

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE FLORENCE COUNTY COUNCIL,
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2016, 6:00 P.M., NATIONAL BEAN
MARKET MUSEUM, 111 HENRY STREET, LAKE CITY, SOUTH
CAROLINA**

PRESENT:

Roger M. Poston, Chairman
Kent C. Caudle, Vice Chairman
Mitchell Kirby, Secretary-Chaplain
Waymon Mumford, Council Member
Alphonso Bradley, Council Member
Willard Dorriety, Jr., Council Member
Jason M. Springs, Council Member
H. Steven DeBerry, IV, Council Member
K. G. Rusty Smith, Jr., County Administrator
Malloy McEachin, County Attorney
Connie Y. Haselden, Clerk to Council

ABSENT:

James T. Schofield, Council Member

ALSO PRESENT:

Representative Roger Kirby
Mayor Lovith Anderson
Sheriff Kenney Boone
Arthur C. Gregg, Jr., Public Works Director
Kevin V. Yokim, Finance Director
Dusty Owens, Emergency Management Department Director
Suzanne S. King, Administrative Services Director
Jonathan B. Graham, III, Planning Director
Ronnie Pridgen, Parks & Recreation Department Director
Patrick Fletcher, Procurement Director
Samuel K. Brockington, Jr., Fire/Rescue Services Coordinator
Kristy Hughes, Emergency Preparedness Senior Coordinator
Mitch Fulmore, EMD Training Officer
Jamie Floyd, Tax Assessor's Office
Joshua Lloyd, Morning News Staffwriter

A notice of the regular meeting of the Florence County Council appeared in the September 21, 2016 edition of the **MORNING NEWS**. In compliance with the Freedom of Information Act, copies of the meeting Agenda and Proposed Additions to the Agenda were provided to members of the media, members of the public requesting copies, posted in the lobby of the County Complex, provided for posting at the Doctors Bruce and Lee Foundation Public Library, all branch libraries, and on the County's website (www.florenceco.org).

Chairman Poston called the meeting to order. Secretary-Chaplain Kirby provided the invocation and Vice Chairman Caudle led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag. Chairman Poston welcomed everyone attending the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Councilman Kirby made a motion Council Approve The Minutes Of The August 18, 2016 Regular Meeting Of County Council. Councilman Dorriety seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

The Clerk published the title and the Chairman declared the public hearing open for the following:

ORDINANCE NO. 05-2016/17

An Ordinance Amending Florence County Code, Chapter 28, Public Utilities, Article 1, Section 28-7 In Order To Increase The Water/Sewer System Service Area Previously Granted To The Town Of Coward; And Other Matters Related Thereto.

APPEARANCES:

SALLIE BACHMAN, CHIEF OF SPECIAL PROGRAMS

HopeHealth, Inc. Community Relations Coordinator Shawn Maxwell Requested To Appear Before Council To Share The Findings Of A Recent Study To Address Mental Health And Wellbeing Of Men And Boys In The Counties Of Florence, Clarendon, Aiken, Orangeburg And Williamsburg, And Present Implementation Plans. Sallie Bachman, Chief of Special Programs provided an overview of the program. As a result of the findings, HopeHealth was going to start a peer-to-peer program for veterans in the program to connect them with services within the organization. For the boys in the pediatric clinics, the plan was to focus on screenings and mentor programs in the community.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE & PUBLIC SAFETY

Councilman DeBerry, Chairman of the Committee, stated The Committee on Justice & Public Safety met on Friday morning, September 2nd to discuss issues concerning the 9-1-1/Central Dispatch. The Committee learned during that meeting that Central Dispatch employees had not received a pay increase nor had any new positions been authorized since the year 2000. This was of concern due to many factors (increase in call volume, increase in responsibilities, etc.) and he was of the opinion that it was important for public safety across the board that the central dispatch office operate as efficiently and effectively as possible. This department was critical to public safety across the board. As a result of the meeting and discussions during the meeting, the Committee recommended to approve the additional positions needed and a pay increase for the Central Dispatch

department immediately or as soon as possible in order to allow dispatch to continue to operate efficiently and also to make public safety the best that it can be. Committee Chairman DeBerry stated he understood that the more complicated component of that recommendation was the approval of more positions, but included in this Agenda was a pay increase for Central Dispatch employees that would be a good first step in addressing the current situation. He asked that all Council members strongly consider approval of this item on the Agenda.

RESOLUTIONS/PROCLAMATIONS:

RESOLUTION NO. 06-2016/17

The Clerk published the title of Resolution No. 06-2016/17: A Resolution Requesting The State Of South Carolina General Assembly Amend The Annexing Authority Of Municipal Governments Under South Carolina Law. Councilman Mumford made a motion Council approve the Resolution as presented. Councilman Springs seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

There being no signatures on the sign-in sheet for Public Hearing, the Chairman closed the Public Hearing. (The sign-in sheet is attached and incorporated by reference.)

ORDINANCES IN POSITION:

ORDINANCE NO. 02-2016/17 – THIRD READING

The Clerk published the title of Ordinance No. 02-2016/17: An Ordinance To Ratify FY16 Budget And Grant Council Actions Previously Authorized By Council And Other Matters Related Thereto. Councilman Caudle made a motion Council approve third reading of the Ordinance. Councilman DeBerry seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

ORDINANCE NO. 03-2016/17 – THIRD READING

The Clerk published the title of Ordinance No. 03-2016/17: An Ordinance To Rezone Property Owned By South Carolina Home Mission Located On 114 Steele Avenue, Pamplico, As Shown On Florence County Tax Map No. 60008, Block 01, Parcel 004; Consisting Of Approximately 0.823 Acres From Single-Family Residential District (R-2) To General Commercial District (B-3); And Other Matters Related Thereto. Councilman Caudle made a motion Council approve third reading of the Ordinance. Councilman Mumford seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

ORDINANCE NO. 04-2016/17 – THIRD READING

The Clerk published the title of Ordinance No. 04-2016/17: An Ordinance To Amend The Florence County Code Of Ordinances Sections 11-171(b) and 11-171(c) Regarding Uses For The Proceeds Of The Road System Maintenance Fee And Other Matters Related Thereto. Councilman Springs made a motion Council approve third reading of the Ordinance. Councilman Dorriety seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

ORDINANCE NO. 38-2014/15 – SECOND READING DEFERRED

Council was asked to defer second reading of Ordinance No. 38-2014/15: An Ordinance To Zone Properties Inclusive Of All Unzoned Properties In Council Districts Five And Six Bounded By Freedom Boulevard, Jefferies Creek, Francis Marion Road, Wickerwood Road, Flowers Road, Pamplico Highway, South Vance Drive, Furches Avenue, And The Westernmost Boundary Of Council District Six That Connects Furches Avenue And Freedom Boulevard, Florence, SC From Unzoned To The Following Zoning Designations Of RU-1, Rural Community District, B-1, Limited Business District, B-2, Convenience Business District And B-3, General Commercial District; Consistent With The Land Use Element And Map Of The Florence County Comprehensive Plan; And Other Matters Related Thereto. Councilman Caudle made a motion that Pursuant to Rule 6.1 of the *Rules of the Florence County Council*, Council suspend Rule 5.2 as it applied to Ordinance No. 38-2014/15. Councilman DeBerry seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

ORDINANCE NO. 24-2015/16 – SECOND READING DEFERRED

The Chairman stated Council was asked to defer second reading of Ordinance No. 24-2015/16: An Ordinance Authorizing (1) The Execution And Delivery Of A First Amendment To The Fee In Lieu Of Tax Agreement Between Florence County, South Carolina (The “County”) And A Company Identified For The Time Being As Project Mirror, To Provide For Certain Special Source Credits In Connection With Additional Investment In Certain Manufacturing And Related Facilities In The County; And (2) Other Matters Relating Thereto.

ORDINANCE NO. 05-2016/17 – SECOND READING

The Clerk published the title of Ordinance No. 05-2016/17: An Ordinance Amending Florence County Code, Chapter 28, Public Utilities, Article 1, Section 28-7 In Order To Increase The Water/Sewer System Service Area Previously Granted To The Town Of Coward; And Other Matters Related Thereto. Councilman Caudle made a motion Council approve second reading of the Ordinance. Councilman Springs seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

The Clerk Published The Titles Of The Following Ordinances And The Chairman Declared The Ordinances Introduced By Title Only:

ORDINANCE NO. 06-2016/17 – INTRODUCED BY TITLE ONLY

An Ordinance To Require A License For Door To Door Peddling In The Unincorporated Area Of Florence County; To Regulate Peddling In The Unincorporated Area Of Florence County; And Other Matters Related Thereto. Chairman Poston referred this Ordinance to the Committee on Justice & Public Safety.

ORDINANCE NO. 07-2016/17 – INTRODUCED BY TITLE ONLY

An Ordinance Adding A Provision To The Florence County Code Of Ordinances Pertaining To The Placement Of Donation Receptacles Within The Unincorporated Areas Of Florence County; And Other Matters Related Thereto.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:

PEE DEE MENTAL HEALTH CENTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Councilman Caudle made a motion Council Approve The Recommendation Of The Pee Dee Mental Health Center Board Of Directors For Nomination To The Governor The Appointment of The Honorable Rangeley C. Bailey To Serve On The Pee Dee Mental Health Center Board Of Directors, Seat 7, With Appropriate Expiration Term. Councilman Bradley seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

REPORTS TO COUNCIL:

ADMINISTRATION

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

County Administrator K. G. Rusty Smith, Jr. stated that Council was provided with a comprehensive update of Capital Project Sales Tax #1 and Capital Project Sales Tax #2, as well as the most recent report from the department heads' meeting.

Of note on the initial CPST project, all sections of US 378 should be completed by the summer of 2017. This would not only open the gateways of Florence County and Lake City to and from the Grand Strand but would also provide a much needed economic boost and enhanced safety on this very busy thoroughfare. The US 378 widening project remained well under budget.

US 76 and TV Road continued to progress nicely and should be completed by early 2017. SC 51 was also under construction and should be substantially complete in the year 2019. Bids were recently received for the final phase of 51 and the contract was to be awarded to R. E. Goodson Construction of Darlington, SC for a low bid of \$31,526,876.

Preliminary engineering was underway for the 301 Bypass Extension via the widening of Alligator Road. Construction was set to begin in the year 2019 with a completion date of 2021.

It should also be noted that Florence County had completed 257 roads in the Capital Project Sales Tax #2; also had an additional 27 roads presently under contract.

Projects 107 and 235, Brookgreen drainage improvements in the amount of \$695,890.47 and the Meadow Prong 1 drainage improvements in the amount of \$92,405 were also on the Agenda for Council's consideration.

The new Johnsonville ballpark continued to take shape in spite of continued inclement weather. The new complex would be an exciting venue in one of the County's busiest recreation programs.

Lake City Public Works pump station was now under contract, which would in essence allow the County to continue to complete the lake project. Work continued on the roads and parking lot. The County was awaiting proposals on the new boardwalk and fishing piers, as well as bids on the picnic shelter, which hopefully could be approved at the October meeting.

Other municipal projects were also progressing expeditiously. The Johnsonville/Vox water line was under construction and should be completed by the summer of 2017. In Coward, the Salem Road water line and the new water tank were under contract and should be completed by mid-year 2017. Also Watford Fence Company of Florence started on the new fence for the Coward ballfield and it should be installed by November of this year. The lighting on this field had also been contracted with Brice Electric of Sumter and should be completed by year's end. Olanta water project should be advertised this month with award coming shortly thereafter. Completion was slated for the spring of 2017. In Pamplico the Francis Marion Road water line advertising was imminent and was being coordinated with the SC 51 widening project.

Another item Council had been very interested in was the County's assault on litter. The Palmer Inmate Program continued to yield dividends. From June 28th thru September 14th of this year 72.85 miles of roads in Florence County had been cleaned; 35,662 bags of litter had been collected for an unbelievable astounding number of 534,930 pounds of trash that was picked up. The County issued 121 citations resulting in fines of \$35,777.25. Staff continued to work with the Sheriff's Office and DNR conducting undercover sting operations and had made arrests for litter violations, driving under the influence, driving under suspension, drugs and many other outstanding warrants.

Our partnership with the "Lucky Dog" organization was instrumental in adopting 414 dogs and cats since January the 1st.

The County also continued to proactively battle the Zika virus through monitoring and surveillance of mosquito traps. Staff was working with DHEC entomology labs to test for vector borne diseases and all tests had come back negative. Larvaciding and spray activity would continue as needed.

On the public safety front, six (6) fire stations had been completed: Johnsonville Main and Kingsburg Stations, Windy Hill Quinby Station, West Florence Hoffmeyer Road Station, Hannah-Salem-Friendfield Flemington Station and the Sardis-Timmonsville Cartersville Fire Station. Work continued on the Howe Springs Main Station, the Friendfield Hyman Road Station and the South Lynches Training Facility. Additionally, an architect was being hired by West Florence to renovate Station No. 1. To date, 14 new fire trucks had been delivered and 15 more were on order.

The County's new state-of-the-art radio system that served all public safety agencies in the County was operational and the new Emergency Operations Center was currently under construction with an estimated completion date of November 2017.

MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORTS

Mr. Smith stated that Monthly Financial Reports Were Provided To Council For Fiscal Year 2017 Through August 31, 2016 For Council's edification.

WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY ACT PLANS

Councilman Mumford made a motion Council Approve The Workforce Innovation And Opportunity Act (WIOA) Local Plan For The Pee Dee Local Workforce Development Area And The Plan For The Pee Dee Planning Region As Presented By The Pee Dee Regional Council Of Governments. Councilman Dorriety seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

ADMINISTRATION/CENTRAL DISPATCH/FINANCE

CENTRAL DISPATCH PAY ADJUSTMENT

Councilman DeBerry made a motion Council Approve A Within Grade Adjustment Of \$4,000 Per Employee For All Dispatch Personnel In The Central Dispatch Division Of The Emergency Management Department, Effective With The First Full Pay Period In November 2016 (Pay Check Dated November 25). Councilman Mumford seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

ADMINISTRATION/FINANCE

CIVIC CENTER EXPANSION

Councilman Caudle made a motion Council Approve The Appropriation Of \$500,000 From The Fund Balance Of The Local Accommodations Tax Special Revenue Fund As Additional Funding Toward The Civic Center Expansion Project, Contingent Upon The City Of Florence Approving An Appropriation Of An Equal Amount. *(This Appropriation Is To Be Included In The FY2016/17 Year-End Budget Amendment Ordinance.)* Councilman Dorriety seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

FLORENCE REGIONAL AIRPORT

Councilman Mumford made a motion Council Approve The Expenditure Of \$10,000 From Contingency Funds In Order To Fund A Portion Of The Cost Of the Airport Enhancement Project For The Florence Regional Airport, To Potentially Include The Addition Of Another Commercial Carrier. Councilman Kirby seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

ADMINISTRATION/PROCUREMENT

AWARD BID NO. 01-16/17

Councilman Bradley made a motion Council Award Bid No. 01-16/17, Brookgreen Drainage Improvements In The Primary Bid Amount Of \$695,890.07 To Digging Deep Construction, LLC Of Mt. Pleasant, SC From The Capital Project Sales Tax II Funds (3 *Compliant Bids Received*). Councilman Mumford seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

PROCUREMENT

DECLARATION OF SURPLUS PROPERTY

Councilman Kirby made a motion Council Declare Six (6) Vehicles And One (1) Truck As Surplus Property For Disposal Through Public Internet Auction Via GovWorld Auctions, LLC. Councilman Dorriety seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

DECLARATION OF SURPLUS PROPERTY

Councilman Kirby made a motion Council Declare Surplus And Authorize The Sale Of Unit #VS306, A 2011 Chevrolet Tahoe To The Town Of Timmons ville In The Amount Of \$10,000. Councilman Dorriety seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

WEST FLORENCE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Councilman Dorriety made a motion Council Approve Collins And Almers Architects From The Pre-Approved Architectural Firm List For Design Services As It Relates To The West Florence Fire Department Main Station Addition And Renovation In The Amount Of \$55,000 To Be Funded From Capital Project Sales Tax II Funds. Councilman Kirby seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

PUBLIC WORKS/PROCUREMENT

AWARD BID NO. 05-16/17

Councilman Kirby made a motion Council Award Bid No. 05-16/17, Meadow Prong Dirt Road Drainage Project In The Amount Of \$92,405.50 To Coastal Asphalt, LLC of Conway, SC From The Capital Project Sales Tax II Funds (*5 Compliant Bids Received*). Councilman Dorriety seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE/ADMINISTRATION

1021 JUSTICE WAY

Councilman Caudle made a motion Council Approve The Florence County Sheriff's Office Occupying The Recently Vacated House At 1021 Justice Way, Effingham, SC In An Effort To Provide Additional Storage/Office Space For The Department. Councilman Dorriety seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

RECREATION

SALARY INCREASE

Councilman Dorriety made a motion Council Authorize An Increase In Salary For A Clerk II (Slot #081) And A Maintenance Area Supervisor (Slot #310) To Be Funded From FY17 Budgeted Funds. (*Request Is Budget Neutral.*) Councilman Springs seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS:

INFRASTRUCTURE

HANNAH-SALEM-FRIENDFIELD

Councilman Caudle made a motion Council Declare A Kohler 25 kW Generator, County Tag #15845 As Surplus Property; Authorize The Sale Of The Generator To The Hannah-Salem-Friendfield Fire Department; And, Approve The Expenditure Of Up To \$10,000 From Council District 2 Infrastructure Funding Allocation To Assist The Hannah-Salem-Friendfield Fire Department With The Purchase. Councilman Dorriety seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

ROAD SYSTEM MAINTENANCE FEE (RSMF)

BENNIE LANDING ROAD

Councilman Caudle made a motion Council Approve The Expenditure Of Up To \$3,750.00 From Council District 2 RSMF Funding Allocation To Pay For MBC Stone To Be Put On Bennie Landing Road. Councilman Dorriety seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

DEWEY ROAD

Councilman Bradley made a motion Council Approve The Expenditure Of Up To \$26,625.00 From Council District 3 RSMF Funding Allocation To Pay For 6" Reclamation/Cement And 2" Surface On Dewey Road. Councilman Mumford seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

JOHNSONVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Councilman Caudle made a motion Council Amend Action Taken By Council At Its Regular Meeting Of June 16, 2016 For The Expenditure Of Up To \$43,200 From Council District 2 Infrastructure Funding Allocation For Additional Muck And Fill For The Road Bed At The New Johnsonville Fire Department To Change The Funding Source To RSMF Funding Allocation. Councilman Mumford seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

N. HARTWELL DRIVE

Councilman Bradley made a motion Council Approve The Expenditure Of Up To \$16,280.00 From Council District 3 RSMF Funding Allocation To Pay For Resurfacing 1 ½" Surface Of N. Hartwell Drive. Councilman Mumford seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

INFRASTRUCTURE/UTILITY

GREENWOOD ATHLETIC COMPLEX

Councilman Caudle made a motion Council Approve The Expenditure Of Up To \$3,600 From Council Districts' Infrastructure/Utility Funding Allocations (\$400 Each District Or As Indicated On The Approving Documentation) To Assist With The Purchase Of An Awning Over The Doors Of The New Restrooms At Greenwood Athletic Complex Pony League Field. Councilman Kirby seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

INFRASTRUCTURE

TIMMONSVILLE RESCUE SQUAD

Councilman Kirby made a motion Council Approve The Expenditure Of Up To \$16,000 From Council District 4 Infrastructure Funding Allocation To Assist The Timmons ville Rescue Squad With The Purchase/Replacement Of Equipment Needed In Order To Be In Compliance With New DHEC Regulations Effective January 1. Councilman Dorriety seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

INFRASTRUCTURE/UTILITY

HOWE SPRINGS FIRE DISTRICT

Councilman Kirby made a motion Council Approve The Expenditure Of Up To \$16,000 From Council Districts 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 And 8 Infrastructure/Utility Funding Allocations (Approximately \$2,667 From Each District) To Assist The Howe Springs Fire District With Repairs To Station 6 Due To Damages Caused By A Vehicular Accident On Meadow Prong Road. Councilman Springs seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously. Councilman Caudle stated that, as he understood it, the insurance on the vehicle that caused the damage was paying for those repairs, but this funding was to upgrade the station while repairs were being made.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Dorriety stated that just for clarification with regard to the Civic Center item, he wanted the public to understand that accommodations tax monies were being used to fund this project. Accommodations tax monies must be used for tourism related projects and this project qualified. This would prevent the increase of property taxes to fund this project.

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

COUNCIL MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:33 P.M.