

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE FLORENCE COUNTY COUNCIL,
THURSDAY, AUGUST 18, 2011, 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
Johnnie D. Rodgers, Jr., Council Member
Alphonso Bradley, Council Member
James T. Schofield, Council Member
Roger M. Poston, Council Member
Richard A. Starks, County Administrator
Malloy McEachin, County Attorney
Connie Y. Haselden, Clerk to Council

ALSO PRESENT:

Connie Reel-Shearin, Clerk of Court
Ray McBride, Library Director
Robert Franks, IT Director
Jack Greenan, Solicitor's Office
Barbara Coker, Sheriff's Office
John Sweeney, Morning News

A notice of the regular meeting of the Florence County Council appeared in the August 17, 2011 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 all branch libraries, and on the County's website (www.florenceco.org).

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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Councilman Anderson made a motion Council approve the minutes of the July 21, 2011 regular meeting of County Council. Councilman Rodgers seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

There were no public hearings required or scheduled.

APPEARANCES:

RAY MCBRIDE, DIRECTOR – FLORENCE COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM

Mr. McBride Appeared Before Council To Present The Florence County Library System Annual Report. Statistics for the library overall were up and the three (3) newest libraries (Timmonsville, Olanta, Johnsonville) were up nearly 300%. Mr. McBride was elected to a second two-year term as Chairman of the Executive Board for SC LENDS, a consortium of 15 county library systems and the State Library, with over 2.7 million items in the online catalog, circulating 8.2 items since the consortium began. This partnership enables libraries to share materials among the libraries, which offers to patrons accessibility to material that would not be available due to the cuts in State Aid to Libraries (70% decline).

ARTICLE “STATE SUPREME COURT RULES AGAINST ONLINE TRAVEL COMPANY”

Chairman Smith provided members of Council with a copy of an article entitled “*State Supreme Court Rules Against Online Travel Company.*” He requested that the County Attorney and County Administrator look into the matter, which deals with online booking companies that don’t collect accommodations tax.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

AD HOC SEARCH COMMITTEE

Committee Chairman Mumford stated the Committee didn’t have a report but that the process for the search for a county administrator was going along very smoothly.

RESOLUTIONS:

No Resolutions were presented.

ORDINANCES IN POSITION:

ORDINANCE NO. 29-2010/11 – THIRD READING

The Clerk published the title of Ordinance No. 29-2010/11: An Ordinance To Amend The Comprehensive Plan Land Use Map For Property In Florence County Located At 224 E. Carolyn Avenue, Florence SC From Commercial Growth And Preservation To Suburban Development As Shown On Florence County Tax Map No. 90095, Block 01, Parcel 042 Consisting Of .52 Acres. Councilman Mumford made a motion Council approve third reading of the Ordinance. Councilman Rodgers seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

ORDINANCE NO. 30-2010/11 – THIRD READING

The Clerk published the title of Ordinance No. 30-2010/11: An Ordinance To Rezone Property Owned By Doulaveris Holdings, LLC Located At 224 Carolyn Avenue, Florence County From B-3, General Commercial District To R-4, Multi-Family Residential District, Limited Shown On Florence County Tax Map No. 90095, Block 01, Parcel 042 Consisting Of 0.52 Acres. Councilman Schofield made a motion Council approve third reading of the Ordinance. Councilman Anderson seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

ORDINANCE NO. 02-2011/12 – SECOND READING DEFERRED

The Chairman stated that unless Council objected, Ordinance No. 02-2011/12 would be deferred: An Ordinance To Rezone Property Owned By Katie Barnhill Cook Located At 2214 Alligator Road, Effingham, From R-3, Single-Family Residential District To R-4, Multi-Family Residential District Limited Shown On Florence County Tax Map No. 00126, Block 01, Parcel 401 Consisting Of 0.22 Acres. There were no objections voiced.

ORDINANCE NO. 03-2011/12 – INTRODUCED BY TITLE ONLY

The Clerk published the title and the Chairman declared Ordinance No. 03-2011/12 introduced by title only: An Ordinance To Amend Florence County Code Chapter 2, Administration, Article V, Boards, Commissions, Committees And Agencies, To Modify The Structure Of The Senior Center Commission; And Other Matters Related Thereto.

ORDINANCE NO. 04-2011/12 – INTRODUCED BY TITLE ONLY

The Clerk published the title and the Chairman declared Ordinance No. 04-2011/12 introduced by title only: An Ordinance To Provide For The Issuance And Sale Of Not Exceeding Five Million Dollars (\$5,000,000) General Obligation Refunding And Improvement Bonds Of Florence County, South Carolina, To Prescribe The Purposes For Which The Proceeds Shall Be Expended, To Provide For The Payment Thereof, And Other Matters Relating Thereto.

ORDINANCE NO. 05-2011/12 – INTRODUCED BY TITLE ONLY

The Clerk published the title and the Chairman declared Ordinance No. 05-2011/12 introduced by title only: An Ordinance Providing For The Issuance And Sale From Time To Time Of Hospitality Tax Revenue Bonds Of Florence County, Providing For The Pledge Of Hospitality Taxes For The Payment Of Such Bonds, Prescribing The Terms And Conditions Under Which Such Bonds May Be Issued, Providing For The Payment Thereof, And Other Matters Relating Thereto.

ORDINANCE NO. 06-2011/12 – INTRODUCED BY TITLE ONLY

The Clerk published the title and the Chairman declared Ordinance No. 06-2011/12 introduced by title only: An Ordinance Providing For The Issuance And Sale Of Not Exceeding Three Million Nine Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$3,900,000) Hospitality Tax Revenue Bonds Of Florence County To Be Designated Series 2011 And Other Matters Relating Thereto.

ORDINANCE NO. 07-2011/12 – INTRODUCED BY TITLE ONLY

The Clerk published the title and the Chairman declared Ordinance No. 07-2011/12 introduced by title only: An Ordinance To Amend Article II, Section 2-18 Of The Florence County Code Establishing Defined Single Member Election Districts For The Election Of Members Of The County Council And Other Matters Related Thereto.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:

LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Council unanimously approved the appointment of Robert Jordan to represent County Council District 2 on the Florence County Library Board of Trustees, with appropriate expiration term.

JOHNSONVILLE FIRE DISTRICT BOARD

Council unanimously approved the reappointment of Jeffrey Humphries to serve on the Johnsonville Fire District Board, with appropriate expiration term.

REPORTS TO COUNCIL:

CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU/ADMINISTRATION

ACCEPT GRANT AWARD – TOURISM PARTNERSHIP FUND

Councilman Rodgers made a motion Council Accept A Tourism Partnership Fund (TPF) Grant From South Carolina Department Of Parks, Recreation And Tourism In The Amount Of \$98,636.40 For Implementation Of The Florence County Marketing Plan In FY12. Councilman Mumford seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT/PROCUREMENT

LEASE APPROVAL

Councilman Rodgers made a motion Council Approve An Addendum To An Existing Lease With Farmers Telephone Cooperative, Inc. Allowing Additional Equipment To Be Placed On Florence County's Communication Tower Located In Lake City And Increasing The Monthly Lease Amount To \$1,800. Councilman Culberson seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

FINANCE/FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

PUBLIC SERVICE BUILDING SPACE ALLOCATION

Chairman Smith stated unless there was an objection by Council, he would Refer The Issue Of Allocation Of Space In The Public Service Building Which Is Being Vacated By Voter Registration And Election Commission Offices To The Public Services And County Planning Committee Of Council For Review And Recommendation. There was no objection voiced by Council.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

PROGRAMMING – CLERK OF COURT PUBLIC RECORDS

Councilman Rodgers made a motion Council Provide Funding In The Amount Of \$6,000 From FY12 Contingency Funds For Programming Necessary To Annotate Clerk Of Court Public Records To Enhance Search Features On The County Website. Councilman Anderson seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

PLANNING & BUILDING/PROCUREMENT

CONTRACT AWARD

Councilman Anderson made a motion Council Approve A Contract With Carolina Clear For Professional Services To Continue With The Next Required Phase Of The Storm Water Management Regulations Required By National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Regulations In The Amount Of \$75,000 (\$15,000 Annually For Five Years). This would be the second period of the contract. Councilman Rodgers seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE/PROCUREMENT

SURPLUS PROPERTY

Councilman Rodgers made a motion Council Declare Fifteen (15) Kimber Stainless Gold Match 45 ACP Pistols As Surplus Property For The Purpose Of Disposal And Appropriate The Proceeds To Be Utilized For The Procurement Of Replacement Weapons For Florence County Sheriff's Office. Councilman Anderson seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

SOLICITOR'S OFFICE/HUMAN RESOURCES

RECLASSIFY TWO POSITIONS

Councilman Rodgers made a motion Council Approve The Reclassification Of Two Assistant Solicitor Positions (Slot 010-411-404-002 From Grade 24 To Grade 30 And Slot 010-411-404-003 From Grade 24 To Grade 15). Councilman Culberson seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

The following item was an addition to the Agenda:

COUNCIL/FINANCE

VETERANS PARK MONUMENT

Councilman Schofield made a motion Council Approve Funds In The Amount Of \$25,000 Toward The Cost Of A Monument At Veterans Park From FY12 Budgeted Funds. Councilman Anderson seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS:

UTILITY

E-RECYCLE CONTAINERS

Councilman Poston made a motion Council Approve The Expenditure Of Up To \$10,600.00 From Council Districts 1 and 2 Utility Funding Allocations For The Purchase Of E-Recycle Containers To Be Placed At The Manned Convenience Center Sites In Lake City And Johnsonville. Councilman Rodgers seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

The following items were additions to the Agenda:

OTHER BUSINESS:

INFRASTRUCTURE

SPAULDING HEIGHTS COMMUNITY PARK

Councilman Mumford made a motion Council Approve The Expenditure Of Up To \$600.00 From Council District 7 Infrastructure Funding Allocation To Replace The Refrigerator At Spaulding Heights Community Park. Councilman Bradley seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

TOWN OF OLANTA

Councilman Rodgers made a motion Council Approve The Expenditure Of Up To \$1,241.09 From Council District 5 Infrastructure Funding Allocation To Pay For Four (4) Home Of Teen Miss South Carolina 2011 Emily C. Floyd Signs To Be Erected At Entrances Into The Town Of Olanda. Councilman Anderson seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

TOWN OF PAMPLICO

Councilman Poston made a motion Council Declare One (1) Vehicle (V0764 A 2005 Ford Crown Vic) As Surplus; Authorize The Sale Of The Vehicle To The Town Of Pamplico In The Amount Of \$4,550; And Approve The Funding From Council District 2 Infrastructure Allocation For The Purchase Of The Vehicle. Councilman Kirby seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

UPDATE ON "BLUE LAWS"

Councilman Kirby requested the Chairman provide an update on the "Blue Laws" for the citizens. Chairman Smith stated that the State was in control of the Blue Laws and the County had no control. This shows the effects of what Florence County has done in terms of Economic Development and promotion. For the first time in Florence County, it surpassed the threshold of State accommodations tax, meaning County revenues for the prior fiscal year exceeded \$900,000, which in essence did away with the antiquated 'Blue Laws' in terms of retail sales, but has nothing to do with alcohol sales.

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

COUNCIL MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:30 A.M.