REGULAR MEETING OF THE FLORENCE COUNTY COUNCIL, THURSDAY, MAY 20, 2010, 9:00 A.M., COUNCIL CHAMBERS ROOM 803, CITY-COUNTY COMPLEX, 180 N. IRBY STREET, 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 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 Ryon Watkins, EMS Director Ray McBride, Library Director David Alford, Voter Recreation/Elections Director Sheriff Kenney Boone Barbara Coker, Sheriff Office Dean Fowler, Treasurer Chuck Tomlinson, Morning News Staff Writer

ABSENT:

Johnnie D. Rodgers, Jr., Council Member

A notice of the regular meeting of the Florence County Council appeared in the May 19, 2010 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, the Doctors Bruce and Lee Foundation Public Library, and on the County's website (<u>www.florenceco.org</u>).

Chairman Smith called the meeting to order. Secretary-Chaplain Anderson provided 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 April 15, 2010 regular meeting of County Council. Councilman Kirby seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

Chairman Smith Opened Public Hearing And The Clerk Published Titles Of The Following Items For Public Hearing:

RESOLUTION NO. 25-2009/10

A Resolution In Support Of The Reissuance By The South Carolina Jobs-Economic Development Authority Of Its Economic Development Revenue Bonds (Family Y.M.C.A. Of Greater Florence Project) Series 2000, Outstanding In The Principal Amount Of \$1,500,000, Pursuant To The Provisions Of Title 41, Chapter 43, Of The Code Of Laws Of South Carolina, 1976, As Amended.

ORDINANCE NO. 31-2009/10

An Ordinance To Declare As Surplus Real Property Owned By Florence County Located At 404 East Hampton Street, Olanta, South Carolina And Designated As Tax Map Number 04530-03-029; And To Authorize The Conveyance Or Public Sale Thereof, Including A First Right Of Refusal; And Other Matters Relating Thereto.

ORDINANCE NO. 32-2009/10

An Ordinance Authorizing The Execution And Delivery Of Not Exceeding \$215,000,000 Aggregate Principal Amount Hospital Revenue Bonds (McLeod Regional Medical Center Project) Of Florence County, South Carolina, From Time To Time, In One Or More Series, Pursuant To Article 11, Chapter 7, Title 44, Code Of Laws Of South Carolina 1976, As Amended, To Finance The Costs Of Constructing And Equipping An Expansion Of A Hospital Facility Owned And Operated By McLeod Regional Medical Facility Center Of The Pee Dee, Inc., And The Refunding Of Certain Outstanding Revenue Bonds Issued By Florence County On Behalf Of McLeod Regional Medical Center Of The Pee Dee, Inc.; The Entering Into Certain Covenants And Agreements And The Execution And Delivery Of Certain Instruments Relating To The Issuance Of The Aforesaid Bonds Including A Loan Agreement Or Loan Agreements Between Florence County And McLeod Regional Medical Center Of The Pee Dee, Inc., An Assignment By Florence County Of Its Rights Thereunder To The Trustee For Such Bonds, And A Trust Indenture Or Trust Indentures Between Florence County And The Trustee For Such Bonds; And Consenting To The Delivery Of Security Instruments Related To Such Bonds; And Other Matters Relating Thereto.

ORDINANCE NO. 33-2009/10

An Ordinance To Ratify FY10 Budget And Grant Resolutions Previously Authorized By Council And Other Matters Related Thereto.



ORDINANCE NO. 34-2009/10

An Ordinance Authorizing The Execution And Delivery Of A Fee In Lieu Of Tax Agreement By And Between Florence County, South Carolina, And McCall Farms, 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. 35-2009/10

An Ordinance To Amend The Agreement For Development Of A Joint County Industrial Park Dated As Of December 1, 1998 Between Florence County, South Carolina And Williamsburg County, South Carolina To Include Additional Properties In The County As Part Of The Multi-County Industrial Or Business Park.

ORDINANCE NO. 01-2010/11

An Ordinance To Provide For The Levy Of Taxes In Florence County For The Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2010 And Ending June 30, 2011; To Provide For The Appropriation Thereof; To Provide For Revenues For The Payment Thereof; And To Provide For Other Matters Related Thereto.

APPEARANCES:

REGINALD COOPER, DIRECTOR - FLORENCE DJJ

Mr. Cooper Appeared Before Council To Provide An Agency Update For The Department Of Juvenile Justice (DJJ).

FLORENCE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

The Florence Tennis Association Withdrew Its Request To Appear Before Council To Present A Request For Funding For A Restroom Facility For The New Tennis Complex Currently Under Construction In Florence.

RICK WALDEN - VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICER

Mr. Walden Requested To Appear Before Council To Request Additional Funds For The VA Office To Use In Conjunction With VA Programs. Councilman Anderson Stated That Mr. Walden Notified Him That He Would Be Unable To Attend The Meeting. Councilman Anderson Made A Motion Council Approve \$700 From The Contingency Fund To Assist The VA Office With Programs. Councilman Mumford seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SERVICE & COUNTY PLANNING

Committee Chairman Schofield reported the Committee met prior to the Regular Meeting of County Council to receive recommendations from the Planning Commission for changes relative to the portable sign ordinance. Pursuant to the Committee meeting, Councilman Schofield made a motion Council Extend The Moratorium On Enforcement Of Portable Sign Regulations For Another Year. Councilman Culberson seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously. Councilman Schofield stated the Committee planned a public hearing for July 20th at 6 p.m. in Council Chambers to receive citizen comments prior to Council taking further action.



CITY-COUNTY CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Committee Co-Chairman Bradley commented that the Committee met on May 12th to discuss three (3) agenda items: 1) consideration of observing Veteran's Day as a City and County Holiday – it was the consensus of the Committee not to recommend the addition of the holiday but to ask each Council to consider ways of recognizing local veterans; 2) fund request from PDRTA for \$125,000 - the Committee was asked to take the funding request to the respective Councils for consideration; and 3) discussion of the establishment of a service memorial park – the Committee recommended the City Councilman making the request submit the request through the City Council to further develop the concept and obtain full approval of the City Council.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

Sheriff Kenney Boone was the only individual signed up to speak during the public hearing. Sheriff Boone addressed Ordinance No. 01-2010/11 relative to the County's Annual Budget. (A copy of the Sheriff's comments are attached and incorporated by reference.)

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

RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NO. 25-2009/10

The Clerk published the title of Resolution No. 25-2009/10: A Resolution In Support Of The Reissuance By The South Carolina Jobs-Economic Development Authority Of Its Economic Development Revenue Bonds (Family Y.M.C.A. Of Greater Florence Project) Series 2000, Outstanding In The Principal Amount Of \$1,500,000, Pursuant To The Provisions Of Title 41, Chapter 43, Of The Code Of Laws Of South Carolina, 1976, As Amended. Councilman Ard made a motion Council approve the Resolution as presented. Councilman Culberson seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 26-2009/10

The Clerk published the title of Resolution No. 26-2009/10: A Resolution Expressing The Support Of The Entry By The Windy Hill Volunteer Fire Company Into A Tax Exempt Lease – Purchase Arrangement With Respect To Trucks And Other Fire Fighting Equipment For Use In The Windy Hill Fire District For The Purposes Of Section 147(F) Of The United States Internal Revenue Code Of 1976, As Amended In The Aggregate Principal Amount Of Not Exceeding \$1,272,588. Councilman Culberson made a motion Council approve the Resolution as presented. Councilman Mumford seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.



ORDINANCES IN POSITION:

ORDINANCE NO. 22-2009/10 - THIRD READING DEFERRED

The Chairman stated third reading of Ordinance No. 22-2009/10 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 J.P. Morgan Chase, 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. 23-2009/10 - THIRD READING DEFERRED

The Chairman stated third reading of Ordinance No. 23-2009/10 was deferred: An Ordinance To Amend The Agreement For Development Of A Joint County Industrial Park Dated As Of December 1, 1998 Between Florence County, South Carolina And Williamsburg County, South Carolina To Include Additional Properties In The County As Part Of The Multi-County Industrial Or Business Park.

ORDINANCE NO. 30-2009/10 – THIRD READING

The Chairman stated Council was asked to remand Ordinance No. 30-2009/10 to the Florence County Planning Commission: An Ordinance To Zone Property Owned By KAT-ROX LLC, Located At Pamplico Highway And South Flanders Road, Florence County To PD 2010-01, Planned Development District Shown On Florence County Tax Map No. 90147, Block 03, Parcel 66, Consisting Of Approximately 22.08 Acres. There being no objection, the Ordinance was remanded to the Planning Commission.

ORDINANCE NO. 31-2009/10 - SECOND READING

The Clerk published the Title of Ordinance No. 31-2009/10: An Ordinance To Declare As Surplus Real Property Owned By Florence County Located At 404 East Hampton Street, Olanta, South Carolina And Designated As Tax Map Number 04530-03-029; And To Authorize The Conveyance Or Public Sale Thereof, Including A First Right Of Refusal; And Other Matters Relating Thereto. Councilman Anderson made a motion Council approve second reading of the Ordinance. Councilman Mumford seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

ORDINANCE NO. 32-2009/10 – SECOND READING

The Clerk published the Title of Ordinance No. 32-2009/10: An Ordinance Authorizing The Execution And Delivery Of Not Exceeding \$215,000,000 Aggregate Principal Amount Hospital Revenue Bonds (McLeod Regional Medical Center Project) Of Florence County, South Carolina, From Time To Time, In One Or More Series, Pursuant To Article 11, Chapter 7, Title 44, Code Of Laws Of South Carolina 1976, As Amended, To Finance The Costs Of Constructing And Equipping An Expansion Of A Hospital Facility Owned And Operated By McLeod Regional Medical Facility Center Of The Pee Dee, Inc., And The Refunding Of Certain Outstanding Revenue Bonds Issued By Florence County On Behalf Of McLeod Regional Medical Center Of The Pee Dee, Inc.; The Entering Into Certain Covenants And Agreements And The Execution And Delivery Of Certain Instruments Relating To The Issuance Of The Aforesaid Bonds Including A Loan Agreement Or Loan Agreements Between Florence County And McLeod Regional Medical Center Of The Pee Dee, Inc., An Assignment By Florence County Of Its Rights



Thereunder To The Trustee For Such Bonds, And A Trust Indenture Or Trust Indentures Between Florence County And The Trustee For Such Bonds; And Consenting To The Delivery Of Security Instruments Related To Such Bonds; And Other Matters Relating Thereto. Councilman Mumford made a motion Council approve second reading of the Ordinance. Councilman Schofield seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

ORDINANCE NO. 33-2009/10 - SECOND READING

The Clerk published the Title of Ordinance No. 33-2009/10: An Ordinance To Ratify FY10 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. 34-2009/10 – SECOND READING

The Clerk published the Title of Ordinance No. 34-2009/10: An Ordinance To Provide For The Levy Of Taxes In Florence County For The Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2010 And Ending June 30, 2011; To Provide For The Appropriation Thereof; To Provide For Revenues For The Payment Thereof; And To Provide For 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. 35-2009/10 - SECOND READING

The Clerk published the Title of Ordinance No. 35-2009/10: An Ordinance To Amend The Agreement For Development Of A Joint County Industrial Park Dated As Of December 1, 1998 Between Florence County, South Carolina And Williamsburg County, South Carolina To Include Additional Properties In The County As Part Of The Multi-County Industrial Or Business Park. Councilman Mumford made a motion Council approve second reading of the Ordinance. Councilman Anderson seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

ORDINANCE NO. 01-2010/11 - SECOND READING

The Clerk published the Title of Ordinance No. 01-2010/11: An Ordinance To Provide For The Levy Of Taxes In Florence County For The Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2010 And Ending June 30, 2011; To Provide For The Appropriation Thereof; To Provide For Revenue For The Payment Thereof; And To Provide For Other Matters Related Thereto. Councilman Culberson made a motion Council approve second reading of the Ordinance. Councilman Schofield seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

ORDINANCE NO. 36-2009/10 - INTRODUCED

The Clerk published the Title of Ordinance No. 36-2009/10 and the Chairman declared the Ordinance introduced: An Ordinance To Rezone Property Owned By Bryan Gardner Located At 3414 James Turner Road, Florence County From R-1, Single-Family Residential District To RU-1, Rural Community District Shown On Florence County Tax Map No. 00127, Block 01, Parcel 012 Consisting Of Approximately 25 Acres.



APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:

ACCOMMODATIONS TAX ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Council Unanimously Approved The Appointment Of Johnny Fryar To Serve In Seat 5 And The Re-Appointment Of Shelby Kirby To Serve In Seat 6 Of The Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee With Appropriate Expiration Terms.

REPORTS TO COUNCIL:

ADMINISTRATION

MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORTS

Monthly Financial Reports Were Provided To Council For Fiscal Year 2010 Through March 31, 2010 As An Item For The Record.

PINE NEEDLES ROAD PROJECT - C FUNDS PROGRAM

Councilman Anderson made a motion Council Accept Allocation From The South Carolina Department Of Transportation (SCDOT) Under The Florence County Transportation Committee (FCTC) C Funds Program, PCN #39980 In The Amount Of \$125,607 For The Continuation Of Sidewalk On Pine Needles Road To St. Andrews Lane. Councilman Bradley seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS)

NON-EXCLUSIVE AMBULANCE FRANCHISE APPLICATION

Councilman Mumford made a motion Council Award A Non-Exclusive Ambulance Franchise To Lifeline Regional Ambulance, Inc. Councilman Anderson seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

FINANCE/TAX ASSESSOR

LATE FARM APPLICATIONS

Councilman Culberson made a motion Council Extend The Deadline For Late Farm Application Consideration; Authorize Parcels To Be Considered; And, Close The Filing Deadline. Councilman Mumford seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

PROCUREMENT

AWARD OF BID #22-09/10

Councilman Kirby made a motion Council Authorize The Award Of Bid #22-09/10 For An Articulating All Wheel Drive Loader, Bucket And Rake To Dougherty Equipment, Ladson, SC In The Amount Of \$124,268.03 Contingent Upon Dougherty Equipment Providing Acceptable Documentation Of Specifications Of The Bucket And Rake To Procurement Within 15 Days Of This Authorization; And Authorize The County Administrator To Alternatively Award The Bid To The Next Lowest Bidder If Dougherty Equipment Fails To Comply Timely. Councilman Culberson seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.



AWARD OF BID #26-09/10

Councilman Anderson made a motion Council Approve Approximately \$12,500 For Interim Sewage Disposal For The McCall Farms Expansion Project To Allow Compliance With Federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Requirements; and Authorize The County Administrator To Award Bid #26-09/10 For A Sewage Pump Station And Force Main At McCall Farms Being Funded By The SC Department of Commerce (CDBG #4-ED-09-004). Councilman Kirby seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

SHERIFF OFFICE

DECLARATION OF SURPLUS PROPERTY

Councilman Culberson made a motion Council Declare Four (4) Mini 14 Rifles As Surplus Property In Order To Trade In On Replacements. Councilman Mumford seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

DECLARATION OF SURPLUS PROPERTY

Councilman Mumford made a motion Council Declare Three (3) Glock G-17 9mm Handguns, Serial Numbers CHU397US, CHU422US, And CHU581US, As Surplus Property Of The Florence County Sheriff Office For The Purpose Of Awarding To Retiring Employees. Councilman Culberson seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

GRANT AWARD – UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (USDOJ)

Councilman Anderson made a motion Council Approve The Submission Of A Grant Application For The FY2010 USDOJ Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program Local Solicitation Grant In The Amount Of \$60,843 To Provide Capital/Replacement Equipment For The Florence County Sheriff Office. Councilman Culberson seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS:

INFRASTRUCTURE FUND

LAKE CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT

Councilman Culberson made a motion Council Declare Vehicle #V0449 A 1999 Ford F250 Extended Cab Pick-Up As Surplus; Authorize The Sale Of The Vehicle To The Lake City Fire Department In The Amount Of \$2,175.00; And Approve The Expenditure Of Up To \$2,175.00 From Council District 1 Infrastructure Funding Allocation For The Purchase Of The Vehicle For The Lake City Fire Department. Councilman Kirby seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.



N. ELMORE STREET

Councilman Bradley made a motion Council Approve The Expenditure Of Up To \$14,800.00 From Council District 3 Infrastructure Funding Allocation To Pay For The Resurfacing Of 775 Feet Of N. Elmore Street. Councilman Mumford seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

PEE DEE COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP

Councilman Bradley made a motion Council Approve The Expenditure Of Up To \$12,425.00 From Council Districts' Infrastructure Funding Allocations (From Each District As Indicated On The Approving Form) To Assist The Pee Dee Community Action Partnership With Replacement Of The Roof At The Day Care Homes Administration Site At 1511 Stokes Road, Florence, SC. Councilman Mumford seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

TOWN OF TIMMONSVILLE

Councilman Kirby made a motion Council Declare Vehicle #V0994 A 2006 Ford Crown Vic As Surplus; Authorize The Sale Of The Vehicle To The Town Of Timmonsville In The Amount Of \$1,000.00; And Approve The Expenditure Of Up To \$1,000.00 From Council District 4 Infrastructure Funding Allocation For The Purchase Of The Vehicle For The Town Of Timmonsville. Councilman Mumford seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

TOWN OF OLANTA

Councilman Anderson made a motion Council Approve The Expenditure Of An Amount Not To Exceed \$1,500.00 From Council District 5 Infrastructure Funding Allocation To Provide A Safety Barrier Between The New Playground Equipment And North Liberty Street; An Additional Component At A Community Park In Olanta. Councilman Bradley seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

ERNEST LANE

Councilman Culberson made a motion Council Approve The Expenditure Of Up To \$11,000.00 From Council District 1 RSMF Funding Allocation To Pay For Rock And Crushed Asphalt For Ernest Lane. Councilman Anderson seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

LOWER FLORENCE COUNTY PUBLIC SERVICE BUILDING

Councilman Mumford made a motion Council Approve The Expenditure Of Approximately \$55,950.00 From Council Districts' Utility/Infrastructure Funding Allocations (From Each District As Indicated On The Approving Form) For Proposed Upgrades To The Lower Florence County Public Service Building; \$25,500 – 1" x 6" x 100' Steel Gutter Plate And \$30,450 – Parking Expansion And Realignment). Councilman Kirby seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.



The following items were additions to the agenda:

HOWE SPRINGS FIRE DISTRICT

Councilman Culberson made a motion Council Approve The Expenditure Of Approximately \$36,239.00 From Council Districts' Utility/Infrastructure Funding Allocations (From Each District As Indicated On The Approving Form) For The Purchase Of Various Equipment For Howe Springs Fire District; Howe Springs Will In Turn Donate Two (2) 1988 E-One Tankers To Hannah-Salem-Friendfield Fire District. Councilman Anderson seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

JULIET DRIVE, YUKON, LEGETTES & TURNER ROADS, SANDWOOD AVE.

Councilman Culberson made a motion Council Approve The Expenditure Of \$134,768.00 From Council District 6 RSMF Funding Allocation For Rock And Crushed Asphalt For Juliet Drive, Yukon Road, Legettes Road, Sandwood Avenue, And Turner Road. Councilman Mumford seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

MORNING GLORY DRIVE

Councilman Culberson made a motion Council Approve The Expenditure Of \$15,181.00 From Council District 1 RSMF Funding Allocation For The Resurfacing Of 800 Feet Of Morning Glory Drive – Section Through Lake City Housing Authority (800 Feet Long And 20 Feet Wide). Councilman Mumford seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

TRACES DRIVE

Councilman Anderson made a motion Council Approve The Expenditure Of \$17,676.50 For Additional Funding From Council District 9 RSMF Funding Allocation To Replace Unsuitable Material For Reclaiming And Resurfacing Of Traces Drive Cul-De-Sac In Traces Subdivision. Councilman Culberson seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

BOTANY DRIVE

Councilman Anderson made a motion Council Approve The Expenditure Of An Estimated \$8,520.00 From Council District 9 Utility Funding Allocation To The City Of Florence For A Water Line Extension On Botany Drive. Councilman Culberson seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

HANNAH-PAMPLICO HIGH SCHOOL

Councilman Ard made a motion Council Approve The Expenditure Of An Amount Up To \$100,000.00 From Council District 2 Utility Funding Allocation To Hannah-Pamplico High School To Connect To The Town Of Pamplico Water And Sewer System. Councilman Anderson seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

FLORENCE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT 4

Councilman Kirby made a motion Council Approve The Expenditure Of An Amount Up To \$4,300.00 From Council District 4 Infrastructure Funding Allocation To Florence Public School District 4 For Repairs To The Baseball Facility. Councilman Bradley seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.



EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Councilman Culberson made a motion Council Enter Executive Session, Pursuant To Section 30-4-70 Of The South Carolina Code Of Laws 1976, As Amended, To Discuss The Following: Contractual Matters Concerning Pending Real Property Transactions, Contractual Matters Concerning Economic Development And A Legal Briefing. Councilman Anderson seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Council entered executive session at 9:46 a.m. Council reconvened at 10:45 a.m.

Subsequent to Executive Session, Council took the following action:

IRBY STREET PROPERTIES

Councilman Schofield made a motion Council Authorize The Purchase Of Properties Designated As Tax Map Numbers 90167-01-009 (\$264,000), 90167-01-010 (\$267,000), 90167-01-011 (\$425,000), 90167-01-028 (\$196,000) And 90167-01-013 (\$250,000) From The General Fund Balance Funds And Authorize The County Administrator To Execute All Related Documents. Councilman Anderson seconded the motion. Councilman Ard recussed himself stating that he had no ownership of these properties, however the seller of the property and he had mutual business interests so to insure no appearance of impropriety, he would recuse himself from this particular vote. The Motion was approved unanimously by the members voting.

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

COUNCIL MEETING ADJOURNED AT 10:47 A.M.

H. MORRIS ANDERSON

SECRÉTARY-CHAPLAIN

CONNIE Y. HASELDEN

CLERK TO COUNTY COUNCIL

May 20, 2010

RESOLUTION NO. 25-2009/10

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May 20, 2010

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I have the awesome privilege as Sheriff of Florence County to work with some of the best law enforcement professionals any where. Our deputies and staff will compare favorably against any Sheriff's Office in the State, regardless of it's size. I see their dedication on a daily basis as they selflessly serve and protect the citizens of Florence County.

We read every day of the effects the current economic downturn has taken on our country and our local community. Because of the reduction of revenue, our State and local governments have been forced to cut budgets, and the State has reduced funding to counties by 30%. Because of cuts to the Local Government Fund, this year Florence County absorbed an impact of \$2 Million Dollars and with rising health insurance premiums, an additional \$1 Million Dollars in costs. These are truly difficult economic times, and all governmental entities have been forced to make hard decisions.

This Council is to be commended for its management of this crisis. We need only look around at some of our neighboring counties and local governments to appreciate the job Council has done to minimize the effects of the recession, while at the same time, continuing to provide the citizens of Florence County with essential public safety services. This did not just happen, but was the result of years of planning, infrastructure management and an emphasis on economic development. We are fortunate that Florence County has not had to eliminate positions or furlough employees as other agencies have done.

We are all hopeful that we will soon see improvement in our economy and as economic activity increases, better revenue for the County. Some predictions for next year however, remain bleak. But whether recovery comes this year or next, we have a pressing need that must be addressed, and soon. We must address the needs of our employees.



I realize that in light of our current economic circumstances, there may be little that can be done to increase the salary of our employees this budget year, but unless something is done in 2012, it will mean that all county employees will go for a third consecutive year without a cost of living increase; this, in addition to the elimination of merit increases for all but one of the last nine years. With no hope in sight for our employees as their cost of living continues to rise, their incentive for excellence and pride in public service will erode. Because this condition has existed for so long, there is very little difference in the pay of newly hired employees and those with years of service.

Quite simply, we are reaching the tipping point where we will not be able to retain or recruit the quality employees necessary to deliver the essential services the public expects and deserves.

For these reasons, I urge Council to closely study this problem and to come up with a way to allow the County to keep and promote quality employees, while at the same time being good stewards of taxpayer's money.

