

**REGULAR MEETING OF FLORENCE CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, JANUARY 8, 2024 – 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. Benjamin T. Zeigler, 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. Naeem McFadden 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 January 8, 2024 regular meeting of Florence City Council to order at 1:00 p.m.

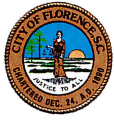
INVOCATION

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 December 11, 2023 Regular Meeting and Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously adopted.

APPEARANCES BEFORE COUNCIL



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Ms. Suzanne La Rochelle

Ms. Suzanne La Rochelle appeared before Council to speak on community safety. She explained that a buddha statue was missing from her yard. She said if the intent of the theft was motivated by an assumption that a statue of a buddha signified her religion, this theft would be considered a hate crime in every state in the United States except for South Carolina and Wyoming. Ms. La Rochelle asked Council to take action and be part of the solution. She asked that the City of Florence propose a hate crime ordinance, since the state has yet to pass a hate crime bill.

ORDINANCES IN POSITION

Bill No. 2023-43 – Second 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.

Pro tem Jebaily made a motion to adopt Bill No. 2023-43 on second reading and Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson seconded the motion.

Council voted unanimously in favor of the motion. Bill No. 2023-43 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.

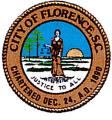
Councilman Smith made a motion to pass Bill No. 2023-42 on first reading and Councilman McCall seconded the motion.

Mr. Clint Moore, Assistant City Manager of Development, reported this matter was deferred from last month's meeting in order for the applicant to meet and have discussions with the neighborhood. The applicant presented her development plan to the neighborhood and some concerns were raised regarding several development standards. Mr. Moore said the potential uses under the proposed rezoning include townhomes and duplexes, as well as single family. If the rezoning is approved, the applicant would then submit the development plan to City staff for review.

Pro tem Jebaily said this stretch of Oakland Avenue is very significant and historic and has a character about it that is noteworthy. He expressed concern with a zoning change in areas that are predominantly residential and the domino effect it may have on these historic properties. Pro tem Jebaily said he is not comfortable moving forward with the rezoning at this point but would consider it if the developer provided a detailed proposal at the next meeting.

Pro tem Jebaily made a motion to defer Bill No. 2023-42 to the next meeting in order to give the developer the opportunity to put together plans and Councilman Braddock seconded the motion.

Council voted 5-2 in favor of the motion, with Councilman Smith and Councilman McCall voting in opposition. Bill No. 2023-42 was deferred.



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Bill No. 2024-01 – First Reading

An Ordinance to annex and zone Neighborhood Conservation-15 (NC-15) 233 North Lakewood Drive, Florence County Tax Map Parcel 90008-01-003.

Councilwoman Barnes made a motion to pass Bill No. 2024-01 on first reading and Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson seconded the motion.

Mr. Moore reported the request to zone NC-15, pending annexation, is consistent with other properties in the neighborhood.

Council voted unanimously (7-0) in favor of the motion. Bill No. 2024-01 was passed on first reading.

Bill No. 2024-02 – First Reading

An Ordinance to convey a portion of the West Vista Street right-of-way to the South Carolina Department of Transportation, specifically fifty feet west from the intersection of West Vista Street and North Irby Street.

Councilwoman Barnes made a motion to pass Bill No. 2024-02 on first reading and Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson seconded the motion.

Mr. Moore reported this is a request by the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) and Florence School District One (FSD1) to transfer a portion of the City's right-of-way to SCDOT. The transfer will accommodate the installation of a traffic signal and its associated infrastructure in association with FSD1's construction of North Vista Elementary School and Williams Middle School.

Council voted unanimously (7-0) in favor of the motion. Bill No. 2024-02 was passed on first reading.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 2024-01

A Resolution of Recognition for Larry Hill.

Councilman McCall made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2024-01 and Councilman Braddock seconded the motion.

Councilman McCall and Councilman Braddock presented Mr. Larry Hill with the Resolution.

Council voted unanimously (7-0) in favor of the motion. Resolution No. 2024-01 was adopted.

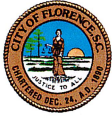
Resolution No. 2024-02

A Resolution of Recognition for the 8u Football State Champions.

Councilwoman Barnes made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2024-02 and Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson seconded the motion.

Councilman McCall presented the 8u state champions with the Resolution.

Council voted unanimously (7-0) in favor of the motion. Resolution No. 2024-02 was adopted.



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Resolution No. 2024-03

A Resolution of Recognition for Ida Mae Smoot Davis

Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2024-03 and Councilman McCall seconded the motion.

Council voted unanimously (7-0) in favor of the motion. Resolution No. 2024-03 was adopted.

Resolution No. 2024-04

A Resolution to approve a Conditional Grant and Development Agreement for a development located within the downtown central district.

Mayor Ervin said this Resolution will be discussed in Executive Session. Having no objection, this item will be discussed in Executive Session.

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.

Housing Authority

Councilman Braddock deferred his nomination to the Board.

MAYORAL REPORT

Mayor Ervin said this is the last Council meeting for City Manager Randy Osterman and thanked him for his service. Mayor Ervin spoke of his service to the City and its residents and wished him well in retirement.

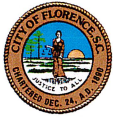
Mayor Ervin expressed her excitement in the new year in continuing partnerships to increase economic development in the City. She thanked the citizens for being supportive over the past several years and she looks forward to serving the residents for several more.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Business Development Committee, Chaired by Pro tem Jebaily

Pro tem Jebaily said the committee did not meet in December following the Council meeting and has nothing new to report.

Pro tem Jebaily thanked Mr. Osterman for his service and dedication to the City and for leading the City through the difficulties associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.



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Community Development Committee, Chaired by Councilwoman Barnes

Councilwoman Barnes said the committee did not meet in December so she has nothing to report. Councilwoman Barnes also thanked Mr. Osterman and wished him the best in his future.

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

Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson said the City is still working towards launching the new communications application. The City is also working on several awareness campaigns to include the CARE Program.

Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson recognized Ms. Martin on Sanborn Street for her 90th birthday and Ms. Bethea on Marion Street for her 100th birthday. Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson also reported the annual MLK march will continue this year and will be held on January 15, 2024.

Finance, Audit and Budget Committee, Chaired by Councilman McCall

Councilman McCall said the Committee did not meet so there is nothing to report. Councilman McCall thanked Mr. Osterman for his focus on infrastructure and for being instrumental in helping Florence move forward.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Ervin said Council will be entering into Executive Session for a discussion of matters related to an Economic Development Project and for legal advice related to a personnel matter.

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

Council resumed open session at 2:20 p.m. and took action on the following items:

Resolution No. 2024-04

A Resolution to approve a Conditional Grant and Development Agreement for a development located within the downtown central district.

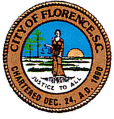
Pro tem Jebaily made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2024-04 and Councilman McCall seconded the motion.

Council voted unanimously (7-0) in favor of the motion. Resolution No. 2024-04 was adopted.

Legal Advice Related to a Personnel Matter

Councilwoman Barnes made a motion to accept the employment agreement as presented in Executive Session and give the Mayor and City Attorney permission to move forward with the agreement and Pro tem Jebaily seconded the motion.

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



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ADJOURN

Without objection, the January 8, 2024 Regular meeting of City Council was adjourned at 2:23 p.m.

Dated this 12th day of February 2024.

Casey C. Moore, Municipal Clerk

Teresa Myers Erwin, Mayor