



**REGULAR MEETING OF FLORENCE CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, JUNE 13, 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, Councilwoman Pat Gibson-Hye Moore, Councilman Chaquez T. McCall, Councilman Bryan A. Braddock and Councilman C. William Schofield.

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; Mrs. Jennifer Krawiec, Director of Human Resources; Mr. Jerry Dudley, Director of Planning; 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

Ms. Taylor Ford of the Florence Morning News, Mrs. Tonya Brown of WPDE News Channel 15, Mr. Jack Bilyeu of WBTW News Channel 13, and Ms. Natasha Laguerre of WMBF News Channel 10 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.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Mayor Ervin began by speaking of the passing of Mayor Frank Willis. She, Pro tem Jebaily, and Councilwoman Moore spoke of his loss and the impact he had on the City and the community.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Ervin called the June 13, 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.



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APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilwoman Moore made a motion to adopt the minutes of the May 9, 2022 regular meeting and Councilwoman Barnes seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously adopted.

Councilwoman Moore made a motion to adopt the minutes of the May 23, 2022 work session and Councilman Schofield seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously adopted.

PUBLIC HEARING

A Public Hearing to receive input on the reallocation of \$28,000 of the City’s 2020-2021 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Cares Act award.

Mayor Ervin opened the public hearing at 1:12 p.m.

Mr. Jerry Dudley, Planning Director, reported the CARES Act funding was received last year and allocated to various charity and service groups in the community. \$28,000 of the monies was originally allocated to Mercy Medicine; however, based on the timeline of the usage of the funds they are not going to be able to utilize all the funds. A recommendation on the use of the funds will be brought before Council at next month’s meeting.

There being no one present to speak, Mayor Ervin closed the public hearing at 1:14 p.m.

ORDINANCES IN POSITION

Bill No. 2022-15 – Second Reading

An Ordinance to abandon interest in property identified as “Parkway” adjacent to Florence County Tax Map Parcel 90037-03-013 and Mimosa Drive.

Pro tem Jebaily made a motion to adopt Bill No. 2022-15 on second reading and Councilman Schofield seconded the motion.

Council voted unanimously (7-0) to adopt Bill No. 2022-15.

Bill No. 2022-16 – Second Reading

An Ordinance to amend the budget for the City of Florence, South Carolina, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022.

Councilwoman Moore made a motion to adopt Bill No. 2022-16 on second reading and Councilman McCall seconded the motion.

Council voted unanimously (7-0) to adopt Bill No. 2022-16.

Bill No. 2022-17 – Second Reading

An Ordinance to amend Section 9-20 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Florence entitled “Littering”.

Councilwoman Moore made a motion to adopt Bill No. 2022-17 on second reading and Councilman Schofield seconded the motion.



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Council voted unanimously (7-0) to adopt Bill No. 2022-17.

Bill No. 2022-18 – Second Reading

An Ordinance to raise revenue and adopt a budget for the City of Florence, South Carolina, for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2023.

Councilwoman Barnes made a motion to amend the budget to reduce the community development fund to \$775,000 and reallocate \$25,000 to community programs to fund the Helping Florence Flourish request. Councilwoman Moore seconded the motion to amend. Council voted unanimously (7-0) on the amendment.

Councilman McCall made a motion to adopt Bill No. 2022-18 on second reading, as amended, and Councilwoman Barnes seconded the motion.

Council voted unanimously (7-0) to adopt Bill No. 2022-18, as amended.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

Bill No. 2022-19 – First Reading

An Ordinance to annex and zone CG the parcel located at 2640 West Palmetto Street and identified as Florence County Tax Map Parcel 90004-01-026.

Mayor Ervin said staff has requested that this item be deferred, which received no objection.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 2022-15

A Resolution to adopt a Community Development Block Grant Budget for fiscal year 2022-2023.

Councilman McCall made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2022-15 and Councilwoman Moore seconded the motion.

Mr. Dudley reported the City will receive \$319,283 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding for Fiscal Year 2022-2023. This represents an increase of \$28,083 from last year's allocation. CDBG funding can only be used to meet three national objectives: aid in the elimination of slum and blight, benefit low-moderate income persons, and meet a need having urgency. It is recommended that \$63,000 be used for planning and administration, \$117,283 for emergency rehabilitation, \$92,000 for Section 108 loan repayment (recreation improvements), \$40,000 for down payment assistance, and \$7,000 for My Brother's Keeper.

Councilwoman Moore asked Mr. Dudley to clarify for the public how long the waiting list currently is for emergency rehab projects. Mr. Dudley replied projects they are currently working on were on the waiting list for approximately three years. The \$117,283 being requested this year will be enough to rehab about 3 homes in the current market.

Council voted unanimously (7-0) to adopt Resolution No. 2022-15.



Resolution No. 2022-17

A Resolution authorizing SRO Partners Florence LLC, to seek licensure from the State of South Carolina to allow it to sell certain alcoholic beverages in limited areas of the baseball stadium owned by the City and leased to SRO Partners Florence LLC.

Councilman Schofield made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2022-17 and Councilwoman Barnes seconded the motion.

Mr. Jim Peterson, City Attorney, reported the Florence Flamingos are leasing the baseball stadium. As part of their marketing strategy, they would like to seek from the state a license that will allow them to serve alcoholic beverages in three limited areas of the stadium. This Resolution simply allows them to seek licensure from the state.

Council voted unanimously (7-0) to adopt Resolution No. 2022-17.

Resolution No. 2022-18

A Resolution to support the goal of Project Ceasefire and to create and implement a comprehensive crime prevention strategy for the City of Florence.

Councilwoman Moore made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2022-18 and Councilman McCall seconded the motion.

Mr. Scotty Davis, Deputy City Manager, reported Project Ceasefire is part of a national effort known as Project Safe Neighborhoods. Project Safe Neighborhoods is a nationwide commitment to reduce gun and gang violence in America. This Resolution is asking for Council's support in the development of a crime prevention strategy. Mr. Allen Heidler, Police Chief, approached the podium and said a major aspect of this strategy is to have communication within the City and its residents. Communications with the neighborhood associations are ramping back up following COVID. Individuals are often afraid to speak of things they have seen and witnessed out of a fear of retaliation. The City has developed a witness identification protection program to protect those that give information on crimes. The Police Department is continuing to work with Pee Dee Mental Health, as many violent crimes committed are due to a mental health crisis. The Police Department also works with various law enforcement agencies to include the FBI, SLED and the Sheriff's Office.

Councilwoman Barnes said she has received requests for more police presence and patrolling in the problem areas of the community. Chief Heidler said they have been patrolling these areas and officers have their blue marker lights on at night so that residents know they're present. Councilwoman Barnes also inquired on Camp Fever and asked how difficult it would be to conduct again. Chief Heidler said the issue is finding a venue to hold the camp; the spot they utilized in the past is no longer available. Councilman Schofield asked what size facility and property would be needed to house the camp. Chief Heidler responded it would need to be large enough to handle approximately 20-25 kids. In the past the camp was held in a nature setting with activities such as canoeing, kayaking and fishing and the kids slept in tents. Councilman Schofield asked members of the community to come forward if they are willing and have a similar property available for the camp. Councilwoman Moore spoke in favor of the camp and the benefits it had on the campers.

Mayor Ervin recognized Reverend Leo Woodberry, who signed up to speak on the resolution. Reverend Woodberry said he is happy to see Council move forward with their request. They currently have 80 small businesses that have declared themselves a ceasefire zone.



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Council voted unanimously (7-0) to adopt Resolution No. 2022-18.

Resolution No. 2022-19

A Resolution approving a Conditional Grant and Development Agreement to provide an incentive for a development located within the Historic Overlay District.

Mayor Ervin stated 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.

Construction & Maintenance Board of Adjustments and Appeals

Being no applicants, the remaining appointments were deferred.

Aesthetics Advisory Committee

Mayor Ervin made a motion to appoint Leigh King to the Aesthetics Advisory Committee. Council voted unanimously to appoint Leigh King to the Aesthetics Advisory Committee for a term to begin immediately and expire on June 30, 2024.

Being no additional applicants, the remaining appointments were deferred.

Resilience and Sustainability Advisory Committee

Being no applicants, the remaining appointments were deferred.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Business Development Committee, Chaired by Pro tem Jebaily

Pro tem Jebaily said there was discussion on various development projects coming into the city and some matters involving stormwater. Pro tem Jebaily asked Assistant City Manager of Development, Mr. Clint Moore, to speak on the items discussed. Mr. Moore provided an update on the third penny sales tax projects. Nellie Street, Clareview Drive, Bellaire Drive, Blass Drive, Chandler Circle, Hardin Street, Platt Street, Rainer Street, Julie Ann Drive and Whitestone Drive have been completed. The City has received bids and are moving forward with contracts for Brittany Drive, Lancelot Drive, Beckett Drive, Lofty Way, Queensferry, Hallie Drive, Richmond Hills Drive, Olde Mill Road and Rock Creek Drive. The City is also working on an intersection improvement at Vista and Oakland, which is one of four intersection improvements to be completed. The city's consultant is also working on a website so residents can check the status of streets. Mr. Moore said an update of the 2021 Capital Improvement Projects was given. Projects to be completed with these funds are Sandhurst West, Tarleton Estates, Rebecca Street, Malden Drive, Cheves Street Underpass, Dargan and Elm Street, Pennsylvania Street, Thomas Road, Cannon Street and College Park Drive. These projects will be completed along with the City-wide stormwater assessment. The City is also the recipient of several SC Department of Resiliency stormwater grants: McQueen and Cedar Stormwater Improvement Project (\$4,048,811 grant), N. Church and Oakland Avenue Stormwater Improvement Project (\$3,073,304 grant) and a portion of the City of Florence



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Stormwater Masterplan (\$250,000 grant; \$300,000 City). Pro tem Jebaily said having these studies completed will put the city in a position submit and apply for grant funding. Mr. Moore also provided an update on 1300 East Palmetto Street (the motel property). Asbestos removal has begun and will take 2-3 months prior to demolition.

Community Development Committee, Chaired by Councilwoman Barnes

Councilwoman Barnes said committee members spoke with the Police Department on ways to strengthen the community associations in an effort to combat crime. A meeting was then held with association presidents and community members to brainstorm ideas to help bridge the police department, the community, and stakeholders together and increase membership activity with young adults.

Marketing and Public Relations Committee, Chaired by Councilman Braddock

Councilman Braddock said there was no meeting held this month. The next meeting will feature a civic pride speaker.

Finance, Audit and Budget Committee, Chaired by Councilman McCall

Councilman McCall said there is nothing to report at this time.

Judicial Review Committee

Mayor Ervin said this item is to be discussed in Executive Session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Ervin said Council will be entering into Executive Session for a discussion of a proposed Economic Development project and for a personnel matter.

Without objection, Council entered into Executive Session at 2:05 p.m.

Council reconvened Open Session at 2:25 p.m. and took action on the following items:

Resolution No. 2022-19

A Resolution approving a Conditional Grant and Development Agreement to provide an incentive for a development located within the Historic Overlay District.

Councilman McCall made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2022-19 and Councilwoman Barnes seconded the motion.

Council voted unanimously (7-0) to adopt Resolution No. 2022-19.

Judicial Review Committee

Councilman McCall said the Committee has recommended that Judge Jackson be reappointed for a 2-year term. Without objection, Judge Jackson was reappointed to a 2-year term.

ADJOURN



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Without objection, the June 13, 2022 Regular meeting of City Council was adjourned at 2:28 p.m.

Dated this 11th day of July 2022.

Casey C. Moore, Municipal Clerk

Teresa Myers Ervin, Mayor