

**SPECIAL CALLED MEETING OF THE FLORENCE COUNTY COUNCIL, THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 2013, 9:00 A.M., COUNCIL CHAMBERS ROOM 803, CITY-COUNTY COMPLEX, 180 N. IRBY STREET, FLORENCE, SOUTH CAROLINA**

**PRESENT:**

James T. Schofield, Chairman  
Alphonso Bradley, Vice-Chairman  
Waymon Mumford, Secretary-Chaplain  
Mitchell Kirby, Council Member  
Russell W. Culberson, Council Member  
Roger M. Poston, Council Member  
Kent C. Caudle, Council Member  
Willard Dorriety, Jr., Council Member  
K. G. Rusty Smith, Jr., County Administrator  
D. Malloy McEachin, Jr., County Attorney  
Connie Y. Haselden, Clerk to Council

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Kevin V. Yokim, Finance Director  
Dusty Owens, Emergency Management Department Director  
Ryon Watkins, EMS Director  
Chief Deputy Glen Kirby, Sheriff's Office  
Barbara Coker, Administrative Manager Sheriff's Office  
John Sweeney, Morning News  
Patricia Burkett, TV 13 News Reporter

Notice of the Special Called Meeting of the Florence County Council appeared in the March 6, 2013 edition of the **MORNING NEWS**. In compliance with the Freedom of Information Act, copies of the Meeting Agenda were provided to members of the media, members of the public requesting copies, 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](http://www.florenceco.org)).

Chairman Schofield called the meeting to order. Secretary/Chaplain Mumford provided the invocation and Vice Chairman Bradley led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

## **REPORTS TO COUNCIL:**

### **COUNTY COUNCIL**

#### **CONSULTANT'S REPORT ON EMS**

Chairman Schofield provided a presentation on the consultant's report on EMS as well as information compiled from meetings with other counties. The State Department of Health and Environmental Control informed the County that it would begin enforcement of regulations that were not enforced in the past, which would affect some of the types of transports that private ambulance carriers were allowed to make.

Chairman Schofield provided a brief recap of several incidents in which all ambulances in the greater Florence area were on calls and units in Pamplico and Olanta had to be brought in to run calls, thus leaving the southern portion of the County with only one unit. Mr. George Morris of 137 Hillcrest Drive, Florence was present and requested to address Council regarding EMS. Councilman Kirby made a motion to allow Mr. Morris to address Council. Councilman Dorriety seconded the motion which was approved unanimously. Mr. Morris stated his wife was a severe diabetic and on February 18<sup>th</sup> slipped into a diabetic coma. He called 9-1-1 and it took 30 minutes for EMS to arrive (the West Florence Fire Department arrived in 10 minutes, but couldn't do anything but administer oxygen), because the unit came from Pamplico. He commended EMS and the fire department for the service provided and encouraged Council to address the matter with urgency so that citizens wouldn't have to wait so long for a response. Chairman Schofield stated this type of occurrence was too frequent in Florence County.

Councilman Mumford stated he would be in favor of the 24-hour modified schedule, to include 12-hour shifts where needed to get the system back on track. He stated further that Council needed to look at the future as well; there were some other needs to address. The number of personnel requested by the Sheriff's Office - a tremendous need for additional personnel in the jail and on the road, additional personnel by EMS, and looking at fire services. He would like for Council to look at setting up a special millage for emergency services. He was of the opinion that the general public wouldn't object to paying a little more for those services if the funding were clearly designated for those services.

Councilman Dorriety concurred with the 24-hour modified schedule discussed by Councilman Mumford and stated the two additional staffed ambulances were needed as soon as possible, one in Florence and one in Lake City. He also suggested a third one in the Effingham area. He commended EMS personnel for the job they do.

Councilman Kirby thanked Chairman Schofield for the hard work he put into the presentation and his dedication to the issue. He stated he felt Council members knew that something needed to be done and it needed to be done at the most efficient cost to the County.

Councilman Caudle stated he believed police protection, fire protection and emergency services were basic functions that the County needed to supply to its citizenry. It was clear that something needed to be done.

Councilman Mumford made a motion to immediately begin implementation, with the use of existing authorized personnel, a four (4) squad schedule for Florence County EMS to end employees working more than 24-hours on a shift by implementing a 24-hour modified schedule with 12-hour shifts to be implemented incrementally in medic districts as need dictates. Councilman Dorriety seconded the motion. Councilman Kirby stated he wanted to review the study before making a decision. Councilman Bradley stated he agreed with Councilman Kirby and, in light of the needs of the Sheriff's office, whatever Council did for one would eventually need to be done for all. Councilman Culberson stated he agreed conceptually with all that was said regarding the corrective actions for EMS, and suggested the matter be reviewed during the budget process. Chairman Schofield stated the motion on the floor was acting within the budget that was previously allocated so no additional funding would be required at this time. This action would start attracting new employees to bring the staffing level up to where it was needed. The motion was unanimously approved. Chairman Schofield stated the next thing would be to decide in the budget process how to solve many of the pressing issues with the Sheriff's office and the purchasing of additional ambulances.

## **PROBATE JUDGE/HUMAN RESOURCES**

### **INCREASE IN SALARY**

Councilman Culberson Made A Motion Council Authorize An Increase In Salary For A Legal Records Clerk IV (Slot #006) In The Amount Of \$859.68 Annually To Be Funded From FY13 Budgeted Funds And Required To Be Funded In The FY14 Budget. Councilman Caudle seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

## **SHERIFF**

### **PREA DIRECTOR**

Councilman Caudle made a motion Council Authorize A Budget Neutral Reclassification Of A Correctional Officer Position At The Law Enforcement Center To A PREA Investigator In Order To Comply With Revised National Standards Established By The Justice Department. Councilman Culberson seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Councilman Mumford made a motion Council Enter Executive Session, Pursuant To Section 30-4-70 Of The South Carolina Code Of Laws 1976, As Amended, For Legal And Contractual Matters. Councilman Dorriety seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Council entered executive session at 9:59 a.m. Council reconvened at 10:32 a.m.

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

**COUNCIL MEETING ADJOURNED AT 10:33 A.M.**