



**REGULAR MEETING OF FLORENCE CITY COUNCIL  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2025 – 1:00 P.M.  
CITY CENTER – COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
324 WEST EVANS STREET  
FLORENCE, SOUTH CAROLINA**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Mayor Lethonia Barnes, Mayor Pro Tempore George Jebaily, 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. Ronald Scott, City Attorney; Mr. Benjamin 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; Mr. Adam Swindler, Director of Public Works; Mrs. Jennifer Krawiec, Director of Human Resources; Mrs. Amanda Pope, Director of Marketing/Communications and Municipal Services; Mr. Joshua Whittington, Director of Utilities; Mrs. Victoria Nash, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Sports Tourism; Mr. Glenn Bodenheimer, Interim Finance Director and Ms. Patrice Rankin, Administrative Coordinator

**MEDIA PRESENT**

Abby Ann Ramsey with the Post and Courier, Alexis Cooper and Tonya Brown with WPDE News Channel 15 and Taylor Ford with the Florence Morning News 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**

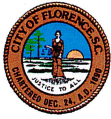
Mayor Barnes called the February 10, 2025 Regular meeting of Florence City Council to order at 1:03pm.

**INVOCATION**

Mayor Barnes gave the invocation for the meeting. The pledge of allegiance to the American Flag followed the invocation and was led by retired United States Navy Chief John Galloway.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Councilman Smith made a motion to adopt the minutes of the January 13, 2025 Regular Meeting and Councilman McCall seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously (6-0) adopted.



**APPEARANCES BEFORE COUNCIL**

**Gloria Jones**

Ms. Gloria Jones appeared before Council to speak on several concerns, including the water system and infrastructure provided by the City of Florence. Ms. Jones said that community concerns regarding the water system and infrastructure were already being addressed, so she would focus on other concerns. Mayor Barnes asked Ms. Jones to please refer to the matter that she requested to speak to Council on. Ms. Jones inquired on information regarding community program funding, landlord assistance funding, information regarding City University, and community involvement opportunities. Ms. Jones also spoke in favor of Jazz on Dargan remaining downtown.

**Thomas Mitchell**

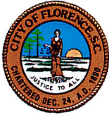
Mr. Thomas Mitchell appeared before Council to speak on concerns with small businesses located downtown. Mr. Mitchell is the owner of Jazz on Dargan and said the establishment has been in its current downtown location for about seven years. He has been in business for over 20 years and has always emphasized that he would like to be a part of revitalizing downtown Florence. Mr. Mitchell said he does not think it is fair that his lease will not be renewed once it expires this year. He is well aware that the owner of the building can do whatever they choose but said that it is only a few residents that are complaining about certain small business downtown. He spoke against the development of residential properties being built next to the downtown entertainment district. Mr. Mitchell asked Council to modify the revitalization and growth of downtown and assist with retaining small minority businesses downtown.

Mayor Barnes congratulated Mr. Mitchell for the success of Jazz of Dargan and commended him for the contributions it has brought to downtown. She said she has researched other options to help Mr. Mitchell but unfortunately, Council is unable to tell property owners what they can do with their properties. Mr. Mitchell said he understands but said that Council is able to make policies to stop certain developments.

Mr. Mitchell inquired on the business to resident ratio for downtown. Mr. Scotty Davis, City Manager, said there are a number of residential units that are slated to be built downtown and about eighty businesses located downtown. Most successful downtowns will have a large residential population. Mr. Davis commended Jazz on Dargan for its contributions to downtown and said that he recently discussed the current situation with Mr. Mitchell. He said one suggestion Mr. Mitchell offered was for the city to change its residential policy and add some soundproofing materials to the buildings downtown. Mr. Davis asked Council to consider deferring Bill No. 2025-08 so that city staff could work with Mr. Mitchell and others to review standards.

Councilman Smith asked Mr. Davis if there was any support that the city could offer to Mr. Mitchell for his business. Mr. Davis provided an overview of support that the city offers to small businesses to include: one-on-one consultation with the Downtown Development office; services relative to design support and marketing; access to Downtown Florence quarterly newsletter; eligibility for \$10,000 façade grant, \$500 sign grant, \$500 design grant, \$30,000 redevelopment grant, and/or \$300 business license credit for first year; eligibility for participation in downtown events and programs; Florence Downtown Development Corporation loan programs; et cetera. Jazz on Dargan has received several of the resources provided by the city.

Mr. Mitchell said he has not had any contact with the Downtown Development office since he was informed that his lease would not be renewed.



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Councilman Smith asked if the city would be able to support Mr. Mitchell with upfit costs if he were to find another location for his business in the downtown area and Mr. Davis responded yes, the resources would still be available if he were to move to another location.

Councilman McCall also commended Mr. Mitchell for the success of Jazz on Dargan. He encouraged Mr. Mitchell to continue to search for a new location and to meet with city staff to discuss resources the city has to offer.

Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson concurred with Councilman McCall and inquired on how to balance residents and businesses downtown. Mr. Davis said the city has a noise ordinance that goes into effect at 10pm. Council has the authority to change policies, but the current city ordinance designates that quiet hours begin at 10pm.

Mr. Davis said there are currently 132 residential units permitted downtown. Mr. Mitchell expressed his concern with the rapid residential growth downtown. Mayor Barnes said the city cannot stop a business owner from opening a certain business once a property is zoned for a certain use.

Councilman McCall said there is always contention between residents and businesses and this is an issue that other municipalities are dealing with as well. He recommended that the downtown business community start an organization to voice their concerns to the city.

Pro tem Jebaily spoke in favor of residents being located downtown. Councilman Smith thanked Mr. Mitchell for coming to Council with a proposed solution. Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson concurred with Councilman Smith and spoke in favor of small businesses being located downtown.

**ORDINANCES IN POSITION**

**Bill No. 2024-22 – Second Reading**

**An Ordinance to amend Article I Chapter 3 of the City of Florence Code of Ordinances to add provisions related to prohibiting ownership or keeping of livestock and wild animals and other matters related thereto.**

Mayor Barnes said without objection, this item will be deferred. Without objection, this item will be deferred.

**Bill No. 2025-01 – Second Reading**

**An Ordinance to annex and zone IL the property located at 1228 North Cashua Drive, identified as Florence County Tax Map Number 00122-01-040.**

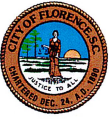
Councilman Braddock made a motion to adopt Bill No. 2025-01 on second reading and Pro tem Jebaily seconded the motion.

Council voted unanimously (6-0) in favor of the motion. Bill No. 2025-01 was adopted.

**Bill No. 2025-02 - Second Reading**

**An Ordinance to rezone from CG to IL a portion of Florence County Tax Map Number 00147-01-023.**

Councilman Smith made a motion to adopt Bill No. 2025-02 on second reading and Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson seconded the motion.



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Council voted unanimously (6-0) in favor of the motion. Bill No. 2025-02 was adopted.

**Bill No. 2025-03 - Second Reading**

**An Ordinance to amend Chapter 4 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Florence entitled “Buildings, Construction and Related Activities”, to establish Article XV “Vacant and Abandoned Residential, Commercial and Industrial Building Registration.**

Mayor Barnes this item will be deferred unless there is objection. There being no objection, this item was deferred.

**Bill No. 2025-04 - Second Reading**

**An Ordinance finding certain dwellings exist that are unfit for human habitation due to dilapidation; defects increasing the hazards of fire, accidents, or other calamities; lack of ventilation, light, or sanitary facilities; or other conditions rendering such dwellings unsafe, unsanitary, or dangerous, and other matters relating thereto including, without limitation, the enforcement of proceedings pertaining dwellings deemed unfit.**

Councilman McCall made a motion to adopt Bill No. 2025-04 on second reading and Pro tem Jebaily seconded the motion.

Council voted unanimously (6-0) in favor of the motion. Bill No. 2025-04 was adopted.

**INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES**

**Bill No. 2025-05 - First Reading**

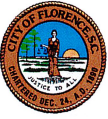
**An Ordinance to annex and zone NC-15 the properties located at 924, 928, and 932 Barclay Drive, identified as Florence County Tax Map Numbers 07212-01-043, 07212- 01-037, and 07212-01-042.**

Councilman McCall made a motion to pass Bill No. 2025-05 on first reading and Pro tem Jebaily seconded the motion.

Mr. Jerry Dudley, Planning Director, reported this request involves three properties located in the rear of Vintage Place subdivision. The properties receive continuity to be eligible for annexation at the rear of the property through the land proposed for the Magnolia Farms subdivision. The request is for Neighborhood Conservation-15 which is in agreement with the surrounding properties. In staff's review, there are road degradation and stormwater issues internal to the Vintage Place subdivision. Supply city services to the three properties would not be efficient and would cause additional road degradation. During the public hearing, a number of residents expressed their concerns with the requests and referenced a 2016 failed attempt to annex Vintage Place subdivision. City staff and Planning Commission does not recommend annexation and zoning.

Pro tem Jebaily spoke against annexing and zoning the properties. He inquired on the number of homes in the subdivision and was informed that there are approximately 200 homes in the Vintage Place subdivision. He suggested city staff meet with the neighborhood to see if the subdivision as a whole is interested in annexing into the city.

Councilman Braddock inquired on if there would be any connectivity between Vintage Place subdivision and the proposed Magnolia Farms subdivision. Mr. Dudley responded no. Councilman Braddock asked for clarification on if the city has three years to provide services once a property has been annexed into the city. Mr. Dudley responded yes. Councilman Braddock asked for clarification on if Council deferred



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or denied the request if the applicant would have to wait one year to apply again. Mr. Dudley said this only applies to a zoning change request.

Council voted unanimously (6-0) against the motion. Bill No. 2025-05 failed.

**Bill No. 2025-06 - First Reading**

**An ordinance to annex and zone CG the property located at Gilbert Drive and Freedom Boulevard, identified as Florence County Tax Map Number 00178-01-244.**

Pro tem Jebaily made a motion to pass Bill No. 2025-06 on first reading and Councilman Smith seconded the motion.

Mr. Jerry Dudley, Planning Director, reported this property is adjacent to Freedom Estates on Freedom Boulevard. Freedom estates was annexed as a combination of Residential and Commercial General zoning. The neighborhood has already been constructed and the parcel zoned Commercial General is still vacant. The owner has since acquired a small parcel adjacent to the parcel zoned Commercial General and wish to connect the two. City water service is available to this parcel but sewer service is not and would need to be extended, unless the two parcels are connected. Planning Commission voted unanimously (7-0) to recommend the zoning request.

Councilman McCall inquired on whether the initial parcel was already zoned Commercial General. Mr. Dudley said yes. Councilman McCall asked if the Residential General portion was rezoned or annexed in this way. Mr. Dudley said the property was annexed in with the existing zoning use. Councilman McCall asked what year the property was annexed into the city. Mr. Dudley said it was annexed into the city in 2020 and buffering will be required between commercial and residential zoning districts.

Council voted unanimously (6-0) in favor of the motion. Bill No. 2025-06 was passed on first reading.

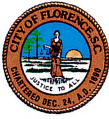
**Bill No. 2025-07 - First Reading**

**An ordinance to annex and zone RG-3 the properties located at 1001 Tunbridge Place and 3740 West Lake Drive, identified as Florence County Tax Map Numbers 00751-01-279 & 00751-01-282.**

Councilman McCall made a motion to pass Bill No. 2025-07 on first reading and Councilman Braddock seconded the motion.

Mr. Jerry Dudley, Planning Director, said these two parcels are located in the Lake Oakdale area. The applicant initially went to the county to develop these parcels; however, under the county's zoning and setbacks, the properties were considered undevelopable. There are large homes located on smaller parcels in this area and the applicant's plan is to develop similar dwellings on the lots. Under the city's lot averaging rules in the Unified Development Code, it will allow development of the parcels in a similar nature to that of the neighborhood. The proposed zoning is Residential General-2 and city water and sewer are available to both parcels. Planning Commission voted unanimously (7-0) to recommend the zoning request.

Pro tem Jebaily referenced the red outlined parcels on the location map and inquired if this was the size of the parcels. Mr. Dudley responded yes. Pro tem Jebaily inquired on the two front lots and Mr. Dudley said those are two separate lots. There are four lots total and only two are requesting annexation at this time. Pro tem Jebaily asked if it's anticipated for the other two lots to request annexation in the future. Mr. Dudley said the same individual does own one of the additional lots. However, the lots are engulfed in the flood plain and would be undevelopable in the city due to being in a flood way. Pro tem Jebaily



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inquired on the zoning designation for the properties located across the street. Mr. Dudley said the zoning designation is Residential General- 2.

Councilman McCall inquired on whether the property owners are aware that the parcels are located in a flood zone. Mr. Dudley said the owners are aware; however, the two parcels proposed for annexation are located outside of the flood zone. Councilman McCall expressed his concern with the properties being developed and homeowners not being aware that the properties are in a flood zone. Mr. Dudley said a developer would have to follow any storm water regulations and flood plain development regulations. Mr. Dudley reiterated that the two properties proposed for annexation are not located in a flood zone.

Councilman Smith referenced the applicant's petition for annexation and noted that the applicant said he wants to develop three single family residences. Mr. Dudley said that is an error on the applicant's behalf and that the city would only allow two residences under this zoning designation.

Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson inquired on how far the two parcels are from the flood plain. Mr. Dudley said the lots adjacent to the two parcels are in the flood plain but the two proposed are further up the bank. She concurred with Councilman McCall's concerns with the homeowners not being aware that they are located in a flood plain.

Mr. Scotty Davis, City Manager, asked Mr. Dudley to speak on the difference between flood ways and flood plains, as well as pre-development and post-development drainage. Mr. Dudley said there are different designations within a Flood Hazard Area: the floodway, which is the most restrictive, is the area that is likely to 100% flood and is an undevelopable area; the fringe area or 100-year flood plain has a likely hood of flooding once every 100 years and is developable as long as it meets the requirements of flood plain development; and the 500-year flood plan area has a likely hood of flooding once every 500 years and this area has no Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) regulation or local regulation. In reference to stormwater, the city requires that lots are designed so they do not push water onto neighboring properties and must have a plan to get the water to a storm drain or drainage channel. Councilman McCall asked if there is a staff recommendation for this request. Mr. Dudley said that staff recommends the annexation and zoning request.

Council voted unanimously (6-0) in favor of the motion. Bill No. 2025-07 was passed on first reading.

**Bill No. 2025-08 - First Reading**

**An Ordinance to adopt the updated Downtown Design Standards for the City of Florence.**

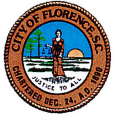
Mayor Barnes said without objection, this item will be deferred. Without objection, this item will be deferred.

**Bill No. 2025-09 - First Reading**

**An Ordinance to amend the City of Florence Unified Development Ordinance relating to the flood hazard district to maintain compliance with the current Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) regulations and adopt the revised Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM).**

Pro tem Jebaily made a motion to pass Bill No. 2025-09 on first reading and Councilman McCall seconded the motion.

Mr. Jerry Dudley, Planning Director, said that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) reevaluates the flood plain maps within a given jurisdiction every ten years. The Lower Pee Dee Watershed was done in the early 2020s and released the preliminary maps in 2022. The maps then go



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through the public process which include public workshops and an appeals period which went through 2023. City staff attended workshops and discussed the maps with the public. There are very minor map changes within the City of Florence. As part of this process, the city is required to update the new maps to maintain eligibility for city residents to participate in the flood insurance program. Mr. Dudley reviewed the required amendments to the Unified Development Ordinance to include Section 4-12.5.1 Riparian Buffer Requirements B. Boundaries and Specifications; Section 4- 12.6.1 Adoption of Flood Hazard Area Maps; Section 4-12.6.3 Provisions for Flood Hazard Reduction, I. General Standards; and Division 7-25 .2 Definitions (N).

Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson inquired on the location of the changes on the new maps. Mr. Dudley said the changes are located outside city limits, along Alligator Road and Black Creek. There were no changes within the city limits.

Council voted unanimously (6-0) in favor of the motion. Bill No. 2025-09 was passed on first reading.

**Bill No. 2025-10 - First Reading**

**An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Florence, South Carolina, imposing a temporary moratorium on final approval of development plans and other approvals relating to properties that contain cemeteries for the purpose of enabling consideration by city council of recommendations relating to amendments to development regulations of the City regarding cemeteries, and further invoking the pending ordinance doctrine with respect to such temporary moratorium in anticipation of such amendments.**

Mayor Barnes this item will be discussed in Executive Session unless there is objection. Without objection, this item will be discussed in Executive Session.

**INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS**

**Resolution No. 2025-04**

**A Resolution to proclaim February 23 - March 1, 2025 as Montessori Education Week in the City of Florence.**

Pro tem Jebaily made a motion to pass Resolution No. 2025-04 and Councilman McCall seconded the motion.

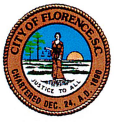
Mayor Barnes presented the Resolution to Ms. Elizabeth Kahn, Director of The Montessori School of Florence. Ms. Kahn thanked Council for the recognition.

Council voted unanimously (6-0) in favor of the motion. Resolution No. 2025-04 was passed.

**Resolution No. 2025-05**

**A Resolution to adopt the Municipal Association of South Carolina 2025 Advocacy Initiatives.**

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



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**Resolution No. 2025-06**

**A Resolution authorizing the City Manager of the City of Florence to execute an agreement between the City of Florence and the South Carolina Office of Resiliency.**

Councilman McCall made a motion to pass Resolution No. 2025-06 and Councilman Smith seconded the motion.

Mr. Clint Moore, Assistant City Manager of Development, said this is an amendment to the city's contract with the South Carolina Office of Resiliency. This contract is in reference to the Cedar Street and McQueen Street stormwater project, which is currently under construction. The current resolution will increase the award amount for North McQueen by \$1,717,456.30, for a total award amount of \$4,402,790.30 and will increase the award amount for West Cedar Street by \$331,656.23, for a total award amount of \$1,695, 133.23.

Pro tem Jebaily inquired on the total cost of the project and Mr. Moore said the total cost is over \$5 million. Pro tem Jebaily asked if there is already a contractor for the project and Mr. Moore responded yes.

Council voted unanimously (6-0) in favor of the motion. Resolution No. 2025-06 was passed.

**Resolution No. 2025-07**

**A Resolution approving Downtown Redevelopment Grants for Third Quarter, Fiscal Year 2025.**

Mayor Barnes said this item will be discussed in Executive Session unless there is objection. Without objection, this item will be discussed in Executive Session.

**REPORT TO COUNCIL**

**Appointments to Boards and Commissions**

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

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

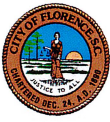
Mr. Scotty Davis, City Manager, informed Council that city staff will be conducting smoke testing in several areas off Oakland Avenue, beginning the week of February 24th. Smoke will be placed in the city's sewer system to determine if there are any leaks in the system. City staff will be notifying the public about the smoke testing and the Fire Department will be on standby in the area as well.

Councilman Braddock asked if there are preventative measures that will prevent the smoke from going into residential homes. Mr. Davis said the smoke will not enter any residential homes and it will remain in the city's main line.

Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson inquired on when smoke testing will occur in the West Florence area. Mr. Davis said the Oakland Avenue area will be completed first and then smoke testing will occur throughout the city.

Pro tem Jebaily asked for clarification on the process of repairing any leaks that are identified. Mr. Davis said once leaks are identified, immediate point repairs can be made. In other areas, a line may need to be





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replaced. City staff and the city's engineering team will work together to determine the best methods for repairs.

Councilman Smith inquired on how often the city conducts smoke testing and when the last test was done. Mr. Davis said the city does smoke testing very infrequently and the last smoke test was done about eighteen years ago. Moving forward, smoke testing will be completed on an as needed basis. Councilman Smith asked if this is the most efficient way for the city to identify leaks and Mr. Davis responded yes.

Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson asked if there is a requirement for the city to conduct smoke testing. Mr. Davis responded there are no requirements for smoke testing. The city is being proactive and trying to address issues with leaks.

Mr. Davis said City University will start March 17th and end on April 28th. Applications for City University opens today and will run through March 10th. The session is limited to twenty-five participants.

Mr. Davis said the city has experienced nine fires within ten days. He commended the Florence Fire Department for addressing the fires and also acknowledged that the Fire Department recently saved the life of a four-year-old during one of the fires.

Mr. Davis announced that the Public Works Department's Bradford Pear Tree Bounty Program will start on March 1st. 100 trees will be given away and the city has partnered with Duke Energy for additional giveaway throughout the year.

Pro tem Jebaily spoke in favor of the Bradford Pear Tree Bounty Program.

### **MAYORAL REPORT**

Mayor Barnes spoke of the success of the Fireside Chat events in West Florence and North Florence. She thanked Mr. Davis and city staff for their support with Fireside Chats with the Mayor. The schedule for the Fireside Chat events is as follows: February 18<sup>th</sup> at 6pm at Levy Adult Center; February 21<sup>st</sup> at 11am at the Leatherman Senior Center; and February 24<sup>th</sup> at 6pm at the Florence Family YMCA. Additional Fireside Chats will be announced later.

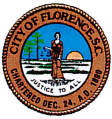
### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

Pro tem Jebaily said the committee received a presentation from Mr. Don Strickland regarding updates on Pee Dee Regional Transportation Authority (PDRTA).

#### **Community Development Committee, Chaired by Mayor Barnes**

Mayor Barnes said the committee discussed the Fireside Chat events and the 5 Point Crime Plan. The committee will be traveling to Augusta, Georgia to learn about their neighborhood revitalization efforts and see how the efforts can be implemented in the City of Florence.



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

Councilman McCall said the committee discussed the wage classification and minimum job requirements for city positions. The committee reviewed the monthly financial reports for December 2024. The city should receive the final audit report any day now.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mayor Barnes said Council will be entering into Executive Session to receive legal advice regarding a moratorium, a discussion regarding a proposed Economic Development Project, a discussion regarding appointments to Boards and Commissions, a discussion regarding a contractual matter regarding property located near the City of Florence Sports Complex, a discussion regarding a contractual matter regarding Timrod Park, to receive an updated regarding Project Urban Square, and to receive legal advice regarding South Carolina Senate Bill 244: Tort Reform.

Councilman McCall made a motion to enter into Executive Session and Councilman Smith seconded the motion. Council voted unanimously (6-0) to enter into Executive Session at 2:52pm.

Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson made a motion to resume open session and Councilman Braddock seconded the motion. The motion carried. Council resumed open session at 4:11pm and took action on the following items:

**Bill No. 2025-10 - First Reading**

**An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Florence, South Carolina, imposing a temporary moratorium on final approval of development plans and other approvals relating to properties that contain cemeteries for the purpose of enabling consideration by city council of recommendations relating to amendments to development regulations of the City regarding cemeteries, and further invoking the pending ordinance doctrine with respect to such temporary moratorium in anticipation of such amendments**

Councilman Braddock made a motion to pass the Bill No. 2025-10 on first reading and Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson seconded the motion.

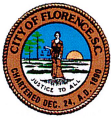
Mr. Ben Zeigler, City Attorney, said city staff is working to develop regulations that will protect burials in developments as the city grows. There are some pending developments that have agreed to comply with the regulations that are being considered. The City Manager will be given the authority to exempt those developments from the moratorium. It's anticipated that the moratorium will last until May when the City can take action to amend its development regulations.

Council voted unanimously (6-0) in favor of the motion. Bill No. 2025-10 was passed on first reading.

**Resolution No. 2025-05**

**A Resolution to adopt the Municipal Association of South Carolina 2025 Advocacy Initiatives.**

Resolution No. 2025-05 failed due to a lack of a motion.



**Resolution No. 2025-07**

**A Resolution approving Downtown Redevelopment Grants for Third Quarter, Fiscal Year 2025.**

Pro tem Jebaily made a motion to pass Resolution No. 2025-07 and Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson seconded the motion.

Council voted unanimously (6-0) in favor of the motion. Resolution No. 2025-07 was passed.

Mr. Zeigler introduced an Ordinance for first reading regarding 0.319 acres of property located near the Florence Sports Complex. Mr. Zeigler clarified that this item is coming out of Executive Session and was included on the agenda as an Executive Session item, therefore it's properly included on the action agenda. The Ordinance is entitled:

**An Ordinance authorizing the conveyance to Floyd Family Properties, LLC of approximately 0.319 acres more or less incident to the donation of real property by Floyd Family Properties of land on which has been constructed the City of Florence Sports Complex and other matters relating thereto.**

Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson made a motion to pass the Bill on first reading and Councilman Smith seconded the motion.

Mr. Ben Zeigler, City Attorney, this parcel is located near the Florence Sports Complex. This ordinance is to clean up a transaction that was done almost ten years ago involving property that was donated to create the Florence Sports Complex. It was discussed with the parties at the time that when the development and road were complete any unused property would be conveyed back to the donor, Floyd Family Properties.

Council voted unanimously (6-0) in favor of the motion. This Bill was passed on first reading.

**Appointments to Boards and Commissions**

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

**Civic Center Commission**

Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson deferred her nomination to the Board.

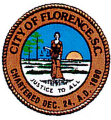
**Design Review Board**

Councilman McCall deferred his nomination to the Board.

**Construction & Maintenance Board of Adjustments and Appeals**

Mayor Barnes made a motion to appoint Chris Weatherford to the Construction & Maintenance Board of Adjustments and Appeals in the role of Electrical Contractor and the motion carried unanimously. Mr. Weatherford was appointed to the Construction & Maintenance Board of Adjustments and Appeals for a term to begin immediately and expire on June 30, 2027.

Mayor Barnes made a motion to appoint Demetrius Gooden in the role of Layperson to the Construction & Maintenance Board of Adjustments and Appeals and the motion carried unanimously. Mr. Gooden was



**FLORENCE CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING – FEBRUARY 10, 2025**

appointed to the Construction & Maintenance Board of Adjustments and Appeals for a term to begin immediately and expire on June 30, 2025.

**Parks and Beautification Commission**

Pro tem Jebaily deferred his nomination to the Board.

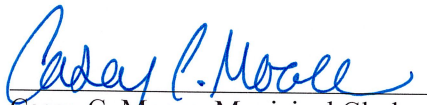
**Veterans Park Committee**

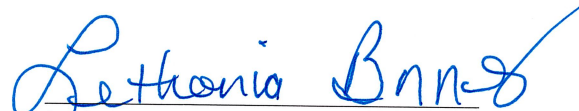
Mayor Barnes deferred her nomination to the Board.

**ADJOURN**

Without objection, the February 10, 2025 Regular meeting of City Council was adjourned at 4:19pm.

Dated this 10<sup>th</sup> day of March 2025.

  
Casey C. Moore, Municipal Clerk

  
Lethonia Barnes, Mayor