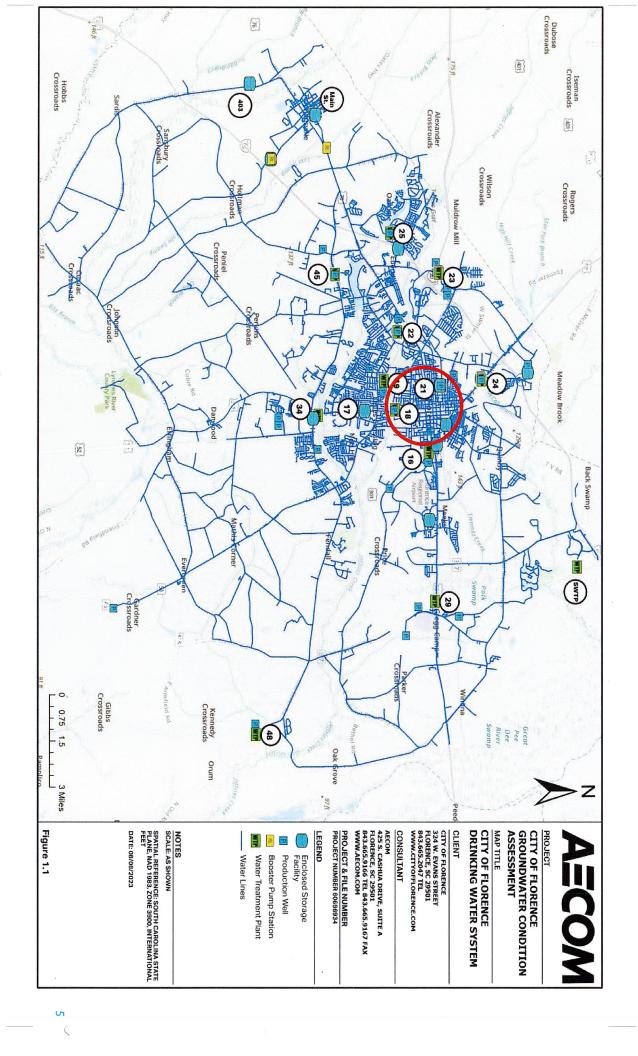
SOMETHING ON ENGRESS

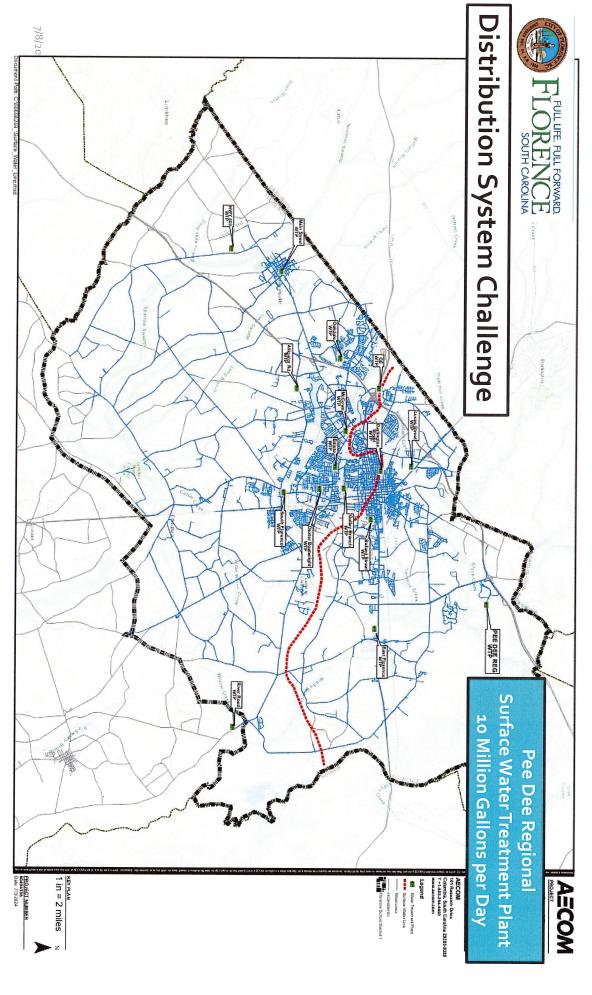
SHARMOOD STEERS

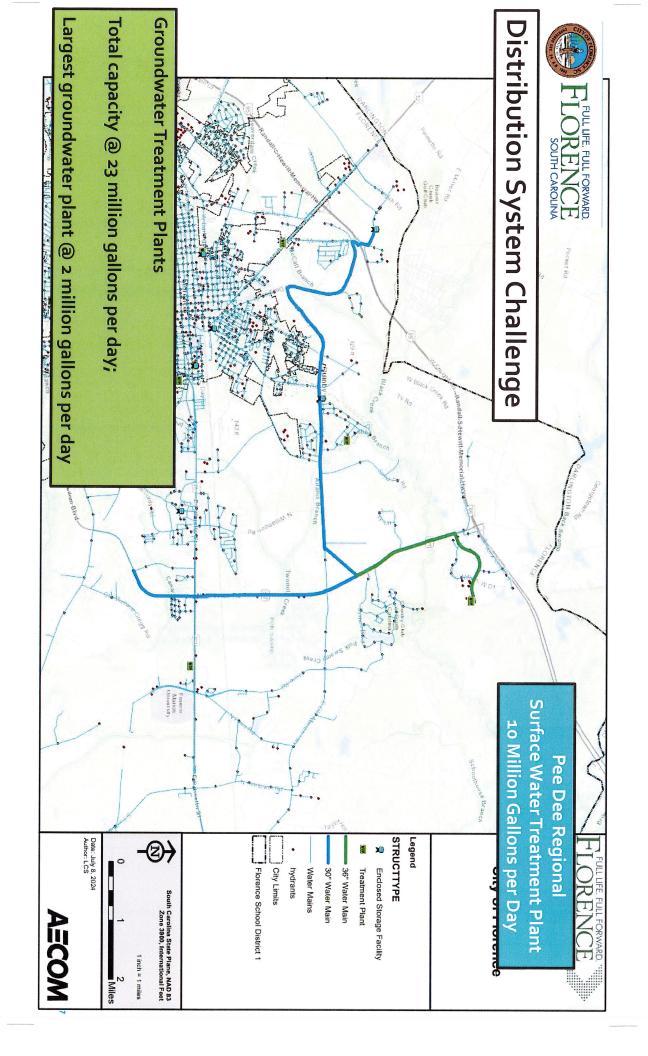
SHARWOOD STEERS

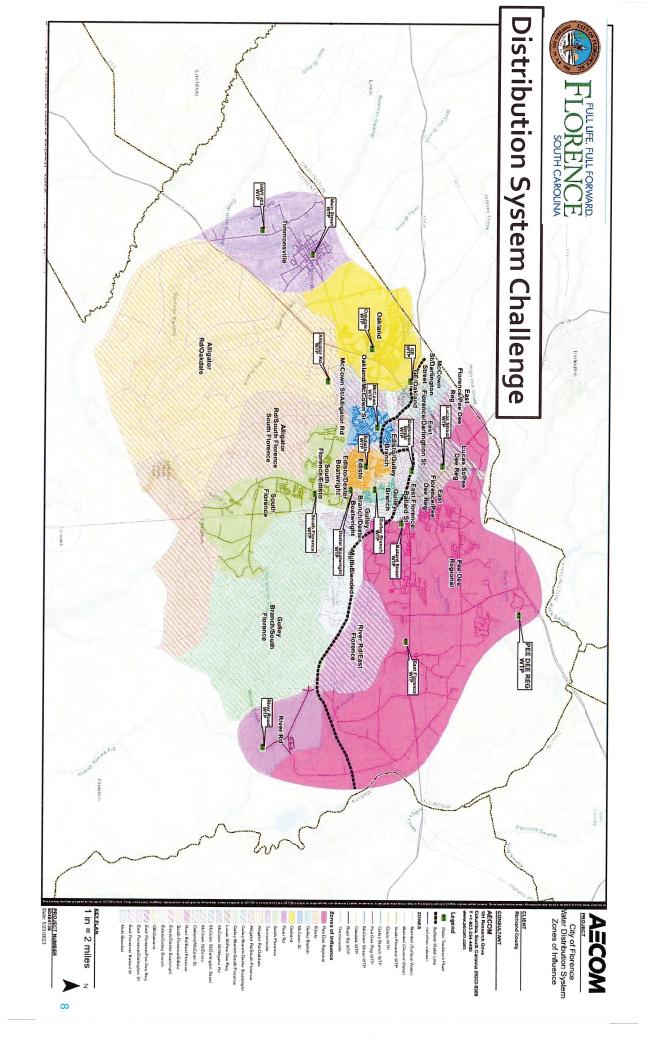
SHARW

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## Purpose



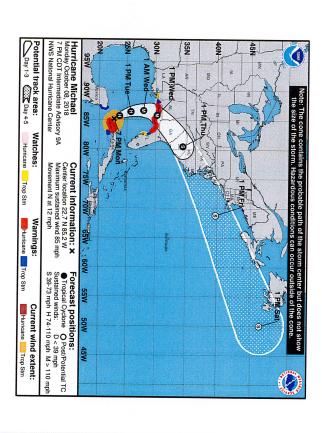
# Initiated in response to extreme weather events

Hurricanes

Heavy Storms

Freezing Conditions

Drought



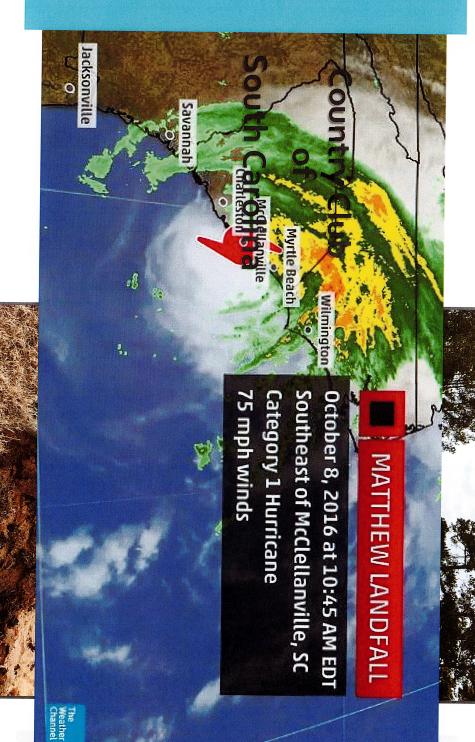
# Objective is to increase Resiliency and Reliability

Water Quality

Production Capacity

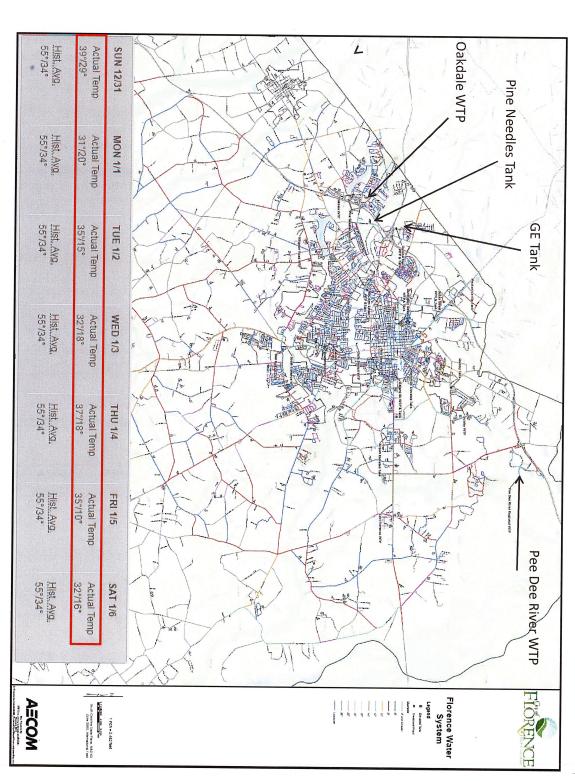
## **Purpose**





**Purpose** 

Extended
Freeze
January 2018

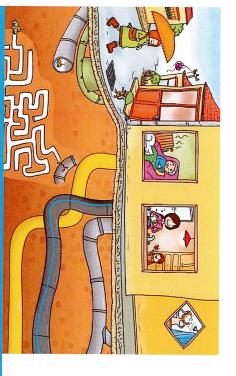


## Why do water mains break in winter? Laws of physics can explain



## **Frost Loading:**

to 800 psi, exacerbating cracks and grinding at weak spots. expands, doubling the force on underground pipes from 400 Water mains fracture when groundwater freezes and

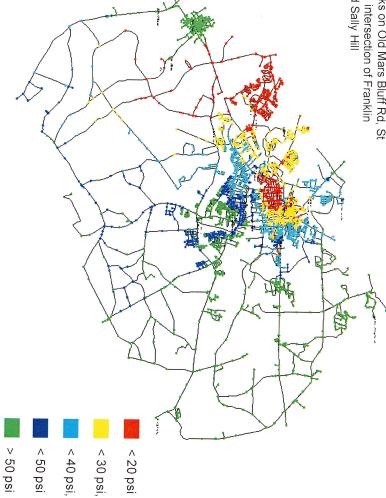




Vater Loss can be over 1 MGD, depending upon size of leak

## Estimated System Pressures January 5, 2018

System pressures with leaks on Old Mars Bluff Rd, St Johns, Dixie, West Marion, intersection of Franklin and Madison, Fairway, and Sally Hill

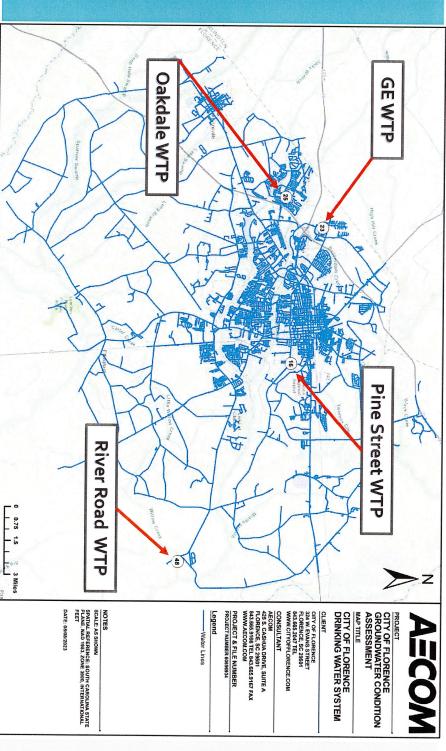


ORENCE
SOUTH CAROLINA

## Action Items

## SCIIP Projects

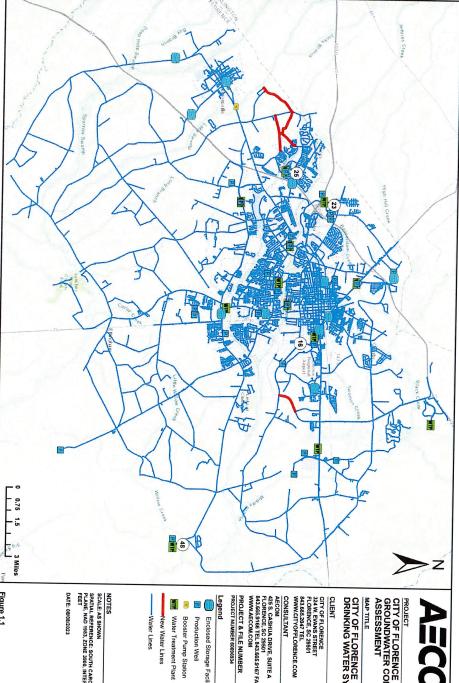




## **Action Items**

## **SCIIP Projects**





PROJECT
CITY OF FLORENCE
GROUNDWATER CONDITION
ASSESSMENT

MAP TITLE
CITY OF FLORENCE
DRINKING WATER SYSTEM

CONSULTANT
AECOM
425 S. CASHUA DRIVE, SUITE A
FLORENCE, SC 29501
943.565.9166 TEL 943.565.9167 FAX
WWW.AECOM.COM

Enclosed Storage Facility Production Well

Water Treatment Plant Booster Pump Station

NOTES
SCALE AS SHOWN
SPATIAL REFERENCE: SOUTH CAROLINA STATE
PLANE, NAD 1983, ZONE 3900, INTERNATIONAL
FEET

## Scope

Assessment



## Data Collection

- Water quality reports
- Sanitary Surveys (regulatory evaluations of system)

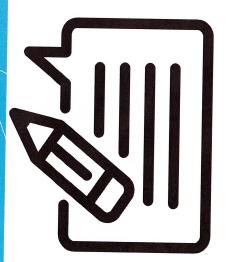
Groundwater

Condition

- Existing drawings of Water Treatment Plants and wells
- >Well testing records

## Site Visits

## Prepare Technical Memorandum



AECOM

Groundwater System
Condition Assessment

Prepared for the City of Florence

City of Florence 324 W. Evans St. Florence, SC 29501

September 2023 AECOM Project No. 6069693

9

## **Major Findings**



## Management of Groundwater Resources

Abundant potential capacity, limited availability (less than 50 %)

## Water Treatment Plant Performance

- Inconsistent water quality and production distribution
- Turnover leads to inconsistent performance
- Understaffed for system size

## System Control

Portions of system operated manually without automatic, centralized, monitoring and control





## Recommendations



## Management of Groundwater Resources

- Evaluation of Groundwater wells
- Ranking of Groundwater Inventory
- >Wellfield management plan

## Water Treatment Plant Performance

- Enforce Level of Service Criteria
- Evaluation of Treatment Process
- Update Standard Operating Procedures
- Increase Training for Operators

## System Control

Implement System wide monitoring and control system

## **Estimated Costs**



\* Projects funded by SCIIP

Total	Timmonsville	River Road *	Alligator Road	South Florence	East Florence	Oakdale *	Lucas Street	GE *	McCown	Darlington Street	Edisto Drive	Gully Branch	YMCA / Dexter Street	Pine Street *	Groundwater Treatment Plant
\$37.59	\$0.59	\$2.37	\$3.03	\$3.27	\$4.00	\$0.97	\$2.41	\$3.55	\$0.61	\$4.71	\$5.05	\$2.43	\$2.18	\$2.43	Estimated Costs (\$MM)

## **Action Items**



## Management of Groundwater Resources

- Reviewing Groundwater Inventory
- Initiated Evaluation of Groundwater wells
- Preparing recommendations for Wellfield management plan

## Water Treatment Plant Performance

- Improved attention to finished water quality
- Modifying Treatment Process at Alligator WTP
- Updating Standard Operating Procedures
- ➤ Implemented Training for Operators

## System Control

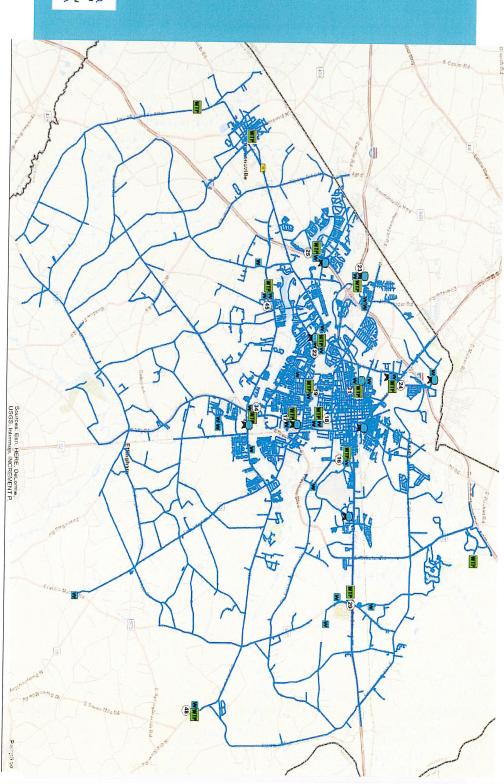
Implementing System wide monitoring and control system



## Action Items

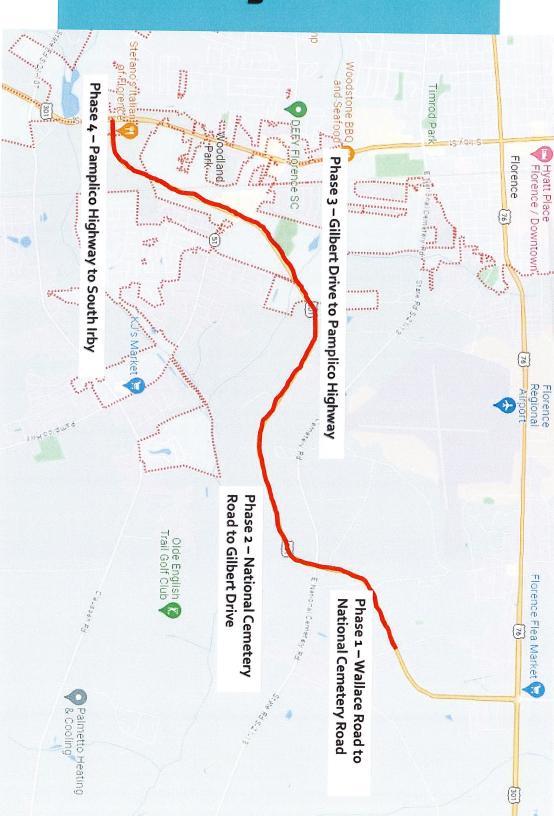
## Distribution Master Plan





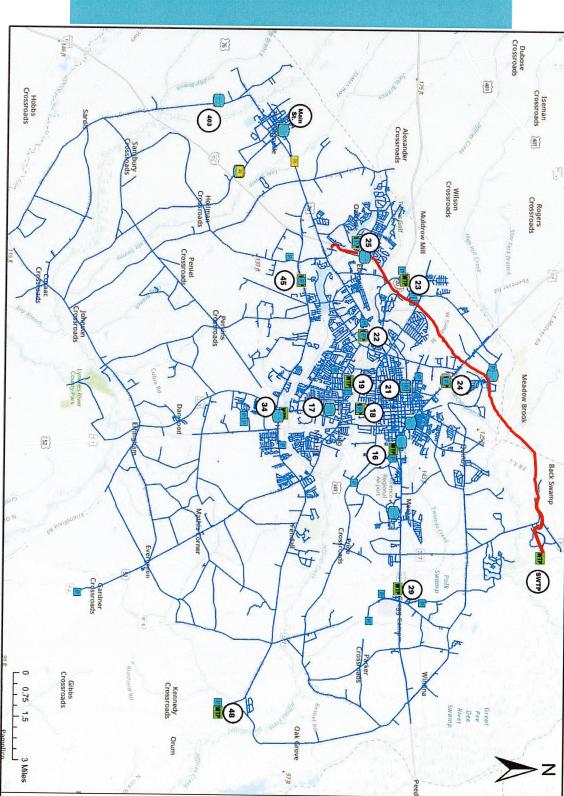
## Expand Impact of SWTP

## Southern Transmission Loop



## Expand Impact of SWTP

Northern Transmission Loop





# Discussion/Questions

