

SPECIAL CALLED MEETING OF THE FLORENCE COUNTY COUNCIL, TUESDAY, MAY 31, 2011, 8:00 A.M., COUNCIL CHAMBERS ROOM 803, CITY-COUNTY COMPLEX, 180 N. IRBY STREET, FLORENCE, SOUTH CAROLINA

PRESENT:

K. G. "Rusty" Smith, Jr., Chairman
Waymon Mumford, Vice-Chairman
H. Morris Anderson, Secretary-Chaplain
Mitchell Kirby, Council Member
Russell W. Culberson, Council Member
Johnnie D. Rodgers, Jr., Council Member
Alphonso Bradley, Council Member
James T. Schofield, Council Member
Roger M. Poston, Council Member
Richard A. Starks, County Administrator
Malloy McEachin, County Attorney
Connie Y. Haselden, Clerk to Council

ALSO PRESENT:

Kevin Yokim, Finance Director
Sheriff Kenney Boone
Barbara Coker, Sheriff's Office
Chuck Tomlinson, Morning News

The Chairman announced the meeting at Council's regular meeting of May 19, 2011 and notice of the special called meeting of the Florence County Council appeared in the May 31, 2011 edition of the **MORNING NEWS**. Copies of the agenda were faxed to members of the media and posted in the lobby of the City-County Complex Friday, May 27, 2011. Copies of the Agenda were also available at the Doctors Bruce and Lee Foundation Public Library and all branch libraries, and on the County's website (www.florenceco.org).

Chairman Smith called the meeting to order. Secretary/Chaplain Anderson provided the invocation and Vice Chairman Mumford led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

SWEARING IN OF NEWLY ELECTED MEMBER OF COUNCIL:

Judge Michael G. Nettles administered the oath of office to Roger M. Poston, the newly elected Councilman for County Council District 2. Councilman Poston then took his seat at the dais with Council.

ORDINANCES IN POSITION:

ORDINANCE NO. 26-2010/11 – SECOND READING

The Clerk published the title of Ordinance No. 26-2010/11: An Ordinance Authorizing The Execution And Delivery Of A Fee Agreement Between Florence County, South Carolina, And Project Oliver, As Sponsor, And One Or More Sponsor Affiliates, To Provide For A Fee In Lieu Of *Ad Valorem* Taxes Incentive Agreement, To Include The Grant Of Certain Infrastructure Credits As Part Of The Fee-In-Lieu Of Taxes Arrangement; And Other Related Matters. Councilman Mumford made a motion Council approve second reading of the Ordinance. Councilman Culberson seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

ORDINANCE NO. 27-2010/11 – INTRODUCED BY TITLE ONLY

The Clerk published the title of Ordinance No. 27-2010/11 and Chairman Smith declared the Ordinance introduced by title only: An Ordinance Authorizing An Amendment To The Master Park Agreement Governing The Multi-County Industrial/Business Park By And Between Florence County, South Carolina, And Williamsburg County, South Carolina, In Order To Expand The Boundaries Of The Park To Include Certain Property Owned By [Project Oliver], And Other Matters Related Thereto.

ORDINANCE NO. 28-2010/11 – INTRODUCED BY TITLE ONLY

The Clerk published the title of Ordinance No. 28-2010/11 and the Chairman declared the Ordinance introduced by title only: An Ordinance To Develop A Jointly Owned And Operated Industrial And Business Park In Conjunction With Marion County, Such Industrial/Business Park To Include Property Initially Located In Marion County And Established Pursuant To Section 4-1-170 Of The Code Of Laws Of South Carolina, 1976, As Amended; To Provide For A Written Agreement With Marion County To Provide For The Expenses Of The Park, The Percentage Of Revenue Application, And The Distribution Of Fees In Lieu Of *Ad Valorem* Taxation; And Other Matters Related Thereto.

BUDGET WORKSESSION:

The Chairman announced Council would recess and reconvene in the Conference Room to hold a budget Worksession to discuss matters relating to the proposed Fiscal Year 2012 budget.

Council Recessed At 8:15 A.M. And Reconvened At 8:21 A.M. In The Conference Room For The Budget Worksession.

County Administrator Richard Starks and Finance Director Kevin Yokim provided a brief overview of the proposed FY12 budget.

Council discussed the proposed budget from its second reading, including the reduction of the manned convenience centers (MCC) operations from six days to four (12 hour) days per week, or increasing the Solid Waste Fee \$5/year above the proposed increase to keep the sites open six days per week. After some discussion, it was the consensus of Council to move forward with the proposed budget and close the centers for two (2) days per week (Tuesday and Thursday).

Council discussed the FY12 position cuts included in the budget at second reading, noting that the greatest number of cuts would be in the Sheriff's Office (FCSO). About 26 slots (FTEs) would be defunded, of which about 17 were vacant positions; approximately 7 could be FCSO layoffs after internal demotions were applied; an additional \$196,000 in funding could retain 6 positions for the FCSO. Council acknowledged that to increase the FCSO budget, would require an across the board adjustment to meet State requirements in all elected officials' departmental budgets.

Councilman Schofield requested a review of State law to determine if the following items could be utilized as cost saving measures: 1) use of electronic mailing for tax notices versus the US Postal Service; 2) charging the school districts for collection and distribution of taxes, just like the municipalities; and, 3) replacing the HVAC system at the Public Services Building.

Members of Council expressed interest, in the future, to meet in October or November to discuss strategic issues and provide key directions to staff prior to the annual budget preparation.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Councilman Culberson made a motion Council Enter Executive Session, Pursuant To Section 30-4-70 Of The South Carolina Code Of Laws 1976, As Amended, To Discuss A Contractual Matter Concerning Economic Development. Councilman Schofield seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Council entered executive session at 9:36 a.m. Council reconvened at 9:46 a.m.

There being no further business to come before Council, Councilman Kirby made a motion to adjourn. Councilman Mumford seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

COUNCIL MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:47 A.M.