

**REGULAR MEETING OF FLORENCE CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, JULY 10, 2023 – 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. Randall S. Osterman, City Manager; Mr. Scotty Davis, Deputy 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; Mrs. Jennifer Krawiec, Director of Human Resources; Mr. Michael Hemingway, Director of Utility Planning and Economic Development; Mr. Jerry Dudley, Director of Utilities; Mrs. Amanda Pope, Director of Marketing/Communications and Municipal Services; Mr. Chuck Pope, Director of Public Works and Mr. Kevin Rawlinson, Chief Financial Officer

MEDIA PRESENT

Mr. Christian Smith with the Florence Morning News and Mr. Seth Taylor along with Mr. Chris Day with the Post and Courier 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 10, 2023 regular meeting of Florence City Council to order at 1:02 p.m.

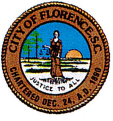
INVOCATION

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman McCall made a motion to adopt the minutes of the June 12, 2023 Regular Meeting and the June 20, 2023 Special Meeting and Councilwoman Barnes seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously adopted.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION



**FLORENCE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING – JULY 10, 2023**

Councilman McCall recognized the Florence 8U and the 14U All Star Boys Basketball teams and congratulated each team for winning the South Carolina Recreation and Parks Association State SCAP Championship. Council congratulated these young athletes for their accomplishments.

APPEARANCES BEFORE COUNCIL

Ms. Modestine Samuel

Ms. Modestine Samuel appeared before Council to speak on a potential African American History Museum. She said the endeavor to bring an African American History Museum to Florence arose several years ago. The Florence section of the National Council of Negro Women was bequeathed a parcel of land located at 1511 Stokes Road and is the perfect location for the museum. The land is currently in trust with the City for safekeeping until the museum can be built. The first step to make this idea into a reality is to conduct a feasibility study and they are currently looking for benefactors for this endeavor.

Councilman McCall asked about the timeline for the feasibility study. Ms. Samuel said they are a nonprofit organization and have no funds to conduct a feasibility study; therefore, they would like the City to provide funding to assist them in conducting a feasibility study. She said the Florence Section of the National Council of Negro Women needs a home. Once built, it is desired to have a conference room named after the founding member, Mary McLeod Bethune.

Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson asked if they were aware of the cost to conduct the feasibility study and Ms. Samuel said they are not sure. Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson asked if they had thought about locating the museum closer to or in the City. Ms. Samuel responded the property on Stokes Road was given to them and they would like to utilize it. Mayor Ervin spoke on the location, saying it is not far from being in the City limits.

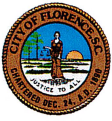
Mayor Ervin thanked the National Council of Negro Women for moving forward with this endeavor and spoke of the importance of an African American Museum to the Pee Dee Region.

Mr. Scott Murphy

Mr. Scott Murphy appeared before Council to present a gift from the Naturally Outdoors Parkworks Fund with Eastern Carolina Community Foundation. Mr. Murphy said he and business partner, Hunter Morgan, co-own Naturally Outdoors. In 2015, they celebrated the 25th year anniversary of Naturally Outdoors by opening a fund, “Parkworks” at the Eastern Carolina Community Foundation. Through Parkworks, and other community organizations such as Florence Outside they are hoping to build a community that is informed of best practices in how parks, trails and greenspaces relate to good city planning. Mr. Murphy spoke of the extension of the High Hill Creek Bike/Run Park, saying the park is currently 80 acres, soon to be 120 acres, and is for runner/walkers/hikers as well as bikers.

Councilman Braddock asked if the added trails would allow the City to be eligible for competitive mountain biking activities. Mr. Murphy responded the trail is currently 3-4 miles and the addition will make the trail 7-8 miles long. Florence currently has a competitive mountain biking team that competes in a league around the state. The league could potentially host a competitive race once the trail is extended, which will bring approximately 500 bikers and their families to the area.

Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson inquired on the number of people that currently frequent the park and Mr. Murphy said he was not sure, but it is increasing in use.



**FLORENCE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING – JULY 10, 2023**

Mr. Murphy and Mr. Morgan presented the City with a \$10,000 grant from the Naturally Outdoors Parkworks Fund to help develop trails at the High Hill Creek Bike/Run Park.

Mr. Jonathan McKnight

Mr. Jonathan McKnight appeared before Council to speak about ensuring safety and applicable code adherence for a group home project. He introduced himself as the President of the homeowner's association for Tarleton Estates and said he recently learned that one of the single-family residences on Berkley Avenue had been purchased by a company that intended to operate the property as a group home for foster children. As an advocate for foster children, Mr. McKnight said he hoped the company would be doing great work and providing homes for kids. He said he wanted to research the company and the home they currently operate on Deberry Boulevard, but he was upset by what he learned. Since the company purchased the property on Deberry, there have been 112 emergency calls resulting in 79 police reports. Mr. McKnight said the children in these homes, the neighbors and the community all deserve to be safe and he asked Council to help him understand what is going on. He asked that the City do the following three things: support those in zoning who engage with this company to ensure they comply with the laws and standards that will give these children a safe place to grow up; as much as possible, attempt to prevent a similar scenario that results in excessive police intervention required on DeBerry Boulevard from happening on Berkely Avenue and elsewhere; and help find the facts if there are errors in what is being said.

Pro tem Jebaily asked staff to explain what steps have been taken so far. Mr. Clint Moore, Assistant City Manager of Development, said staff was informed of this group home approximately one month ago. He said group homes are not permitted within residential zoning districts; however, within the Planning and Enabling Act there is an exception to the provision that cities are subject to zoning ordinances. The exception states that the provision does not apply to a home serving nine or fewer mentally or physically handicapped persons provided the home provides care on a twenty-four hour basis and is approved or licensed by a state agency. Mr. Moore said staff is currently working with Mr. Ben Zeigler, City Attorney, and the Department of Social Services (DSS) to confirm that the individuals who will reside in the group home are mentally or physically handicapped. Pro tem Jebaily also asked if staff was taking into consideration the occurrences at the Deberry Boulevard home and Mr. Moore said they must keep each location separate.

Mr. Zeigler further explained that once the zoning permit is obtained, the applicant must then get a DSS license and follow the public notice schedule. Pro tem Jebaily asked if it is necessary that Council take any action on the application and Mr. Moore replied the approval and review of the application would not take any Council action; however, if staff decides to make objection to the location of the home following review, there is a provision in state code that allows for a representative of the City, a representative of the home and a third party to work together to determine another location. The governing body also has the opportunity to apply to a court for contempt of jurisdiction should issues arise.

Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson asked when the home on DeBerry began operation and Mr. McKnight said property records indicate the property was purchased in June 2018 and the first call to Florence Emergency Management was August 29, 2018.

Councilman McCall asked if the company is required to obtain a business license to operate a group home and Mr. Moore said he believes so. Mr. Zeigler clarified that the owner of the home is asking for a zoning permit and will then seek licensure from the state. Once DSS grants the license, they must then give notice to the City who then has fifteen days to object. If an objection is filed, the three-person



**FLORENCE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING – JULY 10, 2023**

committee, as mentioned by Mr. Moore, may then decide on an alternative location. If the decision of the three-person committee is not agreeable, the City may file an appeal.

Ms. Heather Williamson, the owner and applicant of the group home, spoke next, saying she is a clinical social worker. She spoke of the current crisis in foster care regarding placement and she desired to place children in a normal environment. She said their operation on DeBerry has been experimental and most of the calls to the police are not due to the children are being abused. She said she is simply trying to care for children and help these special needs kids with placement and they deserve to live in a house in the community.

Councilman Smith inquired on the length of a child's average stay and Ms. Williamson said it is ideally 6-18 months, but they do have a few that stay with them until they turn 21 due to termination of parental rights. Councilman Smith also inquired on the placement of the children and Ms. Williamson said DSS directly places the children with her.

Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson asked how many children are in the home and Ms. Williamson responded she currently has the maximum amount of nine. Ms. Williamson said they have learned a lot from the home on DeBerry and the adaptations they plan to make at the Berkley location that will be very helpful. Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson inquired on the adaptations they plan to make for the Berkley location. Ms. Williamson responded they plan to heighten their screening processes to be sure they can safely serve that particular child. Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson also inquired on the child to caseworker ratio and Ms. Williamson responded they maintain a 1:3 ratio.

Councilman Braddock asked Ms. Williamson how she went about her site selection and she responded inclusion is important to her and she wants her children to have a real life experience and feel like they are part of the fabric of the community. Councilman Braddock asked her if there were any monetary incentives to be located in the city or incentives regarding the size of the home and Ms. Williamson responded no.

Councilman McCall and Mayor Ervin both encouraged the residents of the neighborhood and Ms. Williamson to communicate with each other to try to come to resolution regarding this matter.

[Break: 2:35 – 2:45]

Following the break, Mayor Ervin took the opportunity to acknowledge the retirement of Mr. Chuck Pope, Public Works Director, and thanked him for his years of service.

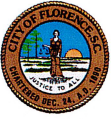
ORDINANCES IN POSITION

Bill No. 2023-22 – Second Reading

An Ordinance to amend Article IV of Chapter 2 specifically Section 2-206 of the City of Florence Code of Ordinances amending the designated areas to include in the East Palmetto Corridor within municipal limits.

Councilman McCall made a motion to adopt Bill No. 2023-22 on second reading and Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson seconded the motion.

Councilman Braddock made a motion to table Bill No. 2023-22 pending the Business Development Committee's work in the development of a comprehensive corridor plan for the City and Councilwoman Barnes seconded the motion.



**FLORENCE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING – JULY 10, 2023**

Councilman McCall reiterated from a previous meeting that he would like to address all the corridors, particularly those that have been neglected. Mayor Ervin said the purpose of the ordinance is not for visual corridor improvements as described, but is to extend the overlay district for incentives and grant opportunities for businesses.

Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson inquired on the grant and type of improvements that can be made. Mr. Moore replied the grant would be utilized for “curb appeal” type improvements that would provide enhancements for the public such as façade or landscaping. Applicants would be required to make a minimum \$5000 investment and the city will match that investment. The grant only applies to commercial property.

Councilman Smith asked if the committee will be looking at the placement of overlay districts in the other corridors as well and further asked if the City is seeking grant opportunities of funding for these other overlay districts. Mr. Moore responded both the Comprehensive Plan and the Downtown Master Plan both address corridors within municipal limits and provides solution on how to address the redevelopment of those areas.

Councilman McCall asked for clarity on the motion to table this ordinance. Mr. Zeigler said the general practice when committing the ordinance to a committee requires that there be a date certain in which it is brought back to Council. The motion will remain on the table until the end of this session, approximately the Fall of 2024 or Council can pull it from the table at any time. When the committee is ready to give a report, they may do so by pulling the motion back off the table and move forward.

Mayor Ervin clarified the procedure. Once City Council receives any information, they are then able to designate which committee it should go to. Any Councilmember may request to have this sent to committee, but it has to come from the Council.

Council voted unanimously (7-0) in favor of the motion, as amended. Bill No. 2023-22 was tabled.

Bill No. 2023-23 – Second Reading

An Ordinance to annex Phase IV of The Grove at Ebenezer, identified as a portion of Florence County Tax Map Number 00075-01-221.

Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson made a motion to adopt Bill No. 2023-23 on second reading and Councilman McCall seconded the motion.

Council voted unanimously (7-0) in favor of the motion. Bill No. 2023-23 was adopted.

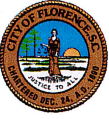
Bill No. 2023-25 – Second Reading

An Ordinance to repeal and replace portions of Sections 3-2, 3-7, and 3-11 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Florence entitled “Definitions”, “Public Nuisance”, “Dangerous/Vicious Animal Enforcement”, and other matters relating thereto.

Councilman McCall made a motion to adopt Bill No. 2023-25 on second reading and Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson seconded the motion.

Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson made a motion to amend the ordinance to add the following language:

The owning, possession or harboring of any animal which frequently, or for continued duration, howls, barks, meows, squawks, or makes other sounds which create excessive



**FLORENCE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING – JULY 10, 2023**

and unnecessary noise across a residential or commercial real property line or within a noise sensitive area. For the purpose of this chapter, ‘barking dog’ shall mean a dog that barks, bays, cries, howls, or makes any other noise continuously or incessantly for a period of ten (10) minutes, or barks intermittently for one-half (1/2) hour or more to the disturbance of any person at any time of day or night, regardless of whether the dog is physically situated in or upon private property.

Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson said the reason she got involved in this ordinance is due to complaints of dogs making noise. She said this language was supposed to be included in the original draft of the ordinance but it was not, so she is making the amendment to add it now. Councilman Braddock seconded the motion.

Mr. Zeigler spoke of another change to the ordinance in regard to enforcement of dangerous animal regulations – Section 3-11. The original language said a dangerous animal *must* be ordered destroyed by a municipal judge if they make persistent threats, but the proper language according to state code is a dangerous animal *may* be ordered destroyed by a municipal judge if they make persistent threats. Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson agreed to add this to her amendment.

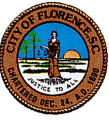
Councilwoman Barnes asked for clarity on the amendment, asking if the city is currently experiencing issues with dogs barking and cats meowing, to which Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson replied yes.

Pro tem Jebaily said, historically, when ordinances are before Council, and, even when there is an amendment, Council receives that information in writing prior to the Council meeting. He said he is very uncomfortable voting on something that he has not had the opportunity to look at. Pro tem Jebaily expressed his desire to defer this matter to give Council the opportunity to study the amendment and asked if it were appropriate to make that motion now. Mr. Zeigler said there is currently a motion and a second on the floor for the discussed amendment. The appropriate action in order to defer would be that Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson withdraw her motion which would allow all the amendments be added for second reading to be voted on then. Pro tem Jebaily then asked Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson if she would be willing to withdraw her motion to amend to allow for a motion to defer and Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson replied no, she has been working on this ordinance for many months and there are people waiting for it to pass.

Councilman Smith asked for clarity on where the amendment will be placed in the ordinance and Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson replied the nuisance section.

Councilman McCall commended Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson for fighting for this ordinance from the beginning but said it is professional courtesy to provide this information beforehand. He said he would be in favor of her withdrawing the motion to allow for a deferral.

Councilwoman Barnes inquired on the current noise ordinance in relation to the amendment. Mr. Zeigler said the noise ordinance indicates that the noise must be audible from a reasonable distance. Councilwoman Barnes said she stands behind Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson for wanting to protect the community, but she is concerned that considering meowing and barking as a nuisance may be abuse of power and she does not want to cross that line.



**FLORENCE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING – JULY 10, 2023**

Mayor Ervin recognized Ms. Jayne Boswell to speak. Ms. Boswell said at first reading of the ordinance, both Mayor Ervin and Pro tem Jebaily requested that she be a part of the discussion before second reading occurred. She said she has not been included in any discussion and she requested that this ordinance be delayed.

Councilman Braddock expressed his desire to approve the amendment and then defer second reading of the ordinance to allow time to receive input from Ms. Boswell.

Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson called the question. Council voted 5-2 in favor of the motion to amend, with Pro tem Jebaily and Councilwoman Barnes voting in opposition. Pro tem Jebaily clarified that his vote to oppose the motion was not because he was against the amendment, but because it is best practice to send the information ahead of time. The amendment passed.

Councilman Braddock made a motion to defer Bill No. 2023-25, as amended, to the August meeting and Councilman Smith seconded the motion. Council voted 6-1 in favor of the motion to defer with Councilwoman Barnes voting nay. Bill No. 2023-25, as amended, was deferred.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

Bill No. 2023-26 – First Reading

An Ordinance providing for the issuance and sale of combined waterworks and sewerage system revenue bonds of the City of Florence, South Carolina, and other matters relating thereto.

Councilman McCall made a motion to discuss Bill No. 2023-26 in Executive Session and Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson seconded the motion. Council voted unanimously (7-0) to discuss this item in Executive Session.

Bill No. 2023-27 – First Reading

An Ordinance revising the water and sewer rate schedule for the City of Florence, South Carolina.

Mayor Ervin said this Bill is contingent upon Bill No. 2023-26. Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson made a motion to discuss Bill No. 2023-27 following Executive Session and Pro tem Jebaily seconded the motion.

Bill No. 2023-28 – First Reading

An Ordinance to amend the budget for the City of Florence, South Carolina, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2023

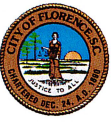
Councilman McCall made a motion to pass Bill No. 2023-28 on first reading and Councilman Smith seconded the motion.

Mayor Ervin said this amendment is to recognize the money raised for the expansion of the High Hill Creek Bike/Run Park, as presented by Mr. Murphy at the beginning of the meeting.

Council voted unanimously (7-0) in favor of the motion. Bill No. 2023-28 was passed on first reading.

Bill No. 2023-29 – First Reading

An Ordinance to abandon a portion of sewer line and easement located on private property at 1411 Golf Terrace Boulevard, identified as Florence County Tax Map Number 000101-01-470.



**FLORENCE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING – JULY 10, 2023**

Councilman McCall made a motion to pass Bill No. 2023-29 on first reading and Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson seconded the motion.

Mr. Moore reported this property is located outside City limits and Florence County, unknowingly, approved a site and building plan to allow a residential structure to be built top of the sewer line. This was discovered during the sale of the property and the builder has relocated the sewer line. The new easement is currently in the process of being filed at the County, but City Council is required to take action in order to remove the initial easement. In order to expedite the abandonment for the sale of the property, this matter will be heard at Planning Commission tomorrow night. Staff report will be updated for second reading at next month's meeting.

Council voted unanimously (7-0) in favor of the motion. Bill No. 2023-29 was passed on first reading.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 2023-35

A Resolution and Conditional Grant Agreement for a development located within an overlay district.

Mayor Ervin said Resolution No. 2023-25 will be discussed in Executive Session unless there is objection. There being no objection, Resolution No. 2023-25 will be discussed in Executive Session.

REPORTS TO COUNCIL

Appointments to Boards and Commissions

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

Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee

Councilman McCall made a motion to reappoint Chad Patterson to the Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee. Council voted unanimously (7-0) in favor of the motion. Chad Patterson was reappointed to the Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee for a term to begin immediately and expire on June 30, 2026.

Planning Commission

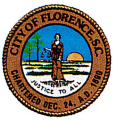
Mr. Davis and Mayor Ervin both acknowledged the service of Ms. Dorothy Hines. Ms. Hines served on the City's Planning Commission for 33 years.

Mayor Ervin made a motion to appoint Xavier Sams to the Planning Commission. Council voted unanimously (7-0) in favor of the motion. Xavier Sams was appointed to the Planning Commission for a term to begin immediately and expire on June 30, 2026.

Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson deferred her nomination to the Board.

Board of Zoning Appeals

Councilman Smith deferred his nomination to the Board.



**FLORENCE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING – JULY 10, 2023**

Councilman Braddock deferred his nomination to the Board.

Pro tem Jebaily made a motion to appoint Charles Ipock to the Board of Zoning Appeals. Council voted unanimously (7-0) in favor of the motion. Charles Ipock was appointed to the Board of Zoning Appeals for a term to begin immediately and expire on June 30, 2026.

Councilwoman Barnes made a motion to appoint Jermaine Nowline to the Board of Zoning Appeals. Council voted unanimously (7-0) in favor of the motion. Jermaine Nowline was appointed to the Board of Zoning Appeals for a term to begin immediately and expire on June 30, 2026.

Civic Center Commission

Councilwoman Barnes deferred her nomination to the Board.

Councilman McCall made a motion to appoint Desmond Garner to the Civic Center Commission. Council voted unanimously (7-0) in favor of the motion. Desmond Garner was appointed to the Civic Center Commission for a term to begin immediately and expire on June 30, 2026.

Design Review Board

Mayor Ervin made a motion to reappoint Jamie Carsten to the Design Review Board. Council voted unanimously (7-0) in favor of the motion. Jamie Carsten was reappointed to the Design Review Board for a term to begin immediately and expire on June 30, 2027.

Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson deferred her nomination to the Board.

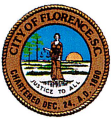
Construction and Maintenance Board of Adjustments and Appeals

Mayor Ervin made a motion to reappoint Benjamin Blanks to the Construction and Maintenance Board of Adjustments and Appeals. Council voted unanimously (7-0) in favor of the motion. Benjamin Blanks was reappointed to the Construction and Maintenance Board of Adjustments and Appeals for a term to begin immediately and expire on June 30, 2027.

Mayor Ervin made a motion to reappoint Werner Jacob to the Construction and Maintenance Board of Adjustments and Appeals. Council voted unanimously (7-0) in favor of the motion. Werner Jacob was reappointed to the Construction and Maintenance Board of Adjustments and Appeals for a term to begin immediately and expire on June 30, 2027.

Mayor Ervin made a motion to reappoint James Cooper, Jr. to the Construction and Maintenance Board of Adjustments and Appeals. Council voted unanimously (7-0) in favor of the motion. James Cooper, Jr. was reappointed to the Construction and Maintenance Board of Adjustments and Appeals for a term to begin immediately and expire on June 30, 2027.

Mayor Ervin made a motion to reappoint Kacy Gunter to the Construction and Maintenance Board of Adjustments and Appeals. Council voted unanimously (7-0) in favor of the motion. Kacy Gunter was reappointed to the Construction and Maintenance Board of Adjustments and Appeals for a term to begin immediately and expire on June 30, 2027.



Housing Authority

Mayor Ervin made a motion to appoint Mae Holmes-Lyde as the resident commissioner to the Housing Authority. Council voted unanimously (7-0) in favor of the motion. Mae Holmes-Lyde was appointed to the Housing Authority for a term to begin immediately and expire on June 30, 2027.

Councilman Smith deferred his nomination to the Board.

Councilman Braddock deferred his nomination to the Board.

Pro tem Jebaily deferred his nomination to the Board.

Parks and Beautification Commission

Councilwoman Barnes deferred her nomination to the Board.

Councilman McCall deferred his nomination to the Board.

Mayor Ervin made a motion to reappoint Sanovia Arceneaux to the Parks and Beautification Commission. Council voted unanimously (7-0) on the motion. Sanovia Arceneaux was reappointed to the Parks and Beautification Commission with a term to begin immediately and expire on June 30, 2028.

Aesthetics Advisory Committee

Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson deferred her nomination to the Board.

Councilman Smith deferred his nomination to the Board.

Resilience and Sustainability Advisory Committee

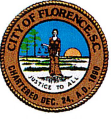
Councilman Braddock made a motion to reappoint Loretta Slater to the Resilience and Sustainability Advisory Committee. Council voted unanimously (7-0) in favor of the motion. Loretta Slater was reappointed to the Resilience and Sustainability Advisory Committee for a term to begin immediately and expire on June 30, 2026.

Pro tem Jebaily made a motion to reappoint Lisa Pike to the Resilience and Sustainability Advisory Committee. Council voted unanimously (7-0) in favor of the motion. Lisa Pike was reappointed to the Resilience and Sustainability Advisory Committee for a term to begin immediately and expire on June 30, 2026.

Councilwoman Barnes made a motion to reappoint Lauren Piner to the Resilience and Sustainability Advisory Committee. Council voted unanimously (7-0) in favor of the motion. Lauren Piner was reappointed to the Resilience and Sustainability Advisory Committee for a term to begin immediately and expire on June 30, 2026.

Public Safety Citizen's Review Board

Councilman McCall made a motion to reappoint Wattie Snowden to the Public Safety Citizen's Review Board. Council voted unanimously (7-0) in favor of the motion. Wattie Snowden was reappointed to the Public Safety Citizen's Review Board for a term to begin immediately and expire on June 30, 2027.



**FLORENCE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING – JULY 10, 2023**

Mayor Ervin deferred her nomination to the Board.

MAYORAL REPORT

Mayor Ervin said Florence is seeing a lot of growth and development and spoke of the recently announced behavioral health facility. Mayor Ervin also acknowledged the first Pee Dee Youth Day that occurred the previous weekend. She spoke of its success and thanked all that were involved. Mayor Ervin acknowledged the Florence Airport Commission for their work to advance the Florence airport.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Business Development Committee, Chaired by Pro tem Jebaily

Pro tem Jebaily said the Committee received an update on the Carolina Theater project. Bids were received but came in higher than expected, so staff is working with the low bidder to come up with a plan to stay on budget. The Committee discussed the various corridors into the City and the desire to approach them comprehensively.

Community Development Committee, Chaired by Councilwoman Barnes

Councilwoman Barnes said the Committee received an update on neighborhood revitalization and CDBG funds. She said a number of homes are being addressed and the weatherization program is underway. Also discussed was the funding for the Florence Neighborworks Corporation. The Committee also received a report from the Police Department regarding neighborhoods and crime.

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

Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson said the Committee discussed highlighting small businesses to show appreciation for their contributions and service to the community. Also discussed was an annexation plan and the communications survey. Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson encouraged everyone to fill out the survey. She also spoke of awareness campaigns to educate and involve the community.

Finance, Audit and Budget Committee, Chaired by Councilman McCall

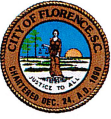
Councilman McCall said the Committee discussed potentially implementing a round up program of the utility bill to allow customers the option to round up their bill. The money obtained from rounding up will be set aside and be available for those in dire need. They also spoke of potential family-oriented activities for Florence.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Ervin said Council will be entering into Executive Session to receive legal advice on the issuance and sale of water and sewer revenue bonds, for discussion of matters related to a proposed Economic Development Project located within an Overlay District, and for a personnel matter.

Councilwoman Barnes made a motion to enter into Executive Session and Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson seconded the motion. Council voted unanimously (7-0) to enter into Executive Session at 4:10 p.m.

Council resumed open session at 4:40 p.m. and took action on the following items:



FLORENCE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING – JULY 10, 2023

Bill No. 2023-26 – First Reading

An Ordinance providing for the issuance and sale of combined waterworks and sewerage system revenue bonds of the City of Florence, South Carolina, and other matters relating thereto.

Pro tem Jebaily made a motion to pass Bill No. 2023-26 on first reading and Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson seconded the motion.

Council voted unanimously (7-0) in favor of the motion. Bill No. 2023-26 was passed on first reading.

Bill No. 2023-27 – First Reading

An Ordinance revising the water and sewer rate schedule for the City of Florence, South Carolina.

Councilman McCall made a motion to pass Bill No. 2023-27 on first reading and NeSmith-Jackson seconded the motion.

Council voted unanimously (7-0) in favor of the motion. Bill No. 2023-27 was passed on first reading.

Resolution No. 2023-35

A Resolution and Conditional Grant Agreement for a development located within an overlay district.

Councilman McCall made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2023-35 and Pro tem Jebaily seconded the motion.

Council voted unanimously (7-0) in favor of the motion. Resolution No. 2023-35 was adopted.

ADJOURN

Without objection, the July 10, 2023 Regular meeting of City Council was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Dated this 14th day of August 2023.

Casey C. Moore, Municipal Clerk

Teresa Myers Eryn, Mayor