



**REGULAR MEETING OF FLORENCE CITY COUNCIL  
MONDAY, MARCH 14, 2022 – 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; 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 and Mr. Jack Bilyeu of WBTW News Channel 13 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 March 14, 2022 regular meeting of Florence City Council to order at 1:05 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**

Councilman Schofield made a motion to adopt the minutes of the February 14, 2022 regular meeting and Councilwoman Barnes seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously adopted.



**ADDENDUM TO THE AGENDA**

Mayor Ervin said there are two addendums to the agenda before Council for consideration.

**Resolution No. 2022-11**

**A Resolution to congratulate the Wilson High School Tigers for winning the 4A State Basketball Championship.**

Without objection, Resolution No. 2022-11 was added to the agenda. (See action taken below under Introduction of Resolutions.)

**Resolution No. 2022-12**

**A Resolution proclaiming March 2022 as American Red Cross Month.**

Without objection, Resolution No. 2022-12 was added to the agenda. (See action taken below under Introduction of Resolutions.)

**COMMENTS BY MAYOR PRO TEMPORE GEORGE JEBAILY**

Pro tem Jebaily spoke of a new community policing app that will help assess how interactions between law enforcement and communities affect public safety and impact public trust. Chief Allen Heidler said it is beneficial anytime the City has the opportunity to have greater contact with the community. The Police Department currently meets with numerous neighborhood organizations on a regular basis to help build trust in the community and an app that can bring them closer to the community is a good thing.

**APPEARANCE BEFORE COUNCIL**

**Dr. Jermaine Ford – President, Florence-Darlington Technical College (FDTC)**

Dr. Ford said he began meeting with internal and external stakeholders immediately upon his hire. He is currently working on a campaign called Reimagining Florence-Darlington Tech to better serve the community. FDTC is a technical college, and it is important to know the business market and what the market needs for business recruitment, business expansion and business retention. Councilwoman Barnes expressed her desire for the city to partner with FDTC to help develop skills in the youth in the community and prepare them for careers. Pro tem Jebaily said Florence is seeing a lot of development with industry looking to locate to Florence, but none of that matters if there aren't qualified individuals to fill those jobs.

**Mr. John Harrington, Resident**

Mr. Harrington appeared to speak to Council on an alternative program to drugs, alcohol and violence and said he was in need of a facility for this program. Mayor Ervin asked to Mr. Harrington leave any information he has on the program for Council to review.

**Minister Marcus Simmons, Ms. Janice Albert, and Mrs. Cassandra Simmons – My Brother's Keeper Shelter**

Ms. Albert said My Brother's Keeper Shelter (MBK Shelter) serves the homeless and those in need by cooking an average of 250 meals per day and delivering these meals to local parks in the area as well as providing grocery care packages for seniors and those unable to travel to the park. Minister Simmons said they are thankful for the funds provided by the city last year. Supply demands and rising costs have impacted their budget and Minister Simmons asked Council to consider these obstacles when they make budget determinations. With additional funds, MBK Shelter will be able to provide up to 500 meals per





day if need be. Pro tem Jebaily, Councilman Braddock and Mayor Ervin each expressed their gratitude to MBK Shelter for their services to the community.

### **ORDINANCES IN POSITION**

#### **Bill No. 2022-03 – Second Reading**

**An Ordinance to amend the *Unified Development Ordinance* regarding portable donation receptacles.**

Councilwoman Barnes made a motion to adopt Bill No. 2022-03 on second reading and Councilman Schofield seconded the motion.

Council voted unanimously (6-0) to adopt Bill No. 2022-03.

#### **Bill No. 2022-05 – Second Reading**

**An Ordinance to call for a public referendum to be held at the general election in November, 2022, to determine whether or not to authorize the Department of Revenue to issue temporary permits for a period not to exceed twenty-four hours to allow for the sale of beer and wine at permitted off-premises locations without regard to the days or hours of sales in the City of Florence pursuant to South Carolina Code §61-6-2010.**

Councilman Schofield made a motion to adopt Bill No. 2022-05 on second reading and Councilman McCall seconded the motion.

Several individuals signed up to speak on this item. Mr. Corbett Stone spoke first in opposition to Bill No. 2022-05. Sunday retail sales of alcohol will have a negative impact on the public health and welfare of the citizens of Florence. This ordinance will create an opportunity for the citizens of Florence to consume more alcohol on Sunday, creating a potential danger to the citizens in the community and leading to more addiction in Florence. Increasing alcohol sales on Sunday will likely bring more revenue in the form of liquor licenses, taxes paid on the purchase of alcohol, and may even cause some businesses to start up; however, it will also bring financial costs as Florence deals with the fallout from more alcohol consumed by its citizens.

Mr. Harold Watson spoke next in opposition to Bill No. 2022-05, quoting numerous scriptures and scripture references that relate to alcoholism and addiction. Mr. Watson explained he was homeless and an addict prior to graduating from the House of Hope program.

Mr. Gary Finklea spoke last, also in opposition to Bill No. 2022-05. He is concerned with the gradual degradation and chipping away of our godly American heritage and moral fiber which propelled this country to a status only dreamed of by other nations. He said he was very discouraged that not one member of Council voted against first reading of this bill last month and he encouraged Council to stand up for Jesus in their vote today.

Councilman Braddock asked Mr. Jim Peterson, City Attorney, to speak on the referendum and its requirement by South Carolina code. Mr. Peterson said Council does not have the authority to approve the retail sale of alcoholic beverages on Sunday by ordinance. State law requires a referendum for approval of Sunday alcohol sales. This ordinance is providing whether or not council will choose to allow the question to go before the citizens of Florence in a referendum.



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Pro tem Jebaily asked Mr. Peterson to read the exact question that will be placed on the ballot at the election. Mr. Peterson read the ballot question:

“Shall the Department of Revenue be authorized to issue temporary permits in this municipality for a period not to exceed twenty-four hours to allow the sale of beer and wine at permitted off-premises locations without regard to the days or hours of sales?”

Mr. Peterson clarified it will be a yes or no answer.

Councilman Braddock said he’s been working with people struggling with alcohol and drug addiction for fifteen years, and his life’s purpose is to give hope to the hopeless. He said he agrees with everything those speaking in opposition said, but he believes in smaller government and that the citizens should make the decision. However, he will be voting no in November and will stand right beside others to push that vote.

Mayor Ervin said she will be voting no to this question in November, but she wants to give the citizens the choice.

Council voted unanimously (6-0) to adopt Bill No. 2022-05.

**INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES**

**Bill No. 2022-04 – First Reading**

**An Ordinance to rezone from NC-6.2 to NC-6.3 the parcel located at 706 Norfolk Street; identified as Florence County Tax Map Parcel 90100-03-001.**

Mayor Ervin said the applicant has requested that this item be deferred. Without objection, this item was deferred.

**Bill No. 2022-06 – First Reading**

**An Ordinance to annex the Bluffs at Mill Creek, identified as Florence County Tax Map Parcel 00152-01-021.**

Councilman McCall made a motion to pass Bill No. 2022-06 on first reading and Pro tem Jebaily seconded the motion.

Mr. Clint Moore, Assistant City Manager of Development, reported in November 2021, City Council adopted an ordinance to enter into a development agreement with the developer of this property. This property is to be annexed into the City prior to development, as outlined in the development agreement.

Pro tem Jebaily asked Mr. Moore to clarify the location of this property and the anticipated use. Mr. Moore replied the property is bounded by Jefferies Creek, Redbud Lane, East Howe Springs Road and the railroad. The sketch plan for this development was recently approved by Planning Commission and it will consist of 240 homes once completed. Pro tem Jebaily said growth in the community has been a recent initiative of Council and they are actively attempting to grow the population to over 50,000. They don’t believe the census numbers accurately reflect the size of the City. He appreciates the partnership to bring in quality, affordable housing to help build up the community.

Council voted unanimously (6-0) to pass Bill No. 2022-06 on first reading.





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**Bill No. 2022-07 – First Reading**

**An Ordinance to rezone from PDD to AC a portion of the parcel located on Second Loop Road and identified as Florence County Tax Map Parcel 90030-02-007.**

Councilman Schofield made a motion to defer Bill No. 2022-07 in order to obtain additional information from the recent Planning Commission meeting and Councilwoman Barnes seconded the motion. Council voted unanimously (6-0) to defer first reading of Bill No. 2022-07.

**Bill No. 2022-08 – First Reading**

**An Ordinance to abandon any City interest in the right-of-way located behind 900 and 902 Oakland Avenue, identified as Florence County Tax Map Parcels 90114-13-01 and 90114-13-013.**

Councilman Schofield made a motion to pass Bill No. 2022-08 on first reading and Councilwoman Barnes seconded the motion.

Mr. Moore reported this request was made by the owner of three adjacent properties and will facilitate the redevelopment of a convenience store.

Council voted unanimously (6-0) to pass Bill No. 2022-08.

**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.**

Mayor Ervin called for a motion and no motion was made. Resolution No. 2021-41 failed due to lack of a motion.

**Resolution No. 2022-09**

**A Resolution designating April as Fair Housing Month.**

Pro tem Jebaily made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2022-09 and Councilwoman Barnes seconded the motion.

Mr. Scotty Davis, Deputy City Manager, reported the Fair Housing Act of 1968 is intended to protect the buyer or renter of a dwelling from seller or landlord discrimination. Mayor Ervin presented the Resolution to representatives of the Pee Dee Realtor Association.

Council voted unanimously (6-0) to adopt Resolution No. 2022-09.

**Resolution No. 2022-10**

**A Resolution honoring Lil Jazzi's contributions to the efforts to revitalize downtown Florence.**

Pro tem Jebaily made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2022-10 and Councilman Schofield seconded the motion.

Councilman McCall presented the Resolution to Ms. Andrena Mullins, owner of Lil Jazzi's.



Council voted unanimously (6-0) to adopt Resolution No. 2022-10.

**Resolution No. 2022-11**

**A Resolution to congratulate the Wilson High School Tigers for winning the 4A State Basketball Championship.**

Councilman McCall made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2022-11 and Pro tem Jebaily seconded the motion.

Mayor Ervin presented the Resolution to the coach and players of the basketball team. Several members of Council spoke to congratulate the players on their accomplishments.

Council voted unanimously (6-0) to adopt Resolution No. 2022-11.

**Resolution No. 2022-12**

**A Resolution proclaiming March 2022 as American Red Cross Month.**

Pro tem Jebaily made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2022-12 and Councilman Schofield seconded the motion.

Mayor Ervin presented the Resolution to representatives of the American Red Cross.

Council voted unanimously (6-0) to adopt Resolution No. 2022-12.

**REPORTS TO COUNCIL**

**Appointments to Boards and Commissions**

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

**Board of Zoning Appeals**

Councilman McCall deferred his appointment to this Board.

**Construction & Maintenance Board of Adjustments and Appeals**

Being no applicants, remaining appointments were deferred

**Aesthetics Advisory Committee**

Being no applicants, remaining appointments were deferred.

**Resilience and Sustainability Advisory Committee**

Being no applicants, remaining appointments were deferred.

Pro tem Jebaily made a plea with the citizens of Florence to apply for City Boards and Commissions. Due to a lack of applicants, seats for many of the Boards and Commissions remain vacant. Individuals may apply online or can contact the City Manager's Office.





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Mr. Davis said Council is tasked with appointing the first chair of the Resilience and Sustainability Advisory Committee. Three committee members have indicated they desire to chair the committee: Lyles Cooper, Lauren Piner, and Leo Woodberry. Councilman Schofield made a motion to nominate Lyles Cooper as the chairperson for the committee and Councilman Braddock seconded the motion. The motion failed due to lack of a majority. Voting in favor of the motion were Councilman Schofield, Councilman Braddock and Pro tem Jebaily, and voting against the motion were Councilman McCall, Councilwoman Barnes and Mayor Ervin, with Councilwoman Moore being absent.

**Appointments to the Finance, Audit and Budget Committee of Council**

Councilman McCall, Committee Chairman, nominated Councilwoman Barnes and Councilman Schofield for appointment to the Committee. Councilwoman Barnes and Councilman Schofield were appointed to the Finance, Audit and Budget Committee by unanimous consent.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Business Development Committee, Chaired by Pro tem Jebaily**

Pro tem Jebaily said Mr. Clint Moore gave a presentation to the Committee at the last meeting on various development projects going on in the City. An update was provided on Project Urban Square with demolition work to begin within the next 60 days. The Nofal building downtown is owned by the City and a Request for Proposals has been issued to solicit proposals from developers. It is anticipated that the first floor will be retail, with the potential for the top two floors to be residential or office spaces. The Committee also continued discussion on gateways into the City. Mayor Ervin said the City and County have been meeting and discussing the Highway 76 corridor from downtown to Francis Marion University and will be working to implement some measures along this corridor.

**Community Development Committee, Chaired by Councilwoman Barnes**

Councilwoman Barnes said the Community Development Corporation (CDC) has completed the paperwork to become a 501(c)(3) non-profit. The CDC Board took a bus tour to see the work that has been done in the community. Councilwoman Barnes spoke of a summer park tour this summer to bring the community together.

**Marketing and Public Relations Committee, Chaired by Councilman McCall**

Councilman McCall said they received updates on the vaccination campaign at the last meeting and continued discussion on the Civic Pride campaign. Much of their meeting consisted of discussion regarding annexation and the goal to reach 50,000 population. Councilman McCall announced he will be stepping down as the chair of this committee due to being appointed as the chair of the Finance, Audit and Budget Committee. He made a motion to appoint Councilman Braddock as the chair and Pro tem Jebaily seconded the motion. Councilman Braddock was appointed as chair of the committee by unanimous consent.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mayor Ervin said Council will be entering into Executive Session for legal advice relating to the Council-Manager form of government. Without objection, Council entered into Executive Session at 3:25 p.m.

Council resumed Open Session at 4:00 p.m. No action was necessary.



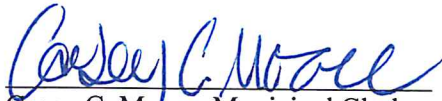
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Mayor Ervin acknowledged Mr. Matthew Christian with the Florence Morning News, as this is the last Council meeting that he will be covering. Mr. Christian has covered the City for many years and each Councilmember shared parting words and thanks for his work in the community.

**ADJOURN**

Without objection, the March 14, 2022 Regular meeting of City Council was adjourned at 4:07 p.m.

Dated this 11<sup>th</sup> day of April 2022.

  
Casey C. Moore, Municipal Clerk

  
Teresa Myers Ervin, Mayor