



**REGULAR MEETING OF FLORENCE CITY COUNCIL  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 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; Mr. Jerry Dudley, Director of Planning; 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. Joshua Whittington, Director of Utilities; Mr. Tim Wilson, Assistant Director of Parks, Recreation, and Sports Tourism and Ms. Patrice Rankin, Administrative Coordinator

**MEDIA PRESENT**

Mr. Seth Taylor 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**

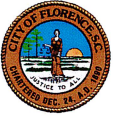
Mayor Ervin called the September 9, 2024 regular meeting of Florence City Council to order at 1:01pm.

**INVOCATION**

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson made a motion to adopt the minutes of the August 12, 2024 Special Meeting, August 12, 2024 Regular Meeting and the August 17, 2024 Special Meeting and Councilman Smith seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously (7-0) adopted.



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**ADDENDUM TO THE AGENDA:**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**For a discussion related to an Economic Development Project [30-7-70(a)(5)].**

Pro tem Jebaily made a motion to add this item to the September 9, 2024 meeting agenda and Councilwoman Barnes seconded the motion. This item was added to the agenda by unanimous vote (7-0).

**SERVICE RECOGNITIONS**

Mr. Shannon Tanner, Fire Chief, presented Larry Richardson with a certificate of recognition for 25 years of service with the Florence Fire Department.

Mr. Shannon Tanner, Fire Chief, presented Henry Glover with a certificate of recognition for 25 years of service with the Florence Fire Department.

Mr. Joshua Whittington, Director of Utilities, presented Mark Browder with a certificate of recognition for 20 years of service with the City of Florence.

**ORDINANCES IN POSITION**

**Bill No. 2024-13- Second 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 adopt Bill No. 2024-13 on second reading and Councilwoman Barnes seconded the motion.

Council voted unanimously (7-0) in favor of the motion. Bill No. 2024-13 was adopted.

**Bill No. 2024-14 – Second Reading**

**An Ordinance to annex and zone RG-3 Phase 2 of Smith’s Field subdivision, identified as Florence County Tax Map Parcels 00100-01-337 through 00100-01-380.**

Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson a motion to adopt Bill No. 2024-14 on second reading and Councilman Smith seconded the motion.

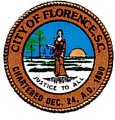
Council voted unanimously (7-0) in favor of the motion. Bill No. 2024-14 adopted.

**Bill No. 2024-15- Second Reading**

**An Ordinance to annex and zone CG the lot at 525 South Ebenezer Road, identified as Florence County Tax Map Number 00074-01-334.**

Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson made a motion to adopt Bill No. 2024-15 on second reading and Councilman McCall seconded the motion.

Council voted unanimously (7-0) in favor of the motion. Bill No. 2024-15 was adopted.



## MAYORAL REPORT

Mayor Ervin asked Mr. Tim Wilson, Assistant Director of Parks, Recreation and Sports Tourism, to provide an update on city parks.

Mr. Wilson said the city's parks range from community parks to sports tourism complexes and they provide a quality of life for the citizens and community. Mr. Wilson spoke on various projects that will enhance the city parks and sports tourism complexes to include:

**Dr. Iola Jones Park:** Replacing backboards at basketball courts, new amphitheater, and resuming boxing program.

**Freedom Florence Sports Complex:** Replacing standard halogen lights with LED lights at all nine softball fields, resurfacing four lower softball fields and upgrading the lobby at gymnastics and replacing pit blocks.

**Northwest Park:** Tentatively adding a walking trail.

**Timrod Park:** Installation of new playground equipment, pickleball courts expansion, resurfacing of tennis courts, tentatively upgrading restrooms, and tentatively restoring concrete areas.

**Levy Park:** New pottery kiln at the Levy Senior Center.

**McLeod Park:** Tree maintenance and a dog park.

**Dr. Eddie Floyd Tennis Center:** Addition of hard and clay courts. Potential expansion of the facility through a partnership with the Drs. Bruce and Lee Foundation.

**Florence Soccer Complex:** Addition of four fields for a total of fourteen fields.

**Pearl Moore Basketball Center:** Expansion of facility.

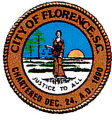
**Trails:** Expansion of the High Hill Trail and the expansion of the rail trail to connect to the Soccer Complex.

**Additional Projects:** Restoring the boat launch and boardwalk behind Naturally Outdoors and Jeffries Creek. Partnering with the Florence Convention and Visitors Bureau to renovate the trail head across from Veterans Park

Mr. Wilson provided a report of tentative projects that could occur in the next five to ten years to include upgrading the amphitheater at Timrod Park, renovating the bridges around Jeffries Creek Park, adding sand volleyball courts at McLeod Park, a new picnic shelter at South Park, and a football program expansion. Mr. Wilson closed by acknowledging the city's parks crews and their hard work with maintaining the city's parks and trails.

Mayor Ervin also acknowledged city staff for their hard work.

Mayor Ervin acknowledged the law enforcement basketball tournament that took place this past Saturday at Pearl Moore Basketball Center. She also acknowledged a health event that took place in August at



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Florence Darlington Technical College. Mayor Ervin encouraged residents to attend 9/11 memorial services this month. She concluded the mayoral report by saying that Northwest Park did receive grant funding from a city partner. However, it was decided that based on the rewarded amount and the obligations to the grant, the city would move forward without the grant funding.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Business Development Committee, Chaired by Pro tem Jebaily**

Pro tem Jebaily said the committee received updates regarding Urban Square, 127 W Evans Street, and the III Penny Sales Tax projects. The committee also received an update on the city's safety efforts regarding Tropical Storm Debby, as well as updates regarding city grants. The committee discussed current projects such as the Surface Water Treatment Plant expansion, Jeffries Creek Sanitary Sewer Intceptor, Timrod Park, and AESC.

**Community Development Committee, Chaired by Councilwoman Barnes**

Councilwoman Barnes said the committee discussed community development efforts and received an update on home rehabilitation, weatherization, and demolition projects. The committee also discussed developing a process for dilapidated homes with multiple owners to assist with the demolition process.

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

Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson said that city staff is continuing to promote Cypress in the community and encourage customer participation. The seven week fall session for City University will begin on September 16<sup>th</sup>. The City Center Farmers Market has resumed their regular hours, 9am-1pm, each Saturday. The City Center Farmers Market's Cultural Garden Harvest Celebration is scheduled for September 21<sup>st</sup>. A new video series "Florence in Focus" will be released this week on the city's social media accounts. Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson acknowledged that September is Suicide Prevention Month, Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, Sickle Cell Awareness Month and Substance Use Recovery Month.

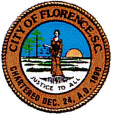
**Finance, Audit and Budget Committee, Chaired by Councilman McCall**

Councilman McCall said the committee received an update regarding the city's water system since the system wide low pressure event last month. The committee reviewed the budget carryforward ordinance that will be presented at next month's city council meeting. The committee also received an update on the opioid funding applicants. Lastly, the committee reviewed the monthly financial reports for July 2024.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mayor Ervin said Council will be entering into Executive Session for a discussion of matters related to a contractual agreement and for a discussion related to an economic development project.

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 1:35pm.



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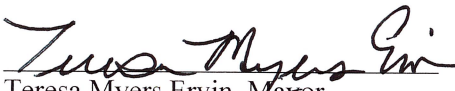
Council resumed open session at 2:45pm. Mayor Ervin said there is no action required following Executive Session.

**ADJOURN**

Without objection, the September 9, 2024 Regular meeting of City Council was adjourned at 2:46pm.

Dated this 14<sup>th</sup> day of October 2024.

  
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Casey C. Moore, Municipal Clerk

  
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Teresa Myers Ervin, Mayor