

REGULAR MEETING OF THE FLORENCE COUNTY COUNCIL, THURSDAY, MARCH 6, 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
Johnnie D. Rodgers, Jr., Council Member
J. Ken Ard, Council Member
James T. Schofield, Council Member
Alphonso Bradley, Council Member
Richard A. Starks, County Administrator
James C. Rushton, III, County Attorney
Connie Y. Haselden, Clerk to Council

ALSO PRESENT:

Kevin Yokim, Finance Director
Ray McBride, Library Director
Sheriff Kenney Boone
Mike Young, Director of Voter Registration/Elections
Chuck Tomlinson, Morning News Staff Writer

A notice of the regular meeting of the Florence County Council appeared in the March 5, 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 Rodgers made a motion Council approve the minutes of the February 21, 2008 regular meeting of County Council. Councilman Kirby seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

There were no public hearings required or held.

APPEARANCES:

DR. PHILIP BOWMAN, PEE DEE MENTAL HEALTH CENTER

Dr. Bowman - Executive Director/Medical Director and Stuart Shields – Assistant Director appeared before Council to provide information on the services provided by the Mental Health Center.

JOHN CHASE, JR., CHAIR – LEGISLATIVE DAY COMMITTEE

Mr. Chase expressed appreciation for County Council's support of the Annual Legislative Day Event scheduled for March 25th as well as its support of past events.

VERMELL PYATT – HARVEST HOPE FOOD BANK

Ms. Pyatt appeared before Council to present information on the Harvest Hope Food Bank and request funding. Councilman Ard stated he had the opportunity to attend one of the events hosted by Harvest Hope Food Bank and he was very impressed with the organization. He stated that if the County could not provide financial assistance he would, at a minimum, encourage Council to provide public and moral support for the organization. Councilman Mumford also commended the organization and expressed support for its efforts and service provided to the community.

ROBERT R. SMITH, II – BLUECROSS BLUESHIELD FOUNDATION

Mr. Smith was unable to attend. Ms. Sally Fiffick appeared before Council in his stead to speak on the Proclamation honoring the achievements of the Foundation and to recognize the opening of the Lake City Free Medical Clinic. Chairman Smith stated the Proclamation would be up for consideration later in the meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

PUBLIC SERVICES & COUNTY PLANNING

Committee Chairman Schofield reminded Council members that effective July 1 a new Planning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals would need to be in place. He encouraged members to begin making appointments so that by April or May the Commission would be in place.

JUSTICE & PUBLIC SAFETY

Committee Chairman Mumford stated the Committee met prior to the Council meeting to discuss the increasing litter problem in Florence County. The Committee was working with Environmental Services and the Sheriff's Office to put something in place to alleviate the litter problems.

EDUCATION, RECREATION, HEALTH & WELFARE

Committee Chairman Anderson stated bids were out on the proposed animal facility. He again expressed his appreciation for the funding received from the public, as well as individual members of County Council.

AD HOC WATER STUDY COMMITTEE

Committee Chairman Ard stated he did not have a report, but that a meeting was scheduled immediately following County Council's meeting. He encouraged all of Council to attend.

PROCLAMATIONS:

NATIONAL COUNTY GOVERNMENT WEEK

The Clerk published, in its entirety, a Proclamation Recognizing the Week of April 6-12, 2008 As National County Government Week in Florence County. Councilman Mumford made a motion Council approve the Proclamation. Councilman Kirby seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

COMMENDING BLUECROSS BLUESHIELD OF SC FOUNDATION

The Clerk published, in its entirety, a Proclamation Commending BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina Foundation for Its Support of the Lake City Free Medical Clinic and Its Dedication to Providing Medical Care and Pharmaceutical Donations for Uninsured and Underinsured Families in Florence County. Councilman Kirby made a motion Council approve the Proclamation. Councilman Rodgers seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

PROCLAMATION OF SUPPORT

The Clerk published, in its entirety, a Proclamation of Support of the National Association of Counties' Campaign Against Sexual Exploitation of Children. Councilman Anderson made a motion Council approve the Proclamation. Councilman Culberson seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NO. 22-2007/08

The Chairman published the title of Resolution No. 22-2007/08: A Resolution Authorizing The Cessation Of Maintenance On And Abandonment Of A Portion Of Pheasant Road Located In The Effingham Area. Councilman Anderson made a motion Council approve the Resolution. Councilman Culberson seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

ORDINANCES IN POSITION:

ORDINANCE NO. 21-2007/08 – THIRD READING

The Chairman published the title of Ordinance No. 21-2007/08: An Ordinance To Establish User And Hazardous Substance Reimbursement Fees To Support Hazardous Materials Response Capabilities And Other Matters Relating Thereto. Councilman Mumford made a motion Council approve third reading of the Ordinance. Councilman Rodgers seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

ORDINANCE NO. 22-2007/08 – THIRD READING

The Chairman published the title of Ordinance No. 22-2007/08: An Ordinance To Rezone Properties Owned By Clebe G. Eaddy And Debbie C. Eaddy Located On Carolyn Avenue, Florence From B-3, General Commercial District To R-4, Multi-Family Residential District, Limited Shown On Florence County Tax Map No. 90-095, Block 1, Parcels 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28 and 29. Councilman Ard made a motion Council approve third reading of the Ordinance. Councilman Schofield seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:

HOWE SPRINGS FIRE DISTRICT BOARD

Councilman Rodgers made a motion Council approve the recommendation of the Howe Springs Fire District Board and appoint Billy Brown to the Board to serve the unexpired term of Shannon Smith, who resigned to serve as Fire Chief. Councilman Kirby seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

REPORTS TO COUNCIL:

PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

LYNCHES RIVER ENVIRONMENTAL DISCOVERY CENTER GRANT

Councilman Kirby made a motion Council accept the FY08 appropriation from the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources in the amount of \$120,129 and authorize the designation of appropriate general ledger accounts within the Grant Fund. Councilman Mumford seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

PROFESSIONAL TENNIS SERVICES CONTRACT

Councilman Culberson made a motion Council accept the recommendation of the Parks and Recreation Commission to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with Richard Storr, an independent contractor, for exclusive rights to offer professional tennis services at Ebenezer Park; and authorize the County Administrator to execute all related documents, subject to review by the County Attorney. Councilman Rodgers seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

PUBLIC WORKS

AWARD OF BID #17-07/08

Councilman Ard made a motion Council award Bid #17-07/08 to the low responsive bidder, Blanchard Machinery Co. of Florence, SC, for the purchase of two (2) 32,000 lbs. Class Motorgraders for Public Works in the amount of \$431,991.36; and authorize the County Administrator to execute all associated documents to proceed. Councilman Schofield seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

PURCHASING AND FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

AWARD OF BID #11-07/08

Councilman Mumford made a motion Council award Bid #11-07/08 to the low responsive bidder, Goodson Construction Co. of Aynor, SC, for Bid #11-07/08, Harlee Boulevard Culvert Lowering Project, in the amount of \$53,247 to be funded through PDEC/FC Dec 06 Agreement; and authorize the County Administrator to execute all associated documents to proceed. Councilman Culberson seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

DECLARATION OF SURPLUS PROPERTY

Councilman Rodgers made a motion Council declare asset #V0729 a 2000 Ford F-250 surplus and authorize its sale to Olanta Rural Fire Department for \$3,750, less \$1,500 to be funded from Council District 5 Infrastructure funding allocations. Councilman Culberson seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS:

INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING

EBENEZER COMMUNITY PARK

Councilman Anderson made a motion Council approve the expenditure of funds from Council District 9 Infrastructure funding allocation in an amount up to \$5,900.00 to relocate a section of fencing at Ebenezer Community Park, in preparation of the road widening project along Ebenezer Road. Councilman Rodgers seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

LAVERNE ARD COMMUNITY PARK

Councilman Ard made a motion Council approve the expenditure of funds from Council District 2 Infrastructure

funding allocation in an amount up to \$6,000.00 to assist with the removal of trees at Laverne Ard Community Park. Councilman Rodgers seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

COUNCILMAN ARD:

Councilman Ard stated Council was provided a report on the statistics of the new Dozier M. Munn Pamlico Public Library versus the old library. He stated it was money well spent and expressed appreciation for Council's support of the construction of the new library.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Councilman Ard made a motion Council enter executive session to discuss a pending contractual matter with the City of Florence and pending legal matters. Councilman Anderson seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously. Council entered executive session at 9:45 a.m. Council reconvened at 10:11 a.m.

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

COUNCIL MEETING ADJOURNED AT 10:11 A.M.

**H. MORRIS ANDERSON
SECRETARY-CHAPLAIN**

**CONNIE Y. HASELDEN
CLERK TO COUNTY COUNCIL**

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