



**REGULAR MEETING OF FLORENCE CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2021 – 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 and Councilman C. William Schofield.

MEMBERS ABSENT

Councilwoman Pat Gibson-Hye Moore

ALSO PRESENT

Mr. Randall S. Osterman, City Manager; Mr. James W. Peterson, Jr., City Attorney; Mrs. Casey Moore, Municipal Clerk; Mr. Scotty Davis, Deputy City Manager; Mr. Clint Moore, Assistant City Manager of Development; Mr. Kevin Yokim, Assistant City Manager of Administration/Finance; Chief Allen Heidler, Florence Police Department; Chief Shannon Tanner, Florence Fire Department; Mr. Jerry Dudley, Director of Planning; Mrs. Jennifer Krawiec, Director of Human Resources; Mr. Michael Hemingway, Director of Utilities; Mrs. Amanda Pope, Director of Marketing/Communications and Municipal Services; and Mr. Chuck Pope, Director of Public Works.

MEDIA PRESENT

Mr. Matthew Christian of the Florence Morning News, Mrs. Tonya Brown of WPDE News, and Ms. Lacey Lee of WBTW News 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 13, 2021 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

Pro tem Jebaily made a motion to adopt the minutes of the November 8, 2021 Regular Meeting and Councilwoman Barnes seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously adopted.



**FLORENCE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING – DECEMBER 13, 2021**

REMARKS BY COUNCIL

Mayor Ervin took a moment to acknowledge the victims and families of the recent Kentucky tornados.

Pro tem Jebaily acknowledged the passing of Senator Leatherman. Senator Leatherman was extremely important to the Florence community. Members of City Council, City Staff and the City of Florence are indebted to his passion for the community for so many years. Pro tem Jebaily extended his condolences to his family.

Mayor Ervin also acknowledged Senator Leatherman's passing and said he will be missed by the entire state. He served locally on the FLATS Committee which assisted with much of the funding for infrastructure. Mayor Ervin acknowledged his family and thanked them for supporting him through his years of service.

PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing will be held regarding the proposed issuance by the Housing Authority of the City of Florence of its Multifamily Housing Revenue Bonds (Dillon Grade School Apartments), in the maximum principal amount of \$10,000,000.

Mayor Ervin opened the public hearing at 1:11p.m.

Mr. Randy Osterman, City Manager, reported Council passed a Resolution several months ago supporting the issuance of \$8,000,000 worth of bonds for this project in Dillon. Due to delays and supply issues related to COVID-19, they have now requested \$10,000,000. This Resolution has no effect on the city's ability to borrow money or credit rating, it is simply supporting their request.

Being no one present to speak; Mayor Ervin closed the public hearing at 1:12p.m.

APPEARANCE BEFORE COUNCIL

Mr. Don Strickland, PDRTA Director

Mr. Don Strickland appeared before Council to provide an update on transit and began by thanking Council for their support. The PDRTA has a new phone app and it has been going well with new ridership. The app has a live feed of every route in the fleet and riders can track where their bus is. The PDRTA also has a new website that also includes live tracking features for all the buses.

Mr. Strickland provided Ridership Facts for FY 2020-21. There were 345,00 total trips on the Florence Transit System and over 65,000 passenger trips on the free downtown shuttle. Over 160,000 trips were to and from the workplace and over 24,000 trips have been to the Florence Housing Authority. There were over 10,000 trips to FMU and FDTC, 60,000 trips by senior citizens and over 10,000 trips by US Veterans.

Mr. Strickland provided a service update. Service in the Johnsonville/Pamplico to Florence began a couple weeks ago and they continue to have conversations for Lake City/Scranton/Coward/Effingham to Florence loops. In 2022, the Society Hill/Dovesville/Hartsville/Darlington loop will connect with the Darlington to Florence commuter, allowing the majority of Darlington County to have access to Florence. Harbor Freight and other industries are requesting Florence to Dillon commuter service. When local funding is established, a Park-N-Ride would work well.



**FLORENCE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING – DECEMBER 13, 2021**

For future development, there is a great need for public restroom facilities at the Florence transit center, as well as a driver break area with amenities. They are seeing a need for increased frequency of service and increased hours of service. They plan to complete a feasibility study with strategic planning in 2022.

Pro tem Jebaily said PDRTA had the opportunity to assist the School District with the bus driver shortage and asked Mr. Strickland to speak on this partnership. Mr. Strickland said the PDRTA modified routes and provided students with a fare-free ride to and from school in order to assist the School District.

Councilman Braddock said transportation is one of the leading causes of homelessness. He said he is very grateful for the PDRTA and what they do for the community.

Ms. Robynn Stembridge

Ms. Stembridge said she is before Council today as a grieving mother and a concerned citizen. She said her son, Tyrin Xavier McCullum, was shot and killed on September 30, 2021. She said the gun violence in Florence is making the city a place that residents are not proud of. She said there has been over 90-gun violence crimes in Florence County in the past year. She mentioned several instances in which suspects of violent crimes were released on bond and questioned why they are released. She said 69 people have been murdered in Florence County in the past three years according to Keith von Lutchken, the Florence County Coroner. She said her son was killed on Carver Street in West Florence. Three young men have lost their lives in the same spot, the same way and this should speak volumes to the Police Department. The West Florence community is riddled with more crime than any other part of Florence and Ms. Stembridge asked for a greater police presence in the area or a task force to monitor the crime in that area. She said there is no way to take guns off the streets, but she thinks some laws can be changed. She said individuals charged and convicted of gun violence crimes should not be let out on bond, they should spend the rest of their lives in jail. She said something needs to be done. She began the Tyrin Xavier McCullum Foundation to raise awareness and next month they will start a support group for others in the same situation. Ms. Stembridge said she will continue to advocate for justice for her son and anyone else that has lost a loved one to gun violence.

Mayor Ervin said there is a task force working on the issues Ms. Stembridge is speaking of. Mayor Ervin agreed that there is an issue with individuals committing crimes in Florence while they are out on bond or probation from crimes committed in other counties. Mayor Ervin asked Ms. Stembridge to leave her information for further contact.

Each Councilmember also spoke and shared their condolences with Ms. Stembridge. Pro tem Jebaily asked Police Chief Heidler to speak on this situation and what has been done or can be done to address this violence in the community. Chief Heidler said officers and investigators are working diligently. He said COVID has caused a loss of communication with the community. The Police Department has been working with the Florence County Sheriff's Department, as well as the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Drug Enforcement Administration and the Violent Crimes Task Force, and they are doing all they can to bring Pee Dee area law enforcement together to combat violent crime. In October, nine violent people were indicted on a federal level for crimes in Florence. He said it takes people like Ms. Stembridge to speak and be advocates for the community to make a difference.

ORDINANCES IN POSITION



FLORENCE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING – DECEMBER 13, 2021

Bill No. 2021-37 – Second Reading

An Ordinance to declare surplus and donate a portion of city-owned property located at Florence County Tax Map Parcel 70012-20-002 in Timmonsville, SC to Florence County for the Timmonsville Rescue Squad.

Pro tem Jebaily made a motion to adopt Bill No. 2021-37 on second reading and Councilwoman Barnes seconded the motion.

Council voted unanimously (7-0) to adopt Bill No. 2021-37.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

Bill No. 2021-12 – First Reading

An Ordinance to annex and zone a portion of Lake Oakdale and the Lake Oakdale dam, identified as a portion of Florence County Tax Map Parcel 00751-01-049.

Mr. Jerry Dudley, Planning Director, provided an update on this item. Mr. Dudley said this ordinance would annex a portion of Lake Oakdale, which would then make a proposed development on the old golf course contiguous with city limits. He said annexing a portion of the lake without developable property didn't seem appropriate. Staff is working with the developers for a potential development agreement that would go before Planning Commission at the first of the year and then Council. Mr. Dudley said the request is to continue to defer this Bill and allow the other property to catch up.

Without objection, this item was deferred.

Bill No. 2021-39 – First/Final Reading

An Emergency Ordinance to replace the existing Emergency Ordinance 2021-30 in response to the COVID-19 emergency.

Councilman McCall made a motion to defer Bill No. 2021-39 and Pro tem Jebaily seconded the motion.

Councilman McCall said Council challenged the city to get their vaccination rates up to 70%. Councilman McCall reported that Florence has a vaccination rate of 71%. He congratulated the residents of the city and said he still wants to defer this item because of potential spikes during the holidays. He encouraged residents to test before they gather and continue to be cautious over the holidays.

Pro tem Jebaily said he supports the deferral. He said the best protection against COVID is vaccination, as well as the booster shots.

Councilwoman Barnes asked for legal clarification on if Council has the ability to mandate face coverings city-wide. Mr. Jim Peterson, City Attorney, said the current state of the law in South Carolina does give local governments the authority to mandate masks and enforce them through civil infraction punishment.

Mayor Ervin reiterated the 4-prong approach to fighting COVID: vaccinate, wear masks, wash your hands, and socially distance.

Council voted 5-1 in favor of the motion to defer, with Mayor Ervin voting in opposition.



FLORENCE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING – DECEMBER 13, 2021

Bill No. 2021-40 – First Reading

An Ordinance to rezone 1926 Second Loop Road from AC to CG; identified as Florence County Tax Map Parcel 90029-02-002.

Councilman Schofield made a motion to pass Bill No. 2021-40 on first reading and Councilwoman Barnes seconded the motion.

Mr. Dudley reported this property is currently zoned Activity Center (AC), which permits a variety of commercial uses as well as residential uses such as multifamily and live-work units. The proposed zoning is Commercial General (CG), which is a more intense commercial designation characterized by larger lots. This parcel is completely surrounded by AC, with the closest CG located approximately 2,500 feet at the intersection of Second Loop Road and Cashua Drive.

Planning Commission voted 6-1 to deny the rezoning request and staff agrees with Planning Commission's recommendation.

Council voted 6-0 to deny the rezoning request.

Bill No. 2021-41 – First Reading

An Ordinance to zone NC-15, pending annexation, 2468 Parsons Gate; identified as Florence County Tax Map Parcel 01221-01-323.

Councilman Schofield made a motion to pass Bill No. 2021-41 on first reading and Councilman McCall seconded the motion.

Mr. Dudley reported this lot is currently vacant, and a single-family detached house is proposed for construction. City water and sewer services are currently available. Planning Commission held a public hearing on this matter and voted unanimously to recommend the zoning designation of NC-15. City staff concurs with Planning Commission's recommendation.

Council voted 6-0 to pass Bill No. 2021-41.

Bill No. 2021-42 – First Reading

An Ordinance to abandon the City of Florence's interest in the undeveloped portion of public right-of-way for Honey Hill Drive located behind 1911 through 1923 Hayden Court.

Councilwoman Barnes made a motion to pass Bill No. 2021-42 on first reading and Councilman Schofield seconded the motion.

Mr. Dudley reported this requested was made by the property owner of 1915 Hayden Court and is supported by the adjacent property owners. This portion of right-of-way is undeveloped and unopened land between Malden Drive and South Honey Hill Drive. Two residential lots on Ansley Drive prohibit any future connection of the two roads. The property will be divided among seven of the adjacent property owners. All adjoining property owners have signed a Letter of Agreement confirming acceptance of the proposed plat. If the right-of-way is abandoned by City Council, the property can be conveyed to the adjacent property owners utilizing the quit-claim deed process, thus placing the right-of-way into private ownership

City of Florence departments were contacted regarding the abandonment of the right-of-way and no department found reason to maintain the City's interest in this right-of-way.



**FLORENCE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING – DECEMBER 13, 2021**

Pro tem Jebaily said this area is susceptible to flooding and asked what conversations were had with the property owners regarding the ditch located on the right-of-way. Mr. Dudley said the property owners understand the ditch serves their properties and it should not be filled in. He further added that the City will retain an easement so maintenance can be done if necessary.

Council voted 6-0 to pass Bill No. 2021-42.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 2021-41

A Resolution to allow the City of Florence to lease city-owned property located at 719 Walnut Street to the Pee Dee Community Action Agency Partnership as part of their homeless prevention program.

Councilman McCall made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2021-41 and Councilman Schofield seconded the motion.

Mr. Scotty Davis, Deputy City Manager, said Council deferred this item at last month's meeting and requested additional information. He said there is a representative from Pee Dee Community Action Agency present at the meeting today to answer any questions.

Mr. Mack Gettis, Accountant for the Community Action Agency Partnership, came forward and said he is over the Emergency Shelter Program. Councilman Braddock inquired on the program and asked how long the current residents have been there. Mr. Gettis said there is one person being sheltered in the Walnut Street property. Mr. Gettis said there is only room for one family at this location and it cannot shelter multiple families. Councilman Braddock asked if this property is long-term transitional housing and if the house is being used as program housing. Mr. Gettis replied they tried to use the home in the past for multiple families, but it did not work out. The current client has been in the house since 2017. Councilman Braddock asked what phase of the program the client is in and are they working towards a transition to permanent housing. Mr. Gettis replied the client is using the house as permanent housing.

Councilman McCall asked Mr. Gettis to explain the program. Mr. Gettis replied it is an Emergency Solutions Grants Program and there are five phases: emergency shelter, street outreach, homeless prevention, rapid rehousing and HMIS, which is used to track who is in the program. The emergency shelter serves as temporary housing until permanent housing is found for the client, street outreach is used to go out and find potential homeless individuals, homeless prevention is used to stop clients from becoming homeless, and rapid rehousing portion is used to quickly find housing for homeless individuals. Councilman McCall asked how many people the program serves, and Mr. Gettis replied approximately 170 so far this year.

Pro tem Jebaily thanked Mr. Gettis for their involvement with the community but said he can't understand how one individual can be in a home for four years and never transition out; this does not allow opportunities for other families to utilize the house. Pro tem Jebaily asked Councilman Braddock what the normal length of time a transition would take with his organization. Councilman Braddock said they typically have a 0–2-year transition period from the emergency shelter to independence. Mr. Gettis said, originally, the emergency shelter program was a transitional, two-year program. They initially tried using the Walnut Street property as an emergency shelter but having multiple individuals in the home over a period of time was not working and was difficult to maintain. They allowed the home to become permanent housing for the client and overflow clients are being placed in a hotel.



**FLORENCE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING – DECEMBER 13, 2021**

Pro tem Jebaily asked for clarification on the terms of the lease. Mr. Davis said the lease is for 5 years with an automatic 5-year renewal, for a total of ten years. Councilman Braddock gave an example and said House of Hope was given a house and they had difficulty using it as transitional housing, so they turned it into a day center to minister to more people. He said there is a great need for cooling and warming stations for people to get out of weather elements and said he would like to see this property utilized to help more people and have a broader impact if they continue the relationship with a ten-year lease.

Mayor Ervin shared a concern. She said when the home was originally leased, it was done so with the understanding that this home would be temporary, transitional housing. She asked Mr. Gettis if there are other properties for families to utilize. Mr. Gettis replied no, the emergency shelter was originally transitional, meaning a two-year time period. He said their funding is now for emergency shelters, which is for a 90-day timeframe. If the shelters are full, they place clients into hotels. He said they are where they are now because their funding has changed. The Walnut Street house is the only house utilized for permanent housing. Mayor Ervin said there is a dilemma, because the original intent for the house was for it to be utilized temporarily and for a family in crisis. Council was never notified that the house had been changed under their program to permanent housing. Mayor Ervin asked if the permanent client paid any sort of rent or anything towards the maintenance of the home. Mr. Gettis said they maintain the home and the client pays a small rent of \$400. Mr. Gettis said they would be happy to work with Council and come to a consensus on how to utilize the property. Mayor Ervin said she would like to see this item deferred to give city staff the opportunity to meet with representatives of Pee Dee Community Action Agency and discuss this further. Councilman McCall said he wants to make sure the partnership between these two agencies continues and to make sure there is no ill-will towards this organization.

Mayor Ervin made a motion to defer Resolution No. 2021-41 Councilman Braddock seconded the motion.

Council voted 6-0 to defer Resolution No. 2021-41.

Resolution No. 2021-44

A Resolution approving the issuance by the Housing Authority of the City of Florence of its Multifamily Housing Revenue Bonds (Dillon Grade School Apartments), as required by Section 147(f) of the Internal Revenue Code in the maximum principal amount of \$10,000,000.

Pro tem Jebaily made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2021-44 and Councilwoman Barnes seconded the motion.

Mayor Ervin said this is the Resolution that was discussed at the beginning of the meeting during the Public Hearing.

Council voted 6-0 to adopt Resolution No. 2021-44.

Resolution No. 2021-45

A Resolution honoring Aroha Afro Latin Dance for contributions to the Arts in Florence and the Greater Pee Dee.

Councilman McCall made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2021-45 and Councilwoman Barnes seconded the motion.



**FLORENCE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING – DECEMBER 13, 2021**

Councilman McCall read the Resolution into record and presented it to Adalia Ellis-Aroha, founder of Aroha Afro Latin Dance.

Les Echols spoke on behalf of the Greater Florence Chamber of Commerce. He thanked Council for working with the Chamber and said the Chamber works hard to promote small and minority businesses in the community. Ms. Ellis-Aroha made remarks and thanked Council for the recognition.

Resolution No. 2021-46

A Resolution approving the formation of a Community Development Corporation to focus on neighborhood redevelopment efforts and to approve the bylaws for the corporation and to appoint the initial board of directors for the corporation.

Mayor Ervin said it is notated on the agenda that this item will be discussed in Executive Session. Councilwoman Barnes said she placed this item on the agenda and asked who decided for it to be discussed in Executive Session. Mr. Osterman said he decided it should go into Executive Session following some questions he received that appeared to be legal in nature. It was placed on the agenda to give Council the opportunity to ask those legal questions prior to taking action. Had it not been placed on the agenda, the option to take it to Executive Session would be off the table. Councilwoman Barnes said it had not been communicated to her that this was being moved to Executive Session and she wants to make sure that there is no slow walking of this being completed today. She said the CDC is not just about housing, it is about poverty, education, training and what the community needs.

Councilman McCall asked for clarification on if this item has to go into Executive Session. He said he agrees with Councilwoman Barnes and any discussion should happen in public. Mr. Jim Peterson, City Attorney, approached the podium and said it would be improper to have discussion on the merits of the item in Executive Session. It was placed on the agenda in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act if someone needed legal advice on the matter, which is the lawyer giving legal advice to Council and Council asking the attorney questions on that legal advice. If Council needs legal advice on a matter, it has to be done in Executive Session and it has to be noted on the agenda. There is no requirement to enter into Executive Session if Council does not desire to.

Councilwoman Barnes made a motion to not enter into Executive Session to discuss this matter and Councilman Schofield seconded the motion.

Mayor Ervin recused herself from voting on this matter due to a conflict of interest. Council voted 5-0 to not go into Executive Session for legal advice on this matter, with Mayor Ervin having recused herself.

Councilwoman Barnes made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2021-46 and Councilman Schofield seconded the motion.

Mr. Davis reported this Resolution is a request from the Community Redevelopment Committee. He said the Committee has worked for months to get this Resolution adopted. The initial eleven Board of Directors are included in the bylaws. Following the initial appointments, Council will have the opportunity to appoint three seats. It is also requested that the Executive Director be hired by the City Manager

Council voted 5-0 to adopt Resolution No. 2021-46, with Mayor Ervin having recused herself. (A copy of the recusal statement is attached and made part of these minutes.)



REPORTS TO COUNCIL

Presentation of City of Florence, SC Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and Audited Financial Statements by the independent Certified Public Accounting Firm of Burch, Oxner, Seale Company CPA's, PA.

Mr. Tracy Huggins of Burch, Oxner, Seale Company, CPA's, PA reported for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021 the City had budgeted revenues of \$32,668,900 and actual revenues of \$38,854,872 in the General Fund. This resulted in a positive variance of \$6,185,972. Budgeted expenditures were (\$46,591,850). Actual expenditures were (\$44,154,561) leaving a positive variance of \$2,437,289. Budgeted operating deficiency in the general fund of revenues over expenditures was (\$13,922,950). Actual operating deficiency of revenues over expenditures was (5,299,689), leaving a positive budget variance of \$8,623,261. 49% of general fund revenue came from property tax credits, business licenses and franchise fees.

Governmental Funds: The unassigned fund balance in the General Fund is \$16,028,704, a decrease of \$2,272,777 from prior year; however, the unassigned fund balance is still 36% of general fund expenditures.

Enterprise Funds: Operating revenues last year were \$44,152,699; operating expenses were (\$29,104,184); net non-operating expenses were (\$3,956,287); capital contributions were \$3,338,645; and net transfers out were (\$4,080,000); leaving a net income in the Enterprise Fund of \$10,350,873.

Councilman Braddock asked Mr. Huggins if anything specific accounted for the increase of the budgeted \$517,000 to actual \$4,599,928 in miscellaneous revenues. Mr. Huggins said he would have Mr. Yokim get back to him on this inquiry. Council thanked Mr. Huggins for his report.

A report on designating a Banking Services Evaluation and Recommendation Committee to review the results of proposals requested to provide the City's banking services for a five-year period.

Mr. Yokim said the current contract for the City's banking services is with First Citizens Bank and it expires on January 31, 2022. On October 25, 2021 Requests for Proposals (RFP) were submitted to banks located within the Florence city limits to provide the City's banking services for a five-year contract period beginning February 1, 2022 and ending January 31, 2027. Proposals were received from First Citizens Bank, TD Bank, and Wells Fargo Bank. It is requested that the Mayor appoint three members of Council to the evaluation panel. Mayor Ervin appointed Councilman McCall, Councilman Schofield and Councilman Braddock to serve on the Banking Services Evaluation and Recommendation Committee.

Councilman McCall asked how often community banks submit bids for banking services. Mr. Yokim replied all banks within the city limits were sent the RFP giving them the opportunity to propose, only three financial institutions responded. He further explained the reason for so few proposals may have to do with the complexity of the city's transitions and size of the city's portfolio. Councilman McCall asked if the request is for all the city's banking services or if there are other stand-alone accounts. He mentioned other municipalities having relationships with community banks for their stand-alone accounts, and in return, the community banks are able to provide incentives. He said none of the three banks that submitted proposals are headquartered in South Carolina. In the future, he would like to see some involvement with community banks, as they have a higher stake in the community than national banks.



**FLORENCE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING – DECEMBER 13, 2021**

Councilman Schofield asked how the RFPs are sent. Mr. Yokim replied it is mailed out and it is a packet containing the multi-page RFP. Councilman Schofield asked if the timeframe to receive proposals is closed and Mr. Yokim replied yes, the deadline for submittal was December 3, 2021.

Appointments to Boards and Commissions

Mr. Scotty Davis, Deputy City Manager, presented the packet of appointments to Boards and Commissions to Council.

Board of Zoning Appeals

Councilwoman Barnes deferred her appointment to the Board.

Construction & Maintenance Board of Adjustments and Appeals

Being no applicants, Mayor Ervin deferred her two nominations to the Board.

Aesthetics Advisory Committee

Being no applicants, the appointments were deferred.

Resilience and Sustainability Advisory Committee

Councilman McCall made a motion to appoint Lisa Pike as a representative from a local university to an initial term of two years to begin immediately and expire on June 30, 2023. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Ervin made a motion to appoint Loretta Slater to represent a conservation organization to an initial term of two years to begin immediately and expire on June 30, 2023. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Braddock made a motion to appoint Travis Knowles as a layperson to an initial term of three years to begin immediately and expire on June 30, 2024.

Being no additional applicants, the remaining appointments were deferred.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Business Development Committee, Chaired by Pro tem Jebaily

Pro tem Jebaily said their November meeting was canceled and they will be holding a meeting in December.

Community Development Committee, Chaired by Councilwoman Barnes

Councilwoman Barnes expressed her gratitude on the approval of the CDC. She said the Committee has worked hard towards this effort.

Marketing and Public Relations Committee, Chaired by Councilman McCall



**FLORENCE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING – DECEMBER 13, 2021**

Councilman McCall said Florence has reached the 70% vaccination rate. He said the “Test Before Your Gather” Public Service Announcements have been a success. There was continued discussion on the development of the City’s communication strategy, an All-American City designation, and an annexation plan. A representative from the Convention and Visitors Bureau will attend the next meeting to discuss how to move the City forward.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

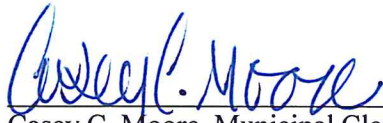
Mayor Ervin said Council will be entering into Executive Session to receive an update on a proposed economic development project and to receive legal advice on redistricting. Councilman Schofield made a motion to enter into Executive Session and Councilwoman Barnes seconded the motion. Council entered into Executive Session at 3:25 p.m.


Council reconvened open session at 4:25 p.m. and Mayor Ervin said no vote or action is required.

ADJOURN

Without objection, the December 13, 2021 Regular meeting of City Council was adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

Dated this 10th day of January 2022.


Casey C. Moore, Municipal Clerk


Teresa Myers Ervin, Mayor

RECUSAL STATEMENT

Member Name: Mayor Teresa Myers Eason

Meeting Date: 12.13.21

Agenda Item: Section Resolution Number: 2021-46

Topic: A Resolution approving the formation of a CDC
& to approve the bylaws & appoint the initial Board of Directors

The Ethics Act, SC Code §8-13-700, provides that no public official may knowingly use his office to obtain an economic interest for himself, a family member of his immediate family, an individual with whom he is associated, or a business with which he is associated. No public official may make, participate in making, or influence a governmental decision in which he or any such person or business has an economic interest. Failure to recuse oneself from an issue in which there is or may be conflict of interest is the sole responsibility of the council member (1991 Op. Atty. Gen. No. 91-37.) A written statement describing the matter requiring action and the nature of the potential conflict of interest is required.

Justification to Recuse:

Professionally employed by or under contract with principal

Owns or has vested interest in principal or property

Other: Conflict of interest - (see next page)

Date: 12/13/21 Teresa Myers Eason
Member

Approved by Parliamentarian: _____

Campaign worker appointed to CDC. This committee will be receiving funding from the City of Florence. There will be a position for an ED which could be a paid position. This for me is an ethical conflict. One of my campaign workers was appointed by the CDC, therefore I saw this as a conflict.