

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE FLORENCE COUNTY COUNCIL, THURSDAY, JANUARY 17, 2008,
9:00 A.M., COUNCIL CHAMBERS, ROOM 803, CITY-COUNTY COMPLEX, 180 N. IRBY ST.,
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
J. Ken Ard, Council Member
Alphonso Bradley, Council Member
James T. Schofield, Council Member
Richard A. Starks, County Administrator
Mike Abbott, County Attorney
Connie Y. Haselden, Clerk to Council

ALSO PRESENT:

Sheriff Kenney Boone
Kevin V. Yokim, Finance Director
Ray McBride, Library Director
Chuck Tomlinson, Morning News Staff Writer

ABSENT:

Johnnie D. Rodgers, Jr., Council Member

A notice of the regular meeting of the Florence County Council appeared in the January 16, 2008 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 and on the County's website (HYPERLINK "http://www.florenceco.org" www.florenceco.org).

Chairman Smith called the meeting to order. Secretary-Chaplain Anderson gave the invocation and Vice-Chairman Mumford led the Pledge of Alliance to the American Flag. Chairman Smith welcomed everyone attending the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Councilman Kirby made a motion Council approve the minutes of the January 3, 2008 regular meeting of County Council. Councilman Mumford seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

There were no public hearings.

APPEARANCES:

PRESENTATION OF RESOLUTIONS OF RECOGNITION

Councilman Mumford made a motion Council approve the Resolutions of Recognition to the Wilson High School Football Team and coaches in honor of their recent AAA State Championship win. Councilman Culberson seconded

the motion, which was approved unanimously. The Clerk published the Resolution in its entirety. Councilmen Mumford, Culberson, and Bradley presented framed resolutions to the team members, the coaches, and Principal Gerard Edwards.

SANTEE COOPER

On behalf of Santee Cooper, Judge Jim Brogdon presented Council with information relative to the proposed 600 mega-watt power plant in the Kingsburg area of Florence County. Councilman Ard expressed his support of the project.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

PUBLIC SERVICES & COUNTY PLANNING

Committee Chairman Schofield provided a presentation on proposed revisions to the section of the County Code dealing with Signs, in many cases for clarification of the regulations. The Ordinance was written several years ago and with changes in technology and the growth of Florence County, much of the language is outdated or confusing. Councilman Schofield requested Council allow Ken Jackson to comment on the issue on behalf of the Economic Development Partnership. Mr. Jackson expressed his appreciation for Council on its support of economic development in Florence County. He stated the Partnership viewed this matter as an economic development issue and encouraged Council to move forward with improving the sign ordinance to enhance the image of Florence for economic development prospects.

EDUCATION, RECREATION, HEALTH & WELFARE

Committee Chairman Anderson published a letter he received from an 8-year old student regarding animal care and provided an update on the status of the proposed Environmental Services facility.

AD HOC WATER STUDY COMMITTEE

Committee Chairman Ard stated he did not have a report, but that preliminary information was previously provided to members of Council. He requested Council make the availability of water to the rural areas a priority in the coming year.

RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NO. 16-2007/08

The Chairman published the title of Resolution No. 16-2007/08: A Resolution Authorizing the Cessation of Maintenance on and Abandonment of a Portion of Beckwood Road Located in the Pamplico Area. Councilman Ard made a motion Council approve the Resolution. Councilman Culberson seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 17-2007/08

The Chairman published the title of Resolution No. 17-2007/08: A Resolution Amending the Florence County Personnel Policy Manual, Section 4.10D(5), Vehicle Accidents-Traffic Violations, to Provide for a Vehicle Collision Review Board and Procedures. Councilman Mumford made a motion Council approve the Resolution. Councilman Anderson seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

ORDINANCES IN POSITION:

ORDINANCE NO. 16-2007/08 – SECOND READING

The Clerk published the title of Ordinance No. 16-2007/08: An Ordinance To Zone Properties Owned By Twenty-Four Property Owners Located On Hazel Drive, Florence To R-2, Single-Family Residential District Shown On

Florence County Tax Map No. 101-1, Block 1, Parcels 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 21, 22, 23, 25, 26, 27, and 29. Councilman Anderson made a motion Council approve second reading of the Ordinance. Councilman Ard seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

ORDINANCE NO. 17-2007/08 – REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

The Clerk published the title of Ordinance No. 17-2007/08: An Ordinance To Amend The Florence County Code To Provide For The Appointment Of Planning Commission And Board Of Zoning Appeals Members, And To Establish The Effective Date For Such Appointments. Councilman Ard made a motion Council approve second reading of the Ordinance. Councilman Anderson seconded the motion. After some discussion, Councilman Ard withdrew his motion and Councilman Anderson withdrew his second. Councilman Schofield made a motion to refer the Ordinance to the Public Service & County Planning Committee for further review. Councilman Culberson seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

ORDINANCE NO. 18-2007/08 – REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

The Clerk published the title of Ordinance No. 18-2007/08 and the Chairman declared the Ordinance introduced: An Ordinance To Amend The Zoning Ordinance Of Florence County Section 2.5-Table III, Section 3.21, Section 5.2-Table VIII, Section 7.6 And Section 7.7 For Setbacks, Text Errors, Accessory Structure Rules And Commercial And Industrial Property Access. Councilman Schofield made a motion Council refer the Ordinance to the Public Service & County Planning Committee for further review. Councilman Culberson seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

ORDINANCE NO. 19-2007/08 – REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

The Clerk published the title of Ordinance No. 19-2007/08: An Ordinance To Amend Article 9 Of The Zoning Ordinance Of Florence County To Provide For The Composition Of The Planning Commission And Board Of Zoning Appeals For Florence County. Councilman Schofield made a motion Council refer the Ordinance to the Public Service & County Planning Committee for further review. Councilman Culberson seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

ORDINANCE NO. 20-2007/08 – REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

The Clerk published the title of Ordinance No. 20-2007/08: An Ordinance Amending Florence County Code Chapter 6 – Animals And Fowl, In Its Entirety To Clarify Animal Care And Control Regulations. Chairman Smith stated that staff recommended this Ordinance be referred to the Committee on Education, Recreation, Health & Welfare unless there was an objection from Council. There were no objections voiced.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:

There were no appointments to Boards or Commissions.

REPORTS TO COUNCIL:

ADMINISTRATION

MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORTS

Monthly financial reports were provided to Council for fiscal year 2008 through December 31, 2007 as an item for the record.

FINANCE

PRESENTATION OF ANNUAL AUDIT

Butch Whiddon with Baird & Associates, LLC presented key information from the Florence County Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. Mr. Whiddon stated Florence County was doing well and had been good stewards with taxpayer monies. In response to a question from the Chairman, Mr. Whiddon responded he would give Florence County an A+ rating.

OTHER BUSINESS:

ROAD SYSTEM MAINTENANCE FEE (RSMF) FUND

SOUTH CAMERON ROAD

Councilman Kirby made a motion Council approve the expenditure of funds from Council District 1 RSMF funding allocation in an amount up to \$1,828.00 for rock for the end of South Cameron Road. Councilman Ard seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

INFRASTRUCTURE FUND

EBENEZER MANNED CONVENIENCE CENTER SITE

Councilman Anderson made a motion Council approve the expenditure of funds from Council District 9 Infrastructure funding allocation in an amount up to \$52,793.22 for concrete additions at the Ebenezer Manned Convenience Center Site. Councilman Kirby seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

JEFFORDS STREET

Councilman Mumford made a motion Council approve the expenditure of funds from Council District 7 Infrastructure funding allocation in an amount up to \$2,500.00 to re-work two concrete catch basins along Jeffords Street sidewalk. Councilman Bradley seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

UTILITY SYSTEM FUND

GRAY ROAD PROJECT

Councilman Ard made a motion Council approve the expenditure of funds from Council District 1 Utility System funding allocation in an amount up to \$15,000.00 to assist the City of Lake City with the installation of a water line on Gray Road. Councilman Culberson seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Councilman Anderson made a motion Council enter executive session to discuss contractual matters concerning real property transactions, contractual matters concerning consulting agencies, and matters relating to economic development. Councilman Ard seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously. Council entered executive session at 10:39 a.m.

(Councilman Mumford left prior to executive session.)

Council reconvened at 11:40 a.m. and, subsequent to executive session, took the following actions:

PRESENTATION OF ANNUAL AUDIT

Prior to entering executive session Council inadvertently omitted action on the acceptance of the Annual Audit. Councilman Ard made a motion Council accept the annual audit for fiscal year ended June 30, 2007. Councilman Anderson seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

SC DOT:

Councilman Anderson made a motion Council authorize SCDOT to install and maintain RC pipe & rip rap, geotextile fabric and construction of a silt fence on property owned by Florence County and located on Ebenezer Road, designated as Tax Map No. 75-01-1645, as part of the Pineneedles segment of the Florence County Forward Project. Councilman Kirby seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 18-2007/08:

Councilman Ard made a motion Council approve Resolution No. 18-2007/08: a Resolution consenting to the Assignment by Crenlo, LLC of its Interest in a Fee In Lieu Of Tax Agreement and Other Matters Related Thereto. Councilman Culberson seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

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

COUNCIL MEETING ADJOURNED AT 11:42 A.M.

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