

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE FLORENCE COUNTY COUNCIL,
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2016, 9:00 A.M., COUNTY
COMPLEX, COUNCIL CHAMBERS, ROOM 803, 180 N. IRBY
STREET, FLORENCE, SOUTH CAROLINA**

PRESENT:

Kent C. Caudle, Vice Chairman (*Acting as Chairman in the absence of the Chairman*)
Mitchell Kirby, Secretary-Chaplain
Waymon Mumford, Council Member
Alphonso Bradley, Council Member
James T. Schofield, 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
FitzLee McEachin, County Attorney
Connie Y. Haselden, Clerk to Council

ABSENT:

Roger M. Poston, Chairman

ALSO PRESENT:

Sheriff Kenney Boone
Arthur C. Gregg, Jr., Public Works Director
Kevin V. Yokim, Finance Director
Dusty Owens, Emergency Management Department Director
Ronnie Pridgen, Parks & Recreation Department Director
Jonathan B. Graham, III, Planning Director
Jack Newsome, Tax Assessor
Samuel K. Brockington, Jr., Fire/Rescue Services Coordinator
Perry Strickland, Assistant to the County Administrator
Chief Billy Dillon, Howe Springs Fire Department
Jamie Floyd, Tax Assessor's Office
Chief Deputy Glen Kirby
Randy Godbold, VA Officer
Kim Gardner, Economic Development
Joshua Lloyd, Morning News Staffwriter

A notice of the regular meeting of the Florence County Council appeared in the November 16, 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).

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Councilman Springs made a motion Council Approve The Minutes Of The October 20, 2016 Regular Meeting Of County Council. Councilman Dorriety seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

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

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 [Dated As Of December 15, 2012] Between Florence County, South Carolina (The "County") And Honda Of South Carolina Mfg., Inc., A Company Previously Identified ~~For The Time Being~~ As Project Mirror (The "Company"), 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.

APPEARANCES:

911 DISPATCHERS

Emergency Management Department Director Dusty Owens, Acting 911 Manager Mitch Fulmore, Professional Standards Coordinator Marie Johnson, Shift Supervisor Mandy Newell (former SC Dispatcher of the Year Recipient), Shift Supervisor Michelle Huggins And Dispatcher Terri Thompson (Winner of the 2016 Palmetto Award for Outstanding Performance) Appeared Before Council To Share With Council And Citizens Information Regarding The Department's Winning The SC APCO/NENA 911 Communications Center Of The Year For 2016. Mr. Owens stated this was the third time the Center earned this award in the last decade. Councilman Springs commended the group for a job well done, especially considering the challenges they faced with minimal staffing, etc. He stated that Council appreciated the efforts of the department and was committed to assisting the department in getting the staffing level back up where it needed to be by moving forward with the study. Councilman Mumford also commended the group and stated this was the 'heartbeat' of the entire operation. He recently visited the Center and was very impressed with the professionalism displayed. He congratulated them on the newest award. Vice Chairman Caudle commended the group on the recent award and the outstanding service they provide on a daily basis.

WILLIAM 'BILLY' FOWLER

Mr. Fowler Appeared Before Council To Discuss '*The Second Washout Of The Aire Acres Road.*' He stated the County had raised the road bed up and requested that the County lower the tiles by at least 6 feet. Vice Chairman Caudle thanked Mr. Fowler and stated his presentation would be received as information.

LISA M. PENDARVIS AND WILLIAM JAMES FOWLER

Ms. Pendarvis and Mr. Fowler Appeared Before Council *‘To Speak About Concerns As To The Hwy. 76 Widening Project.’* Vice Chairman Caudle stated the concerns would be received as information and if they would provide copies of the referenced study and maps, the County would review the information and provide an appropriate response.

STEPHEN WELCH, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - SCIENCESOUTH

ScienceSouth Executive Director Of Operations Stephen Welch Appeared Before Council To Address the ScienceSouth And Lynches River County Park Partnership Proposal. (A copy of the presentation is attached and incorporated by reference.) Vice Chairman Caudle stated there were limitless possibilities with education and thanked Mr. Welch for his presentation.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

There were no Committee Reports.

RESOLUTIONS/PROCLAMATIONS:

RESOLUTION NO. 07-2016/17

The Clerk published the title of Resolution No. 07-2016/17: A Resolution Authorizing The Amendment Of The Florence County Council Guidelines For The Expenditures Of Infrastructure Improvement Funds. Councilman Dorriety made a motion Council approve the Resolution. Councilman Kirby seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

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

ORDINANCES IN POSITION:

ORDINANCE NO. 07-2016/17 – THIRD READING DEFERRAL

Vice Chairman Caudle stated third reading of Ordinance No. 07-2016/17 would be deferred: 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.

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.

ORDINANCE NO. 24-2015/16 – SECOND READING

The Clerk published the title 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 [Dated As Of December 15, 2012] Between Florence County, South Carolina (The “County”) And Honda Of South Carolina Mfg., Inc., A Company Previously Identified ~~For The Time Being~~ As Project Mirror (The “Company”), 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. Councilman Kirby made a motion Council approve second reading of the Ordinance. Councilman Dorriety seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

ORDINANCE NO. 06-2016/17 – SECOND READING DEFERRED

The Vice Chairman stated Council was asked to defer second reading of Ordinance No. 06-2016/17: 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.

ORDINANCE NO. 08-2016/17 – INTRODUCED

The Clerk Published The Title And Vice Chairman Caudle Declared Ordinance No. 08-2016/17 Introduced By Title Only: An Ordinance To Provide For The Issuance And Sale Of A Not Exceeding Two Million Dollar (\$2,000,000) General Obligation Bond Of Florence County, South Carolina, To Prescribe The Purposes For Which The Proceeds Of Said Bond Shall Be Expended, To Provide For The Payment Of Said Bond, And Other Matters Relating Thereto.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP BOARD

Councilman Dorriety made a motion Council Approve The Appointment Of Tim Norwood To Serve On The Economic Development Partnership Board, Representing Council District 2, With Appropriate Expiration Term. Councilman Springs seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

FLORENCE COUNTY MUSEUM BOARD

Councilman Bradley made a motion Council Approve The Recommendation Of The Board Of Trustees Of The Florence Museum Corporation To Re-Appoint Becky Crawford To Serve On The Museum Board, Representing The Museum Corporation, With Appropriate Expiration Term. Councilman Schofield seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

PEE DEE MENTAL HEALTH CENTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Councilman Bradley made a motion Council Approve The Recommendation Of The Pee Dee Mental Health Center Board Of Directors For Nomination To The Governor The Re-Appointment of Sam J. Fryer To Serve On The Pee Dee Mental Health Center Board Of Directors, Seat 6, With Appropriate Expiration Term. Councilman Schofield seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

SENIOR CENTER COMMISSION

Councilman Bradley made a motion Council Approve The Appointment Of Adlaide Johnson To Serve On The Senior Center Commission, Representing Council District 3, With Appropriate Expiration Term. Councilman Mumford seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

REPORTS TO COUNCIL:

ADMINISTRATION

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

County Administrator K. G. Rusty Smith, Jr. stated Council was provided with a comprehensive update of the Capital Project Sales Tax I and II projects, as well as the latest report of the department heads meeting.

Mr. Smith pointed out that of note on the initial CPST, all sections were progressing rather smoothly. S577 or Pine Needles Road was complete and US 378 had been developed in five sections and let to contractors. Sections 1 and 2 traversed approximately 8.1 miles past Woods Road and was scheduled to be completed in late 2016 or early 2017. Sections 3 and 4, which was 6.6 miles to Sandpit Road, was also scheduled for late 2016 or early 2017. The Section 5 extension to SC41 for 3.5 miles should be finished by the summer of 2017. US 76 should also be completed in early 2017. Damage from Hurricane Matthew was minor and the right of way acquisition had started on the alternate truck route for US 76 in the Town of Timmons ville and sidewalks would be extended on US 76 to South Brockington Street. The TV Road project was also under construction and anticipated to be finished in early 2017. SC 51 had been developed in four sections. Sections 1 and 2 from Claussen Road to Hyman Road was 13.4 miles and should be constructed by the summer of 2019. Sections 3 and 4 from Hyman Road to US 378 was 10.8 miles long and scheduled for completion in late 2019. The Alligator Road project from US 52 to US 76 was 7.5 miles and had a completion date of August 2021. A public hearing was scheduled for December 1 from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. at South Florence High School for public viewing and the cumulative project summary remained current and substantially under budget.

Florence County completed 271 roads in Capital Project Sales Tax II. An additional 13 roads were currently under contract; Silver Leaf and Ben Gause Road were paved this month and clean-up was underway. Many other projects continued to move forward expeditiously and remained ahead of schedule. All fire station facilities were either under design, under construction, or complete.

The Get Bitter on Litter campaign was back on track after the storm and our crews continued to produce outstanding results. As of November 8, 2016, the Palmer and weekend crews had cleaned 104.5 miles of roadways and collected an astonishing 42,879 bags of litter totaling 643,000 pounds of trash. The Palmer crew had also removed 4,750 tires from the manned convenience centers and taken them to the landfill. Officers had written 122 litter citations and collected \$36,018.25 in fines. The County also continued its assault on the Zika virus and the mosquito invasion by spraying 31,125 acres in the

last two weeks. The Clemson Pesticide and Regulatory Department recently conducted an inspection to ensure compliance and the County received an A+ rating. The inspection even indicated that the County had one of the most well run programs in the State. Mr. Smith stated he was confident that the department and staff would be recognized as the finest in South Carolina. Environmental Services staff also helped with the adoption of over 608 animals.

Mr. Smith also provided Council with a copy of correspondence that was sent to SCDOT concerning the sidewalk extension on TV Road to East Ashby Road. The extension of approximately 1,250 feet would cost about \$50,000. SCDOT felt that this was a much needed addition and would provide necessary safety and traffic enhancements.

The County's outstanding Public Works Director Carlie Gregg, asked the Administrator to make an announcement concerning the Florence County MSW Landfill. The County was required by SC DHEC to prepare an assessment of corrective measures as a plan to deal with low level groundwater contamination at the closed MSW Landfill. If anyone was interested in reviewing and/or commenting on this the public works department had several copies available.

The Florence County Central Dispatch Steering Committee held its first meeting on Tuesday, November 15th. Mr. Smith stressed to all emergency professionals in attendance the significance of this endeavor and Council's concern for public safety.

The Florence County GIS Department was scheduled to speak to 6th graders at the Wallace Gregg Elementary School on November 21st to apprise students as to how GIS could be incorporated into classroom studies and how to make it relevant to the geography standards. They would learn how geography combined with location based technology was an integral part of their life.

On a safety note, Mr. Smith stated he was also looking into amending the Personnel Policy Manual in reference to cell phone usage while operating a vehicle. Incidents of "texting while driving" and other cell phone mishaps had become increasingly dangerous and he desired to be pro-active in the protection of County employees and maintain our lower experience mods. He had spoken with the Chief Deputy regarding this issue, as well.

On another safety issue, he prepared a notice letter to the City of Florence concerning the security agreement for the Complex. He had been working with the Sheriff's Office to prepare a safer and more cost efficient method for securing the building. Council members were provided with a copy of the letter that was sent to the City on November 14, 2016 giving them notice of the County's intent.

As of November 14, 2016, 4,503 people had registered for FEMA assistance. Over \$2,767,000 had been awarded in Florence County; 341 households visited and/or registered at the DRC (Disaster Relief Center) in Lake City for additional help. According to Crowder Gulf, SCDOT clean-up contractor, in excess of 92,000 cubic yards of debris had been removed from the right of way along SCDOT and Florence County maintained roadways. It was estimated that a total of 135 to 150,000 cubic yards, which

extrapolated to 50 – 60% completion. Crowder Gulf estimated another 40 to 50,000 cubic yards remained to be removed by the 21 haul units they had deployed. They planned to add 4 to 5 more outfits over the next week to ten days; and, would continue to pick-up debris until the project was complete.

The PAL 800 statewide radio network which supported approximately 75% of all radio use in South Carolina would be transitioning to digital beginning in an early winter timeframe of 2017. Additionally, Sumter and Horry counties who had independent radio systems were moving to digital. To ensure the County maintained interoperable communication with all these departments the County would be conducting a reprogramming of the new digital talk groups for all these agencies into our radios. The County was also working with fire departments, EMS, rescue squads and law enforcement to utilize this opportunity to refine templates and talk group structures into a more functional and manageable arrangement to enhance service. During this final upgrade the County would also remove all of the older analog talk groups from its 2,400 radios countywide. Funding for this final reprogramming effort was part of the Capital Project Sales Tax radio upgrade budget. Staff had negotiated a price that was \$20,000 below the State Contract price.

MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORTS

Mr. Smith stated that Monthly Financial Reports Were Provided To Council For Fiscal Year 2017 Through September 30, 2016 For Council's elucidation.

ADMINISTRATION/FINANCE

EMPLOYEE CHRISTMAS BONUS

Councilman Dorriety made a motion Council Authorize The FY2016/17 Christmas Bonus For County Employees As Budgeted And Outlined In Section 8b. Of Ordinance No. 01-2016/17 (The Budget Ordinance). Councilman Bradley seconded the motion, Councilman Springs stated that looking back, 2016 had been a very adverse year and he was of the opinion that the employees of Florence County had stepped forward and exhibited dedication to the County. He stated he did not think the \$100 budgeted was sufficient. Councilman Springs made a motion to amend the motion to increase the amount to \$200. Councilman Kirby seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously. The motion as amended was unanimously approved.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE/GRANTS

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY GRANT

Councilman Kirby made a motion Council Accept Grant Award #PT-2017-HS-21-7 In The Amount Of \$341,141 From The South Carolina Department Of Public Safety Under The 2017 Highway Safety Grant Program For Operational Costs Associated With A Traffic Safety Unit For Florence County Sheriff's Office (FCSO). Councilman Dorriety seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

ADMINISTRATION/FINANCE/FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

LOWER FLORENCE COUNTY PUBLIC SERVICE BUILDING

Councilman Springs made a motion Council Approve The Use Of Savings On The Roof Repair Of The Lower Florence County Public Service Building To Be Used To Paint The Exterior Of The Building In An Amount Not To Exceed \$7,500. Councilman Dorriety seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS:

INFRASTRUCTURE

FLEMING TOWN STATION

Councilman Dorriety made a motion Council Approve The Expenditure Of Up To \$1,250 From Council District 2 Infrastructure Funding Allocation For MBC Stone To Assist With Drainage Issues In The Parking Lot At The New Hannah-Salem-Friendfield Fire Department Fleming Town Station. Councilman Mumford seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

GREENWOOD MANNED CONVENIENCE CENTER

Councilman Schofield made a motion Council Approve The Expenditure Of Up To \$5,497 From Council District 5 Infrastructure Funding Allocation To Pay For Replacing One Hundred Forty (140) Linear Feet Of 9' Fence With Matching 7' Fence, Along Road At The Greenwood Manned Convenience Center; Use Demolished Fence To Make Repairs In Existing 9' Fence On East And North Sides; This Includes Replacing Up To Seven (7) Line Posts, Tears In Fence And Repairs To Barbed Wire. Councilman DeBerry seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

HISTORICAL MEMORIAL BRONZE SCULPTURE

Councilman DeBerry made a motion Council Approve The Expenditure Of Up To \$10,000 From Council District 5 Infrastructure Funding Allocation For A Historical Memorial Bronze Sculpture Of Florence Henning Harllee, General William Wallace Harllee, And The Railroad. Councilman Mumford seconded the motion. Councilman Dorriety made a motion to amend the motion to include \$2,500 From Council District 9 Infrastructure Funding Allocation. Councilman Kirby seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously. Councilman Bradley made a motion to amend the motion to include \$2,500 From Council District 3 Infrastructure Funding Allocation. Councilman Kirby seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously. The motion as amended was approved unanimously for a total expenditure of \$15,000.

HOUSE OF HOPE/THE COURTNEY MCGINNIS GRAHAM SHELTER

Councilman Dorriety made a motion Council Approve The Expenditure Of Up To \$45,000 From Council Districts' Infrastructure Funding Allocations (\$5,000 From Each District) To Assist The House Of Hope With The Completion Of The Expansion Of The Courtney McGinnis Graham Community Shelter. Councilman Mumford seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

ROAD SYSTEM MAINTENANCE FEE (RSMF)

QUEEN ELIZABETH WAY

Councilman Mumford made a motion Council Approve The Expenditure Of Up To \$1,500 From Council Districts 3 And 7 RSMF Funding Allocations (\$750 From Each District) To Pay For The Removal Of Roots And Replace A Section Of Queen Elizabeth Way. Councilman Bradley seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

INFRASTRUCTURE

FLORENCE TOBACCO COMPANY AUCTION HISTORIC MARKER

Councilman Bradley made a motion Council Approve The Expenditure Of Up To \$2,260 From Council District 3 Infrastructure Funding Allocation For The Purchase And Erection Of A South Carolina Historic Marker To Identify And Recognize The Historical Importance Of Florence Tobacco Company Auction Warehouse. Councilman Schofield seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

GAMBLES HOTEL HISTORIC MARKER

Councilman Schofield made a motion Council Approve The Expenditure Of Up To \$2,260 From Council District 8 Infrastructure Funding Allocation For The Purchase And Erection Of A South Carolina Historic Marker To Identify And Recognize The Historical Importance Of Gambles Hotel. Councilman Mumford seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

KRESS DEPARTMENT STORE HISTORIC MARKER

Councilman Mumford made a motion Council Approve The Expenditure Of Up To \$2,260 From Council District 7 Infrastructure Funding Allocation For The Purchase And Erection Of A South Carolina Historic Marker To Identify And Recognize The Historical Importance Of Kress Department Store. Councilman Springs seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

COUNCIL DISTRICT 9

Councilman Dorriety made a motion Council Approve The Expenditure Of Up To \$7,500 From Council District 9 Infrastructure Funding Allocation To Pay To Clean Out All Vegetative And Debris From Ditches In Council District 9. Councilman Kirby seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilman Schofield 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 A Legal Matter Pertaining To Capital Projects And Parking At The Complex. Councilman DeBerry seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Council entered Executive Session at 9:53 a.m. Council reconvened at 10:53 a.m.

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

COUNCIL MEETING ADJOURNED AT 10:53 A.M.