

REGULAR MEETING OF THE FLORENCE COUNTY COUNCIL, THURSDAY, JUNE 5, 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
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:

Arthur C. Gregg, Jr., Public Works Director
Kevin V. Yokim, Finance Director
William H. Hoge, Planning & Building Department Director
Sheriff Kenney Boone
Barbara Coker, Sheriff's Office
Chuck Tomlinson, Morning News Staff Writer

ABSENT:

Mitchell Kirby, Council Member

A notice of the regular meeting of the Florence County Council appeared in the June 4, 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 15, 2008 regular meeting of County Council. Councilman Rodgers seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

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

ORDINANCE NO. 35-2007/08

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

An Ordinance To Ratify FY08 Budget And Grant Resolutions Previously Authorized By Council And Other Matters Related Thereto.

Chairman Smith stated that Ordinance No. 36-2007/08 was erroneously reported in the media as being an ordinance to discuss the upcoming 08/09 budget but in actuality it was an Ordinance to approve issues relating to grants and any other adjustments to the current year budget.

APPEARANCES:

RESOLUTIONS OF RECOGNITION

Councilman Ard made a motion Council approve resolutions of recognition to Javae R. McWhite, Courtney A. Law, Taylor L. Timmons, and Kimberly T. Cade for outstanding achievement in earning the Girl Scout Gold Award. Councilman Mumford seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously. Councilman Ard published the Resolution in its entirety and presented each of the young ladies with a framed Resolution.

RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION AND APPRECIATION

Presentation of a Resolution recognizing and expressing appreciation to the Timmonsville Rescue Squad for exhibiting exemplary conduct in serving the citizens was deferred.

RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION AND APPRECIATION

Chairman Smith stated Councilman Kirby requested Council present a Resolution of Recognition and Appreciation to Glynn Willis for exemplary service to the citizens of Florence County but Councilman Kirby was unable to be present at the meeting. He requested Councilman Rodgers present the Resolution in his place. The Clerk published the Resolution in its entirety. Councilman Mumford made a motion Council approve the Resolution. Councilman Rodgers seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously. Mr. Willis expressed his appreciation for the Resolution and the opportunity to serve the citizens of Florence County.

MR. FRANCIS J. HEATH

Mr. Heath appeared before Council to discuss matters relating to the paving of Country Lane and issues regarding drainage ditches. He asked Council to support the efforts of the residents to have Country Lane paved. He suggested Council establish a fund for the specific purpose of restoration of County drainage canals and road improvements. He stated he would be willing to pay twice the amount of the road fee if it would bring County roads up to an acceptable standard. He asked Council members to attend the June 10th meeting of the Florence County Transportation Committee and support the efforts of the residents to get Country Lane paved. Chairman Smith stated Council could provide a letter of support to Committee Chairman Sherwin Welch.

BRYAN AND ANGELIA GARDNER

Mr. Gardner appeared before Council to express opposition to the rezone request by Sharon and Jerry Taylor for 3465 James Turner Road. Chairman Smith stated the Ordinance to address the rezone request would be discussed later in the meeting.

JEFF MCKAY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - NESA

Mr. McKay, Executive Director of the North Eastern Strategic Alliance (NESA) appeared before Council to provide a brief update on the activities of NESA. Councilman Ard expressed concerns regarding the lack of benefits in

relation to the funding provided by Florence County to NESAs. Councilman Schofield asked for clarification on the International Airport proposal. Mr. McKay stated the FAA provided a grant to conduct a study to determine the need for a regional airport. The study had to be conducted according to FAA guidelines in order to comply/qualify for the grant funding. Councilman Ard stated there was a disconnect between Florence County and NESAs activities. Mr. McKay informed Council that NESAs Board Meeting was set for July 11th in Florence County at SIMT and each member would receive an invitation to attend the meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

EDUCATION, RECREATION, HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE

Committee Chairman Anderson extended an invitation to the Groundbreaking Ceremony for the new Environmental Services Animal Control Facility in Effingham on Friday, June 20th at 11 a.m.

ORDINANCES IN POSITION:

ORDINANCE NO. 30-2007/08 – THIRD 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 Schofield made a motion Council approve third reading of the Ordinance. Councilman Culberson seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

ORDINANCE NO. 31-2007/08 – THIRD READING

The Chairman stated third reading of Ordinance No. 31-2007/08 was deferred: 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 – THIRD READING

The Chairman stated third reading of Ordinance No. 32-2007/08 was deferred: 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.

ORDINANCE NO. 01-2008/09 – THIRD 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 Ard made a motion Council approve third reading of the Ordinance. Councilman Anderson seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

ORDINANCE NO. 33-2007/08 – SECOND READING

The Clerk published the title of Ordinance No. 33-2007/08: An Ordinance To Rezone Properties Owned By Pinewood Village Located Off Second Loop Road, 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 Consisting of 7.28 Acres. Councilman Schofield made a motion Council approve second reading of the Ordinance. Councilman Ard seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

ORDINANCE NO. 34-2007/08 –SECOND READING

The Chairman published the title of Ordinance No. 34-2007/08 and, with the concurrence of Council, referred the Ordinance to the Committee on Public Service & County Planning for clarification and review: 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.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

There being no signatures on the sign-in sheets for Ordinance No. 35-2007/08 or Ordinance No. 36-2007/08, Chairman Smith closed the public hearings.

ORDINANCE NO. 35-2007/08 – SECOND READING

The Chairman published the title of Ordinance No. 35-2007/08: 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. Councilman Mumford made a motion Council approve second reading of the Ordinance. Councilman Culberson seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

ORDINANCE NO. 36-2007/08 – SECOND READING

The Chairman published the title of Ordinance No. 36-2007/08: An Ordinance To Ratify FY08 Budget And Grant Resolutions Previously Authorized By Council And Other Matters Related Thereto. Councilman Anderson made a motion Council approve second reading of the Ordinance. Councilman Culberson seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

ORDINANCE NO. 37-2007/08 – INTRODUCED

The Clerk published the title of Ordinance No. 37-2007/08 and the Chairman declared the Ordinance introduced: An Ordinance Authorizing And Providing For The Issuance And Sale Of A Not To Exceed \$600,000 General Obligation Bond Of Florence County, South Carolina (Windy Hill/Olanta Rural Volunteer Fire District), Series 2008, Or Such Other Appropriate Series Designation; Fixing The Form And Details Of The Bond; Authorizing The County Administrator To Determine Certain Matters Relating To The Bond; Providing For The Payment Of The Bond And Disposition Of The Proceeds Thereof; And Other Matters Related Thereto.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:

FLORENCE COUNTY CULTURAL COMMISSION

Councilman Bradley appointed Betsy Olsen to serve on the Florence County Cultural Commission representing Council District 3, with the appropriate expiration date.

REPORTS TO COUNCIL:

ADMINISTRATION

MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORTS

Monthly financial reports were provided to Council for fiscal year 2008 through April 30, 2008 as an item for the record.

FINANCE

FY2008/2009 STATE ACCOMMODATIONS TAX ALLOCATIONS

Councilman Schofield made a motion Council defer action on the expenditure of \$250,000 in State Accommodations Tax funding allocations as recommended by the Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee for FY2007/2008 until the next meeting. Councilman Mumford seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Councilman Ard made a motion Council enter executive session to discuss contractual matters related to economic development projects, contractual matters related to possible and pending real property transactions, and a personnel matter relating to the Tax Assessor's office. Councilman Rodgers seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Council entered executive session at 10:16 a.m. Council reconvened at 1:27 p.m.

ORDINANCE NO. 38-2007/08 – INTRODUCED

The Chairman published the title of Ordinance No. 38-2007/08 and declared the Ordinance introduced: 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.

ORDINANCE NO. 39-2007/08 – INTRODUCED

The Chairman published the title of Ordinance No. 38-2007/08 and declared the Ordinance introduced: An Ordinance Authorizing The Execution And Delivery Of A Fee In Lieu Of Tax Agreement By And Between Florence County, South Carolina, And Project JLL, 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.

FLORENCE COUNTY BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS

Councilman Culberson appointed Ernie Smith to serve on the new Florence County Board of Zoning Appeals representing Council District 6, with the appropriate expiration date.

FLORENCE COUNTY CULTURAL COMMISSION

Councilman Anderson appointed Andrew Kampiziones to serve on the Florence County Cultural Commission representing Council District 9, with the appropriate expiration date.

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

COUNCIL MEETING ADJOURNED AT 1:28 P.M.

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