

**REGULAR MEETING OF FLORENCE CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2023 – 1:00 P.M.
CITY CENTER – COUNCIL CHAMBERS
324 WEST EVANS STREET
FLORENCE, SOUTH CAROLINA**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mayor Teresa Myers Ervin, Mayor Pro Tempore George Jebaily, Councilwoman Lethonia Barnes, Councilman Chaquez T. McCall, Councilman Bryan A. Braddock, Councilwoman LaShonda NeSmith-Jackson and Councilman J. Lawrence Smith, II

ALSO PRESENT

Mr. Randall S. Osterman, City Manager; Mr. Scotty Davis, Deputy City Manager; Mr. Charles Ipock, Representing the City Attorney; Mrs. Casey Moore, Municipal Clerk; Mr. Clint Moore, Assistant City Manager of Development; Chief Allen Heidler, Florence Police Department; Chief Shannon Tanner, Florence Fire Department; Mr. Michael Hemingway, Director of Utility Planning and Economic Development; Mr. Jerry Dudley, Director of Utilities; Mrs. Jennifer Krawiec, Director of Human Resources; Mrs. Amanda Pope, Director of Marketing/Communications and Municipal Services; Mr. Adam Swindler, Director of Public Works and Mr. Kevin Rawlinson, Chief Financial Officer

MEDIA PRESENT

Mr. Christian Smith with the Florence Morning News and Mr. Seth Taylor with the Post and Courier were present for the meeting.

Notices of this regular meeting of City Council were provided to the media and individuals requesting a copy of the agenda informing them of the date, location and time of the meeting.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Ervin called the December 11, 2023 regular meeting of Florence City Council to order at 1:00 p.m.

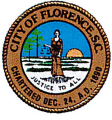
INVOCATION

Mayor Ervin gave the invocation for the meeting. The pledge of allegiance to the American Flag followed the invocation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilwoman Barnes made a motion to adopt the minutes of the November 13, 2023 Regular Meeting and Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously adopted.

Councilman Smith made a motion to adopt the minutes of the November 27, 2023 Special Meeting and Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously adopted.



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ADDENDUM TO THE AGENDA:

APPEARANCES BEFORE COUNCIL – Rocky Rietkovich

Pro tem Jebaily made a motion to add this item to the December 11, 2023 regular meeting agenda and Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson seconded the motion. This item was added to the agenda by unanimous vote.

APPEARANCES BEFORE COUNCIL

Geoff Akins – Team Director/Coach, Florence Composite “Magic City Rollers” Youth Mountain Bike Team

Mrs. Kara Akins spoke on behalf of the “Magic City Rollers” Youth Mountain Bike Team. The team has been part of the South Carolina chapter of the National Interscholastic Cycling Association (NICA) since its inception in 2009. In 2023, the “Magic City Rollers” finished 4th out of 24 teams in the state. The head coach also spoke, saying the High Hill Creek Bike and Run Park is home to the team. Not only does it serve Florence’s population, but it also is a destination and brings people to Florence. He asked for Council’s cooperation in facilitating the continued development of the bike park.

Rocky Rietkovich

Mr. Rocky Rietkovich appeared before Council to speak on the upcoming Florence Area Athletic Hall of Fame. The Florence Area Hall of Fame recognizes the athletes that come out of the Florence area. This year, the banquet will be held on January 6, 2024. Following this year’s inductees into the hall of fame, 133 athletes will be hall of fame members.

ORDINANCES IN POSITION

Bill No. 2023-34 – Second Reading

An Ordinance to amend the budget for the City of Florence, South Carolina, for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2024.

Pro tem Jebaily made a motion to adopt Bill No. 2023-34 on second reading and Councilman McCall seconded the motion.

Council voted unanimously (7-0) in favor of the motion. Bill No. 2023-34 was adopted.

Bill No. 2023-39 – Second Reading

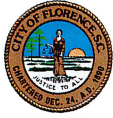
An Ordinance to update Appendix A and Appendix B of the City’s current Business License Ordinance as required by section 6-1-400 to -420 of the South Carolina Code of Laws.

Councilwoman Barnes made a motion to adopt Bill No. 2023-39 and Councilman McCall seconded the motion.

Council voted unanimously (7-0) in favor of the motion. Bill No. 2023-39 was adopted.

Bill No. 2023-40 – Second Reading

An Ordinance to update Section 20-22(a) to align the date of taxicab inspections with business license renewals.



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Councilman Smith made a motion to adopt Bill No. 2023-40 on second reading and Pro tem Jebaily seconded the motion.

Council voted unanimously (7-0) in favor of the motion. Bill No. 2023-40 was adopted.

Bill No. 2023-41 – Second Reading

An Ordinance to annex and zone CG 700 South Parker Drive, identified as Florence County Tax Map Number 90004-01-018.

Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson made a motion to adopt Bill No. 2023-41 on second reading
Councilman McCall seconded the motion.

Council voted unanimously (7-0) in favor of the motion. Bill No. 2023-41 was adopted.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

Bill No. 2023-42 – First Reading

An Ordinance to rezone 1110 Oakland Avenue from NC-6.1 to NC-6.3, identified as Florence County Tax Map Number 90114-08-004.

Councilman McCall made a motion to pass Bill No. 2023-42 on first reading and Councilman Smith seconded the motion.

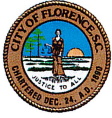
Mr. Clint Moore, Assistant City Manager of Development, reported the applicant has made the rezoning request for a proposed townhome project which is permitted under the NC-6.3 designation. Mr. Moore presented sketches of the proposed townhome development.

Ms. Gina Tanner, applicant, spoke in favor of the request. Ms. Tanner said the proposed project offers homeownership opportunities to the community. She said letters were sent to the community and no negative feedback about the project was received.

Pro tem Jebaily asked for clarification on the zonings along neighboring properties. Mr. Moore said the neighboring properties along Oakland Avenue are zoned NC-6.1. Further north on Oakland, zoning changes to NC-6.3 as it transitions to multi-family housing. Pro tem Jebaily expressed concern with the compatibility of this property if it were rezoned for a multi-family use with it being in between two single family residential homes. Pro tem Jebaily asked Mr. Moore to provide feedback on the interconnectivity of the two zoning designations from staff's perspective. Mr. Moore said the requirements for NC-6.1 and NC-6.3 are not much different, other than NC-6.3 allows more dense development. The Unified Development Code offers additional requirements on top of the standard zoning regulations that are applied to multi-family to help mitigate the impact between zoning designations. Mr. Moore elaborated, saying there are density requirements that limits the number of units that can be placed on the property and requirements that address the main thoroughfare to make it cohesive from an aesthetics standpoint.

Councilman Smith said he has heard some concerns from the community and he asked Mrs. Tanner to attend the next community meeting to have a conversation with the community members. He said he is not trying to deter Mrs. Tanner from doing the project, he just wants a conversation to be had with the community.

Councilman Smith made a motion to defer Bill No. 2023-42 and Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson seconded the motion.



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Council voted unanimously (7-0) in favor of the motion. Bill No. 2023-42 was deferred.

Bill No. 2023-43 – First Reading

An Ordinance to approve text amendments to the Jeffries Creek Overlay District and Flood Prevention sections of the City of Florence Unified Development Ordinance.

Councilwoman Barnes made a motion to pass Bill No. 2023-43 on first reading and Councilman McCall seconded the motion.

Mr. Moore reported that the proposed text amendments are recommended, following staff's annual review of the Community Rating System, to ensure compliance with the South Carolina Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance and to protect the health and functionality of the City's waterways. The amended language will allow stormwater improvements that are not allowed as the ordinance currently stands.

Pro tem Jebaily Council voted unanimously in favor of the motion. Bill No. 2023-43 was passed on first reading.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 2023-50

A Resolution of recognition for the contributions of the Northwest Park Men's Club in the community.

Councilwoman Barnes made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2023-50 and Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson seconded the motion.

Mayor Ervin presented the Resolution to representatives of the Northwest Park Men's Club and thanked them for their work in the community.

Council voted unanimously (7-0) in favor of the motion. Resolution No. 2023-50 was adopted.

REPORTS TO COUNCIL

Appointments to Boards and Commissions

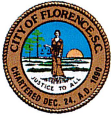
Mr. Davis presented the packet of appointments to Boards and Commissions to Council.

Design Review Board

Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson deferred her nomination to the Board.

Public Safety Citizen's Review Board

Mayor Ervin made a motion to appoint Meyah Turner to the Public Safety Citizen's Review Board and the motion carried unanimously. Meyah Turner was appointed to the Public Safety Citizen's Review Board for a term to begin immediately and expire on June 30, 2027.



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Planning Commission

Councilman Smith made a motion to appoint Michael Abbott to the Planning Commission and the motion carried unanimously. Micheal Abbott was appointed to the Planning Commission for a term to begin immediately and expire on June 30, 2024

Housing Authority

Councilman Braddock deferred his nomination to the Board.

Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee

Mr. Kevin Rawlinson, Chief Financial Officer, reported this item was referred to the Finance, Audit and Budget Committee for review and asked Councilman McCall for a report from the Committee. Councilman McCall said the Committee reviewed the proposals and the Committee recommends approval as presented by the Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee.

Councilman McCall made a motion to approve the appropriation of the accommodations tax funds as recommended by the Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee and Pro tem Jebaily seconded the motion.

Council voted unanimously (7-0) in favor of the motion. The motion passed. The list of recommendations is attached to and made part of the minutes.

MAYORAL REPORT

Mayor Ervin thanked the City Manager and staff for all they do and thanked Council for their dedication. In the last year, the City has had many events and received many awards and it has been a successful year in moving Florence forward.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Business Development Committee, Chaired by Pro tem Jebaily

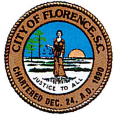
Pro tem Jebaily said the Committee received an update on the third penny road projects and reviewed the status of several grants. The Urban Square project is making progress with some ground clearing for the apartment building. They also reviewed a report on the Nofal building and discussed the Jeffries Creek rail trail extension to the soccer complex. Pro tem Jebaily said the Committee also held a special meeting focused on the status of grants where they received a summary all the city's active and ongoing grants.

Community Development Committee, Chaired by Councilwoman Barnes

Councilwoman Barnes said there is no report this month.

Marketing and Public Relations Committee, Chaired by Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson

Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson said they did not meet but she said they are preparing for a more informative 2024.



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Finance, Audit and Budget Committee, Chaired by Councilman McCall

Councilman McCall reported the Committee primarily discussed the recommended appropriations from the Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee. They also reviewed the monthly financial reports.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Ervin said Council will be entering into Executive Session for an update on Economic Development Projects, for a personnel matter and for a personnel matter to discuss the selection of the Interim City Manager.

Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson made a motion to enter into Executive Session and Councilwoman Barnes seconded the motion. Council voted unanimously (7-0) to enter into Executive Session at 1:55 p.m.

Council resumed open session at 2:50 p.m. and took action on the following items:

Personnel Matter

Pro tem Jebaily made a motion to appoint Councilman McCall, Councilman Braddock, and Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson to the Judicial Review Committee, with Councilman McCall being the Chair, and report back to Council at the January meeting.

Council voted unanimously (7-0) in favor of the motion. The motion passed.

Personnel Matter – Interim City Manager


Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson made a motion to appoint Scotty Davis as Interim City Manager contingent on legal counsel negotiating his employment agreement and Councilwoman Barnes seconded the motion.

Council voted 6-1 in favor of the motion, with Mayor Ervin voting against. The motion passed.

ADJOURN

Without objection, the December 11, 2023 Regular meeting of City Council was adjourned at 2:52 p.m. Dated this 8th day of January 2024.


Casey C. Moore, Municipal Clerk


Teresa Myers Ervin, Mayor

**CITY OF FLORENCE, SC
ACCOMMODATIONS TAX REQUESTS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND APPROPRIATIONS REPORT
FISCAL YEAR 2023-24**

ORGANIZATION	Appropriated 2022-23	Requested 2023-24	Committee Recommended ¹	Appropriated 2022-23
A. 30% Funds for Tourism Promotion				
1. Florence Convention & Visitors Bureau	<u>\$300,000</u>	<u>\$385,000</u>	<u>\$385,000</u>	
B. 65% Funds				
1. Florence Regional Arts Alliance & Pee Dee Arts	\$16,600	\$18,000	\$14,300	
2. The Masterworks Choir, Inc.	\$0	\$0		
3. Florence Little Theatre	\$0	\$20,000	\$13,800	
4. Florence Symphony Orchestra	\$8,400	\$10,000	\$8,400	
5. Arts International Festival	\$0	\$25,000	\$19,300	
6. Sankofa Festival	\$7,400	\$10,000	\$6,500	
7. SC Dance Theatre	\$0	\$0		
8. Lucky Shamrock Festival	\$0	\$1,000		
9. Kickin' Chicken Wing and Chili Cookoff	\$4,300	\$10,000	\$8,500	
10. Florence Museum	\$42,200	\$75,000	\$70,000	
11. Carolina Classic Basketball Tournament - Boys & (\$13,500	\$25,000	\$15,200	
12. Freedom Florence, FTC, Soccer Complex & Gym	\$62,200	\$70,000	\$89,200	
13. Florence Convention & Visitors Bureau	\$242,000	\$300,000	\$303,900	
14. Florence Tennis Association	\$19,200	\$20,000	\$27,200	
15. South Carolina Pecan Festival	\$27,000	\$45,000	\$34,300	
16. Florence Center	\$148,700	\$175,000	\$177,300	
17. Florence International Basketball Tournament	\$24,400	\$35,000	\$22,000	
18. Car Haulers Parade	\$8,600	\$0		
19. Florence Area Sports Council	\$23,600	\$25,000	\$27,200	
20. Pee Dee Tourism Commission	\$19,200	\$20,000	\$20,200	
21. SC Senior Sports Classic	\$4,100	\$0		
22. Hwy 52 Frontage Road Beautification	\$43,600	\$67,000	\$40,800	

**CITY OF FLORENCE, SC
ACCOMMODATIONS TAX REQUESTS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND APPROPRIATIONS REPORT
FISCAL YEAR 2023-24**

ORGANIZATION	Appropriated 2022-23	Requested 2023-24	Committee Recommended ¹	Appropriated 2022-23
23. Wilson High Alumni Assn Homecoming Event	\$66,600	\$125,000	\$68,300	
24. Eastern South Carolina Mustang Club	\$4,800	\$5,000	\$4,700	
25. Florence County Parks & Recreation	\$13,600	\$20,000	\$25,200	
26. Nickelson Media	\$0	\$27,000	\$3,300	
25. PDRTA - Shuttle Bus	\$0	\$125,000		
Total - 65% Funds	<u>\$800,000</u>	<u>\$1,253,000</u>	<u>\$999,600</u>	<u>\$0</u>

Note 1: Including carryover funds from FY 2022-23 it is anticipated that the amount available for distribution to the requesting agencies of "65% funds" will be approximately \$999,567.43. The "30% funds" for tourism promotion is estimated to be approximately \$385,000.

Note 2: The "30% funds" appropriation to the Florence Convention & Visitors Bureau includes \$15,000 designated specifically to the Florence Center for tourism marketing and promotion expenses, and an additional \$9,000 for a Business Development Fund to help promote the Florence Center for educational, religious, and other conferences.