

REGULAR MEETING OF THE FLORENCE COUNTY COUNCIL, THURSDAY, MAY 15, 2008, 9:00 A.M., COUNCIL CHAMBERS, ROOM 803, CITY-COUNTY COMPLEX, 180 N. IRBY ST., FLORENCE, SOUTH CAROLINA

PRESENT:

K. G. "Rusty" Smith, Jr., Chairman
Waymon Mumford, Vice-Chairman
H. Morris Anderson, Secretary-Chaplain
Mitchell Kirby, Council Member
Russell W. Culberson, Council Member
Johnnie D. Rodgers, Jr., Council Member
J. Ken Ard, Council Member
Alphonso Bradley, Council Member
James T. Schofield, Council Member
Richard A. Starks, County Administrator
James C. Rushton, III, County Attorney
Connie Y. Haselden, Clerk to Council

ALSO PRESENT:

Kevin V. Yokim, Finance Director
William H. Hoge, Planning & Building Department Director
Sheriff Kenney Boone
Barbara Coker, Sheriff's Office
Todd Floyd, Environmental Services Officer
Ray McBride, Library Director
Gene Wilds, Senior Center Director
Chuck Tomlinson, Morning News Staff Writer
Mackenzie Taylor, TV13 News Reporter

A notice of the regular meeting of the Florence County Council appeared in the May 14, 2008 edition of the **MORNING NEWS**. Copies of the agenda were faxed to members of the media and posted in the lobby of the City-County Complex and on the County's website (HYPERLINK "http://www.florenceco.org" www.florenceco.org).

Chairman Smith called the meeting to order. Secretary-Chaplain Anderson gave the invocation and Vice-Chairman Mumford led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag. Chairman Smith welcomed everyone attending the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Councilman Anderson made a motion Council approve the minutes of the May 1, 2008 regular meeting of County Council. Councilman Kirby seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

The Clerk published the titles and the Chairman opened public hearings for the following Ordinances:

ORDINANCE NO. 30-2007/08

An Ordinance To Repeal The Appendices Of The 2003 International Building Code, The 2003 International Plumbing Code, The 2003 International Mechanical Code, The 2003 International Fire Code, The 2003 International Energy Conservation Code, The 2002 National Electrical Code, The 2003 International Residential Code, And The 2003 International Fuel Gas Code And To Adopt Chapter I – Administration Of The 2006 International Building Code Of Chapter 7 – Article II, Division 1 Of The Code Of Ordinances Of Florence County.

ORDINANCE NO. 31-2007/08

An Ordinance Authorizing The Execution And Delivery Of A Fee In Lieu Of Tax Agreement By And Between Florence County, South Carolina, And Project Gateway, With Respect To Certain Economic Development Property, Whereby Such Property Will Be Subject To Certain Payments In Lieu Of Taxes And Other Matters Related Thereto.

ORDINANCE NO. 32-2007/08

An Ordinance To Develop A Jointly Owned And Operated Industrial/Business Park In Conjunction With Williamsburg County, Such Industrial/Business Park To Be Geographically Located In Florence County And Established Pursuant To Section 4-1-170 Of The Code Of Laws Of South Carolina 1976, As Amended; To Provide For A Written Agreement With Williamsburg County To Provide For The Expenses Of The Park, The Percentage Of Revenue Application, And The Distribution Of Fees In Lieu Of Ad Valorem Taxation; And Other Matters Related Thereto.

ORDINANCE NO. 01-2008/09

An Ordinance To Provide For The Levy Of Taxes In Florence County For The Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2008 And Ending June 30, 2009; To Provide For The Appropriation Thereof; To Provide For Revenues For The Payment Thereof; To Establish And Collect A Local Hospitality Tax In Florence County; And To Provide For Other Matters Related Thereto.

APPEARANCES:

MURRAY JORDAN

Mr. Jordan appeared before Council to discuss matters relating to the reduction of the \$30.00 Road Maintenance Fee to \$15.00.

JIM LYLES ON BEHALF OF THE J. W. PARKER FAMILY

Mr. Lyles, on behalf of the J. W. Parker Family, requested to appear before Council for the purpose of presenting for approval a proposed modification to one of the medians planned for the Pine Needles Road Project. Mr. Lyles was unable to attend and Chairman Smith recognized Mr. Wilbur Brown as a representative for the family, who requested Mr. Porter Stewart as legal counsel for the family, be allowed to present information to Council.

SHARON M. & JERRY D. TAYLOR, SR.

Sharon M. & Jerry D. Taylor Sr. appeared before Council concerning map amendment #2008-28 to change the zoning district designation for property located at 3465 James Turner Road, Effingham shown on Florence County Tax Map No. 127, Block 1, Parcel 273 from R-1, Single Family Residential District to R-3, Single Family Residential District.

SOUTHSIDE MIDDLE SCHOOL 7TH GRADE WORLD HISTORY CLASS

Brian S. Harvey, Gifted and Talented Education, requested that the Southside Middle School 7th Grade World History Class appear before Council to discuss Breed Specific Legislation (BSL). Chairman Smith asked the group

to come forward, but stated for the record that the Ordinance before Council at this point does not contain Breed Specific Legislation. Mr. Harvey stated he understood there was currently no BSL in place, however the group wanted to block any potential for that type of legislation.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

JUSTICE & PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Committee Chairman Mumford stated the Committee on Justice & Public Safety met earlier that morning and that the Committee was in the process of drafting an ordinance that would place better control on litter enforcement.

EDUCATION, RECREATION, HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE

Committee Chairman Anderson requested County Administrator Richard Starks provide an update on the new animal facility. Mr. Starks informed those present that the contractual work was complete and a date would be set very shortly for the groundbreaking ceremony.

RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NO. 27-2007/08

The Clerk published the title of Resolution No. 27-2007/08: A Resolution Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of a Memorandum of Understanding By and Among Project Gateway, Florence County, and Other Signatories Thereto Which Outlines Certain Economic Incentives That Will Be Made Available to Project Gateway Under Certain Situations; and Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of an Inducement and Millage Rate Agreement By and Between Project Gateway and Florence County. Councilman Mumford made a motion Council approve the Resolution. Councilman Culberson seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously. Chairman Smith stated Florence County was once again bringing another flagship industry into the County to further enhance economic growth.

ORDINANCES IN POSITION:

ORDINANCE NO. 20-2007/08 – THIRD READING

The Chairman published the title of Ordinance No. 20-2007/08: An Ordinance Amending Florence County Code Chapter 6 – Animals And Fowl, In Its Entirety To Clarify Animal Care And Control Regulations. Councilman Anderson made a motion Council approve third reading of the Ordinance. Councilman Mumford seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

ORDINANCE NO. 28-2007/08 – THIRD READING

The Chairman published the title of Ordinance No. 28-2007/08: An Ordinance To Amend Ordinance No. 31-2006/07 To Provide For Compensation Of Members Of The Board Of Fire Control For A Rural Volunteer Fire District And Other Matters Relating Thereto. Councilman Rodgers made a motion Council approve third reading of the Ordinance. Councilman Culberson seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously. Chairman Smith commended the local volunteers for the amazing impact they have had on the County.

ORDINANCE NO. 29-2007/08 – THIRD READING

The Chairman published the title of Ordinance No. 29-2007/08: An Ordinance To Establish The Florence County Cultural Commission; Provide For The Composition And Appointment Of The Commission; Establish The Effective Date For Such Appointments; And Other Matters Relating Thereto. Councilman Anderson made a motion Council approve third reading of the Ordinance. Councilman Mumford seconded the motion, which was approved

unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

The following individual spoke with regard to Ordinance No. 30-2007/08:

Billy Fowler

There were no signatures on the sign-in sheets for Ordinance No. 31-2007/08 or Ordinance No. 32-2007/08.

The following individuals spoke with regard to Ordinance No. 01-2008/09:

Tom Marschel, Secretary, Pee Dee Visions Foundation

Billy Fowler, Citizen

Townsend Holt, Chairman, Florence Museum Board of Trustees

Lovith Anderson, Jr., Mayor of the City of Lake City

Andrew R. Stout, Director of the Florence Museum, former Educator

Murray Jordan, Citizen

(Councilman Kirby left the room at 9:56 a.m.)

There being no additional signatures on the sign-in sheets, the Chairman closed the public hearings.

ORDINANCE NO. 30-2007/08 – SECOND READING

The Clerk published the title of Ordinance No. 30-2007/08: An Ordinance To Repeal The Appendices Of The 2003 International Building Code, The 2003 International Plumbing Code, The 2003 International Mechanical Code, The 2003 International Fire Code, The 2003 International Energy Conservation Code, The 2002 National Electrical Code, The 2003 International Residential Code, And The 2003 International Fuel Gas Code And To Adopt Chapter I – Administration Of The 2006 International Building Code Of Chapter 7 – Article II, Division 1 Of The Code Of Ordinances Of Florence County. Councilman Mumford made a motion Council approve second reading of the Ordinance. Councilman Anderson seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously. (Councilman Kirby was absent for the vote.)

ORDINANCE NO. 31-2007/08 – SECOND READING

The Clerk published the title of Ordinance No. 31-2007/08: An Ordinance Authorizing The Execution And Delivery Of A Fee In Lieu Of Tax Agreement By And Between Florence County, South Carolina, And Project Gateway, With Respect To Certain Economic Development Property, Whereby Such Property Will Be Subject To Certain Payments In Lieu Of Taxes And Other Matters Related Thereto. Councilman Mumford made a motion Council approve second reading of the Ordinance. Councilman Culberson seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously. (Councilman Kirby was absent for the vote.)

ORDINANCE NO. 32-2007/08 – SECOND READING

The Clerk published the title of Ordinance No. 32-2007/08: An Ordinance To Amend The Agreement For Development Of A Multi-County Industrial And Business Park By And Between Florence County And

Williamsburg County, South Carolina, Providing For The Development Of A Jointly Owned And Operated Industrial/Business Park So As To Include Additional Property In Florence County As Part Of The Joint County Industrial Park, And Other Matters Relating Thereto. Councilman Culberson made a motion Council approve second reading of the Ordinance. Councilman Rodgers seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously. (Councilman Kirby was absent for the vote.)

ORDINANCE NO. 01-2008/09 – SECOND READING

The Clerk published the title of Ordinance No. 01-2008/09: An Ordinance To Provide For The Levy Of Taxes In Florence County For The Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2008 And Ending June 30, 2009; To Provide For The Appropriation Thereof; To Provide For Revenues For The Payment Thereof; To Establish And Collect A Local Hospitality Tax In Florence County; And To Provide For Other Matters Related Thereto. Councilman Schofield made a motion Council approve second reading of the Ordinance. Councilman Ard seconded the motion.

(Councilman Anderson left the room at 10:09 a.m. and returned at 10:12 a.m.)

Councilman Schofield made the following comments: “I would like to correct the record reading from my verbatim transcript the words were “you seem to have this perverted logic;” logic being the operative word, not nonsense. What I said was that in my opinion that because 14% of the road fee is being allocated by district for rocking and repair that somehow the Citizens in Action group thinks that we believe that that money belongs to each Councilman.

I would refer to their April 10th public statement where it says ‘if these discretionary funds are being held for a specific usage the people have a right to know what it is however this is not the case.’ Well we know what the specific usage is; it is for road maintenance. ‘The discretionary RSM funds are rolled over year after year without a specific plan. The councilmen seem to have forgotten that this money belongs to the people and not to them.’ I can assure you that there isn’t a member of this Council that doesn’t clearly understand whose money it is and it is the public’s money, but the State of South Carolina charges this Council with the responsibility to decide where the money is spent. This constant use of the word ‘discretionary funds’ is used to inflame the public. There is nothing discretionary other than our mandated obligation to decide where the money is spent and how the budget is to be administered. That is the most solemn duty that we have up here. I know that some of you pride yourself as being very conservative and protective of our constitutional form of government and I’m glad that this group is here today because you will get a lesson in constitutional democracy. And I appreciate your suggestions on animal control because that comes to us ahead of the fact before we are considering the legislation; that’s the way I like to get it, not after the fact. We have a republic not a democracy. We don’t govern by referendum; it is a representative democracy. We listened to the words of Thomas Jefferson today. Well listen to the words of Mr. Franklin. When asked what kind of government do we have he replied, ‘a republic if you can keep it.’ Generations have known that you can’t run a government and allow taxes, fees, and budgets to be subject to the indiscriminant will of constant referendums. One of the checks and balances put in place was to require that if the public wants to significantly raise or lower its taxes you have to elect people to do it in an orderly fashion. It takes several cycles of election to make that kind of change. Make no mistake; it can be done. I’m one of them that can show you that its been done; it was done to me. However, the change will occur over time and it will be a very deliberative process with all the consequences being given adequate time for the citizens to understand. It was said that some of us change our minds once we get up here. I spoke to the Citizens in Action group before I was ever elected and while I outlined some problems I had with road funds, which I still have but I’m working with members of this Council to change some ways we do it, I clearly expounded my view that allocating my money by district was extremely proper and that it should be done because it allows each district to have some funds to do a project and in fact I have a project coming up at the end of this meeting that without these funds a traffic signal at Bellevue and Second Loop would not be installed in this community. You tell us ‘just have the referendum anyway’ even thought that would violate the intent of State Law. I don’t understand that; you tell us we have put you, I have heard this comment, we put you in a bad way taking you to court which will cost your group money to respond. What should we have done, just ignore you and tell you that we think the petitions presented are invalid and then let you take us to court? That would cost you more. You know

sometimes criticism is good but constant destructive criticism is not appropriate; constructive criticism is. You know there is a new day as I see it up here. The free ride of constant criticism laced with half-truths and misrepresentations is over. I for one will not let it go unchallenged. I've been long known for speaking my mind and I always will. If you have constructive criticism, I welcome it. If you find an action to be inappropriate, you put it in writing and bring it up here and see if I won't respond to it. I look at the situation out there that we face at this County Council and we were told that these are fees and they ought to be taxes and we ought to make it millage so we can deduct them on our income taxes. And then I get my water bill the other day from the City, and Billy's still here, I'm sorry for picking on the City, but, I got a garbage fee and a roll-cart fee and a landfill fee and a storm water fee, all of which is \$12.63 a month; \$151 a year. Have I ever seen anybody go to the City and say they ought to change that into millage? No. Have I seen any of you go to the City and question why as County residents we pay for a sewer treatment plant with our water rates and yet have no chance of ever receiving sewer services? Have I seen you complain about a tap fee that has tripled and beyond the ability of working citizens to pay when the well runs dry and are forced to hook on? No, I haven't seen any of that. You tackle this big budget that we are working with right now. You make suggestions where to cut and I will listen, but be specific. Don't tell me in one breath that you support road maintenance and in the other cut half of the funds out of it that is being spent for road maintenance. Don't tell me that you want us to be representative of the public and then tell me that you want us to move who decides what roads are going to be paved to the public works director with no input at all from the public. That doesn't work. You want to have a dialogue with this government I welcome it any time, any place, any where like I always have. Running government is serious business and deserves serious attention by those in and out of government. I would comment, you know I have a petition right here, it's from quite a few residents that don't even live in my district. Country Lane, Timmonsville and they want their road to be paved. We don't have enough money to pave their road. We have very little money as the scheme of things goes to do paving with. Mr. Chairman, that ends my comments on the comments that were made today about the road fee. I would like to make just a few comments on the Museum and the Hospitality Tax. In many counties that have it, Beaufort, that have the hospitality tax, Beaufort, Colleton, Georgetown, Greenville, Greenwood, Horry, Jasper, Richland, Spartanburg, and Sumter close to us and I won't even read the list of cities that have it. City of Florence put it in; you're already paying it; any restaurant you go to, Bazen's, any restaurant in the City of Florence you go to you are paying the hospitality tax and you won't pay one dime more whether we put this thing in or not, but what will happen is as this City annexes, if we don't put it in the City of Florence will have control of the whole 2%. If this County Council puts it in any further annexations to this City 1% of those funds will be at the County Council's level to decide not at the City Council's level. I for one think the City put it in ahead of us just so they would get the whole 2%. Why should we do a museum? Why will I support a 2% hospitality tax on prepared food and beverage in Florence County in the unincorporated areas? Because big dreams are realized with small steps and this is an opportunity of a lifetime. We have a Performing Arts Center being built. The Florence Little Theater is soon to open. The Florence County Library. We have a chance to put a museum with right at \$4 million of State funding and probably another \$8 million of match funding to build a world-class museum in Florence, South Carolina. And what will it cost the citizens of Florence County? It will cost them two cents on the dollar when they go out to eat, when they do it in the unincorporated areas of this County. I would bet you since the local option sales tax about 30% of those pennies come from people that don't live in Florence County. I would be willing to bet you that the percentage of where the hospitality tax money, which will be about a million a year, a percentage of that, would be even higher. Most of its going to come off that interstate from people that don't live here. The Florence County Museum would allow us to collect, preserve, and exhibit items which reflect the rich history of Florence County and the Pee Dee. It will provide passive and formal educational opportunities for its citizens with programs specifically designed to educate children from our region to appreciate, preserve and protect our rich cultural and ethnic history. Spartanburg just built a new museum and cultural center; they got \$4 million from the State of South Carolina also. They had four families donate \$16 million from four families. They built a \$36 million museum. The Florence County Museum is willing to go in with the County to get this done because they know what an opportunity it is. Make no mistake, Florence County is in competition with other counties in this State in attracting new industry and business creating jobs and tax base. In addition tourism is a major factor with the Performing Arts Center and the Little Theater. We want people to stay here, not just drive

through here and spend the night. We should invest in our future and our future generations. There is a great educational benefit for our children with a facility built to proper standards we will be able to get exhibits from the Smithsonian, such as the works of William H. Johnson, a Florence native that many of the children in Florence County would never have the opportunity to see. We do not have a facility that the Smithsonian would loan those exhibits to us. We have an opportunity to tie a Museum in the City of Florence with the Bean Museum in Lake City and other important historical sites in our County such as Red Doe Plantation, the Civil War Stockade, and the National Cemetery. The Pee Dee, just for your information, if you think the Pee Dee is not that historic, the Pee Dee has yielded more dinosaur fossils than anywhere else in the whole State of South Carolina. Our area is rich in history from Francis Marion to the gun boat Pee Dee and Sherman's march to the edge of this City, to World War II and the part our railroad center played during the War. Properly developed we can change Florence from a City that tourists travel through to one that stop and stay for a day. We have sometimes ignored and at most times not funded the protection of our cultural and historical assets for too long in this County and City. We need a facility to protect our cultural and historical history. That my friends is a museum. Because of the lack of a proper facility we have lost important artifacts to others, such as the 1031 to the North Carolina State Transportation Museum in Salsbury North Carolina where they took the funds and renovated and put it back into condition. Persons in Florence who have significant collections of art and other historical artifacts refuse to donate or loan them for others to see because we don't have a proper facility. York County has a Museum 30,000 people visit it every year. Anderson County has a Museum of 26,000 square feet. I'm hoping we build a museum of forty to fifty thousand square feet in downtown Florence and that's why I am willing to vote for a 2% hospitality tax in Florence County."

Councilman Bradley stated he fielded a lot of concerns regarding the issue of the hospitality tax. He attended the "Taste of Darlington" recently and many people attending the event commented that more events like that were needed in Florence County. He also talked with a homeless woman who asked why the County was going to raise taxes to assist with things of a cultural nature but did not provide funding for people who were homeless and really needed help. He stated many citizens who were residents inside the City limits were misinformed and thought their taxes would be increased an additional 2% and he would like for the residents to be better informed.

Councilman Ard stated he had been labeled as a conservative on Council, having voted against budgets in the past, but it was always Council's intent to scrutinize the budget to ensure dollars were being spent where they should be. He stated progress and prosperity come at a cost and for every dollar being spent it was Council's opinion that those monies would be returned, hopefully, 10 to 15 times over. Every dollar that was being spent was well spent and would be for the betterment of the County.

Chairman Smith stated he wanted to correct a term that was being used. There were no discretionary funds in Florence County. Every road that was rocked or allocation made was allocated by a vote of the majority of the County Council. Businesses and property owners in Florence County pay 75% of all taxes. In his opinion, the road maintenance fee was a diversification of the tax base and it was an equitable way to fund the use of the roads and every penny went to road maintenance.

(Councilman Mumford left the room at 10:28 a.m.)

Councilman Anderson stated it was projected that I-73 would be completed in ten years and according to the figures he was given 40% of the tourists that travel I-95 through Florence would no longer travel through here. Florence County needs to do something to attract visitors and further encourage economic development. A museum won't just appear without funding.

Councilman Anderson called for the question. Council unanimously approved second reading of Ordinance No. 01-2008/09. (Councilmen Kirby and Mumford were absent for the vote.)

ORDINANCE NO. 33-2007/08 – INTRODUCED

The Clerk published the title of Ordinance No. 33-2007/08 and the Chairman declared the Ordinance introduced: An Ordinance To Rezone Properties Owned By Pinewood Village Located Off Second Loop, Florence From RU-1, Rural Community District To B-3, General Commercial District Shown On Florence County Tax Map No. 90-080, Block 1, Parcel 31.

ORDINANCE NO. 34-2007/08 – INTRODUCED

The Clerk published the title of Ordinance No. 34-2007/08 and the Chairman declared the Ordinance introduced: An Ordinance To Rezone Property Owned By Sharon M. & Jerry D. Taylor Sr. Located At 3465 James Turner Road, Florence From R-1, Single-Family Residential District To R-3, Single-Family Residential District, Limited Shown On Florence County Tax Map No. 127, Block 1, Parcel 273 Consisting Of 1.56 Acres. Councilman Schofield requested that Planning Department staff be present at the next meeting to present information on this Ordinance.

ORDINANCE NO. 35-2007/08 – INTRODUCED

The Clerk published the title of Ordinance No. 35-2007/08 and the Chairman declared the Ordinance introduced: An Ordinance To Adopt A New Housing Element For The Florence County/Municipal Comprehensive Plan In Accordance With The 1976 South Carolina Code Of Laws, As Amended, Title 6, Chapter 29, Section 510.

ORDINANCE NO. 36-2007/08 – INTRODUCED

The Clerk published the title of Ordinance No. 36-2007/08 and the Chairman declared the Ordinance introduced: An Ordinance To Ratify FY08 Budget And Grant Resolutions Previously Authorized By Council And Other Matters Related Thereto.

(Councilmen Mumford and Kirby returned to the meeting at 10:31 a.m.)

Chairman Smith stated he was scheduled to meet with County Administrator Richard Starks the first of the following week and would establish a date for County Council to meet to discuss the budget.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:

BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS

Councilman Rodgers appointed Clyde Moore to serve on the new Florence County Board of Zoning Appeals representing Council District 5, with the appropriate expiration date.

FLORENCE COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

Councilman Ard appointed Peter Knoller to serve on the new Florence County Planning Commission representing Council District 2, with the appropriate expiration date.

POLICY COMMISSION ON RECREATION

Councilman Kirby appointed Levy Sadler to serve on the Policy Commission on Recreation representing Council District 4, with the appropriate expiration date.

REPORTS TO COUNCIL:

ADMINISTRATION

MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORTS

Monthly financial reports were provided to Council for fiscal year 2008 through March 31, 2008 as an item for the record.

SLED LEASE

Councilman Culberson made a motion Council approve a Lease Renewal Agreement with South Carolina Law Enforcement Division located at 1021 Justice Way, Effingham, SC and authorize the County Administrator to execute. Councilman Rodgers seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

STATE-ISSUED CERTIFICATE OF FRANCHISE AUTHORITY

Councilman Schofield made a motion Council consent to the State-Issued Certificate of Franchise Authority submitted by Time Warner Entertainment-Advance/Newhouse Partnership and authorize the County Administrator to complete and execute the Notice of Application for State-Issued Certificate of Franchise Authority. Councilman Ard seconded the motion. Councilman Kirby asked if Council denied the request would it have any affect. County Attorney Jim Rushton responded that it would not under current State law. The motion was approved with a vote of 8 – 1. Voting in the affirmative were Councilmen Culberson, Rodgers, Mumford, Smith, Anderson, Bradley, Schofield, and Ard. Voting in opposition was Councilman Kirby.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

S C EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIVISION GRANT AWARD

Councilman Rodgers made a motion Council accept the grant from the South Carolina Emergency Management Division for GIS, computer, and security upgrades in the amount of \$42,111 and authorize the designation of appropriate general ledger accounts within the grant fund to appropriately account for the LEMPG08 grant. Councilman Anderson seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

PARKS AND RECREATION

AWARD BID #22-07/08

Councilman Culberson made a motion Council accept the lowest compliant bid from Henley's Construction Co., for the Willow Creek Field Backstop in the amount of \$17,975.00; and authorize the County Administrator to execute all associated documents. Councilman Bradley seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

GRANT AWARD E. L. & THEO WINDHAM CHARITABLE TRUST

Councilman Rodgers made a motion Council accept the grant award from the E. L. & Theo Windham Charitable Trust in the amount of \$500 to partially fund the cost of retaining The Scrap Exchange, a business providing "Events by the Truckload," (a children's recycling program) at the Florence County Parks & Recreation Fall Frenzy. Councilman Anderson seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS:

INFRASTRUCTURE

TRAFFIC SIGNAL – BELLEVUE DRIVE & SECOND LOOP ROAD

Councilman Schofield made a motion Council approve the expenditure of funds from Council District 8 Infrastructure funding allocations in an amount up to \$8,700.00 for engineering costs to provide plans and specifications as to the feasibility of installing a traffic signal and appurtenances at the intersection of Bellevue Drive and Second Loop Road. Councilman Anderson seconded the motion. Councilman Schofield stated he had been working on this project prior to being elected to County Council and, in his opinion, this project will greatly enhance the public's safety. However, SC DOT will require that a turn lane be installed, and that some driveways across the street be moved and relocated. The City of Florence as well as the Florence County Transportation Commission agreed to assist with the project. The funding being approved today was for the engineering report but an additional request would be forthcoming for the construction of the turn lane. The motion was approved unanimously.

EBENEZER PARK

Councilman Anderson made a motion Council approve the expenditure of funds from Council District 9 Infrastructure funding allocations in an amount up to \$2,500.00 for layout planning work for the recently leased property adjacent to Ebenezer Park, to be designed by Kenneth B. Simmons Landscape Architecture and Planning. Councilman Kirby seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Councilman Mumford made a motion Council enter executive session to discuss a personnel matter. Councilman Anderson seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Council entered executive session at 10:41 a.m. Council reconvened at 11:07 a.m.

GRIEVANCE OF TAX ASSESSOR

Councilman Mumford made a motion that Council hear the Florence County Tax Assessor's grievance. Councilman Bradley seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

There being no further business to come before Council, Councilman Anderson made a motion to adjourn. Councilman Mumford seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

COUNCIL MEETING ADJOURNED AT 11:07 A.M.

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Florence County Council Regular Meeting

May 15, 2008