

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE FLORENCE COUNTY COUNCIL,
THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 2015, 9:00 A.M., COUNTY COMPLEX,
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, ROOM 803, 180 N. IRBY STREET,
FLORENCE, SOUTH CAROLINA**

PRESENT:

Roger M. Poston, Chairman
James T. Schofield, Vice Chairman
Mitchell Kirby, Secretary-Chaplain
Waymon Mumford, Council Member
Alphonso Bradley, Council Member
Kent C. Caudle, Council Member
Willard Dorriety, Jr., Council Member
Jason M. Springs, Council Member
H. Steven DeBerry, IV, Council Member
K. G. Rusty Smith, Jr., County Administrator
D. Malloy McEachin, Jr., County Attorney
Connie Y. Haselden, Clerk to Council

ALSO PRESENT:

Arthur C. Gregg, Jr., Public Works Director
Kevin V. Yokim, Finance Director
Jonathan B. Graham, III, Planning Director
Ronnie Pridgen, Parks & Recreation Department Director
Bill Griffenberg, CIO
Samuel K. Brockington, Jr., Fire/Rescue Services Coordinator
Patrick Fletcher, Procurement Director
Joe Ross, Lynches River County Park
Larry Roscoe, Tax Assessor's Office
Coroner Keith von Lutcken
David Alford, Voter Registration/Elections Director
Alan Smith, Library Director
Chief Deputy Glen Kirby
Katherine McCain, Sheriff's Office
Lt. Wayne Howard, Sheriff's Office
Gavin Jackson, Morning News Staffwriter
Tonya Brown, WPDE TV15 Reporter
Matt Petrillo, WBTW News 13 Reporter
Amy Lipman, WMBF News Reporter

A notice of the regular meeting of the Florence County Council appeared in the January 14, 2015 edition of the **MORNING NEWS**. In compliance with the Freedom of Information Act, copies of the meeting Agenda and Proposed Additions to the Agenda were provided to members of the media, members of the public requesting copies, posted in the lobby of the County Complex, provided for posting at the Doctors Bruce and Lee Foundation Public Library, all branch libraries, and on the County's website (www.florenceco.org).

Chairman Schofield called the meeting to order. Secretary/Chaplain Kirby provided the invocation and Vice Chairman Mumford led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag. Chairman Schofield welcomed everyone attending the meeting.

SWEARING-IN OF MEMBERS OF COUNTY COUNCIL:

The Honorable Judge Michael G. Nettles administered the Oath Of Office to Councilmen Jason M. Springs (District 1), Alphonso Bradley (District 3), Waymon Mumford (District 7), and James T. Schofield (District 8). Judge Nettles expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to participate in the ceremony. He commented that it was an exciting time to live in Florence County with all of the on-going projects and revitalization. He said he could guarantee two things with regard to Council's service: it would be exciting and challenging. Florence County was fortunate to have each of the members to guide the County through these prosperous and challenging times. Judge Nettles stated there was no more noble endeavor than that of public service and that he would leave them with these words from Ronald Reagan: "Everybody can be great, because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a PhD., you don't have to come from a family of wealth, you only need a heart full of grace and a soul generated by love."

Councilman Mumford expressed his appreciation for Judge Nettles taking time out of his busy schedule to come and preside over the swearing-in and commended him on the great job he was doing as a Circuit Court Judge.

Councilman Bradley thanked Judge Nettles and expressed appreciation to his constituents for re-electing him.

Councilman Springs thanked the Judge and expressed appreciation for his service to the County. He thanked his family, especially his wife, for their support. He stated he appreciated the opportunity given him to serve the citizens and represent their interest.

Councilman DeBerry stated he appreciated the opportunity and looked forward to getting started and working together with everyone on Council. He promised the citizens of District 6 that he would deliver the best representation that he could.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2015

Chairman Schofield turned the gavel over to County Attorney Malloy McEachin to preside over the Election of Officers for 2015. Mr. McEachin opened the floor for nominations for Chairman. Councilman Caudle nominated James Schofield to serve as Chairman for 2015. Councilman Poston seconded the motion. The motion failed with a 5 to 4 vote because this would be the third term for Councilman Schofield as Chairman and County Code requires a two-thirds majority vote. Voting in the affirmative were Councilmen DeBerry, Poston, Schofield, Caudle and Springs. Voting 'No' were Councilmen Bradley, Mumford, Kirby and Dorriety.

Councilman Caudle made a motion to elect The Honorable Roger M. Poston to serve as Chairman for 2015. Councilman Springs seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Mr. McEachin opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chairman for 2015. Councilman Caudle nominated James Schofield to serve as Vice Chairman for 2015. Councilman Springs seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Mr. McEachin opened the floor for nominations for Secretary-Chaplain for 2015. Councilman Bradley nominated Mitchell Kirby as Secretary-Chaplain for 2015. Councilman Mumford seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Chairman Poston declared a brief recess to reset the dais. Council recessed at 9:10 a.m.

Chairman Poston reconvened the meeting at 9:15 a.m.

CHAIRMAN POSTON:

Chairman Poston stated, "To start with, there is a tremendous amount of work to be done in Florence County in the coming years and it will take a unified Council to ensure the best for all citizens. The Local Government Fund has been reduced over the past five or six years and we must work to solve this deficit, because the employees of Florence County has been the ones to shoulder most of this burden – and it's not good. We got to address that situation. I pledge to do the best to keep open the lines of communication and make sure that the needs of every district are fairly considered by this Council. It is Council's plan and intent to make Florence County a safe place to live for our children. That is our ultimate goal in life and I'm sure that's the goal of every Councilman here today."

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Councilman Dorriety made a motion Council Approve The Minutes Of The December 11, 2014 Regular Meeting Of County Council. Councilman Kirby seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

There Were No Public Hearings Required Or Scheduled.

APPEARANCES:

COUNCILMAN CAUDLE

Councilman Caudle stated, "This morning we elected officers and we swore-in or re-swore-in four of the Councilmen, or one new Councilman, Mr. DeBerry (and I'm glad you're here by the way), and four re-elected. I was talking earlier to some of my comrades here, but I was talking about what we need to keep focused on. I hope y'all don't mind me saying this but I think its five characteristics we need to keep our focus on:

- 1) One is we need to have compassion. We need to be aware of and in tune with our constituents and their needs. We can't be Santa Claus to everybody, but we need to do what we are rightfully allowed to do as far as servicing our constituents in the County regardless of what district they are in, whether its Lake City, Timmonsville, Florence, whichever it is, we need to keep that compassion.
- 2) Character – that is the second thing we need to do. We need to be of good character and we need to treat our fellow citizens and Councilmen that way.
- 3) We need to be connected with one another; we need to communicate on a frequent and regular basis. What one knows, all should know; of course, I have full confidence in Roger as a Chairman doing that but that's not only Roger's job, we are all charged to do that.
- 4) Committed. I can tell you just from my two years on service, if you are not committed to this job you don't ever need to consider it, because it can consume all the time you allow it to consume, but you have to balance that with your other obligations and family life. So you have to be committed.
- 5) When you have an issue that you think is important, or issues, you got to have the courage to lead, set examples for others and make things happen that's betterment for the entire citizenry of the County.

I hope you don't mind me saying that today and I hope I'm not out of place, but I just feel like that's something that's on my heart since last night. ... I think if we apply all those to every aspect of our lives we'll live a better life. A lot of people would rather see a sermon than hear one and I think if we have those five characteristics without saying a word we could be a great example. ”

COUNCILMAN KIRBY

Councilman Kirby commended Councilman Schofield for his hard work and dedication over the last two years he served as Chairman. He stated that Council faced some difficult decisions and made great strides with his leadership and dedication.

CHAIRMAN POSTON

Chairman Poston stated he was in total agreement. Chairman Schofield did a tremendous job and carried Council a long, long way; further than he ever dreamed of in the last two years and he applauded him for that.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

There were no Committee Reports.

COUNCILMAN DORRIETY

Councilman Dorriety invited everyone to attend the South Carolina Ag Business show going on at the Civic Center. He said it would be well worth the time to go out and see, especially the technology involved in the agricultural business today. It was very well put together and a good show. He stated he was glad Florence had it.

COUNCILMAN CAUDLE

Councilman Caudle stated Lynches River County Park was scheduled for a controlled burn as soon as it was dry enough and assured the public it would be well-regulated. One of the reasons for the burn was for wildlife management, plus it would assist in deterring wildfires. He said the Park was a gem in Florence County; too much of a well-kept secret.

RESOLUTIONS/PROCLAMATIONS:

RESOLUTIONS OF RECOGNITION

The Clerk published Resolutions of Recognition in their entirety For Engineers Craig Healy And Danny Gaskins Of The Lake City Fire Department And Deputy Chief John Baker Of The South Lynches Fire Department In Honor Of Commendable And Meritorious Community Service And Heroic Acts On October 26, 2014 To Save The Life Of An Eight (8) Year Old Child. Councilman Springs made a motion Council approve the Resolution as presented. Councilman Caudle seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously. Councilman Springs presented framed Resolutions to each of the firefighters for their commendable service. Councilman Springs stated that in the fire industry there was a saying “You risk a little to save a little, you risk a lot to save a lot, you risk nothing to save nothing.” These gentlemen risked a lot to save the life of a child and he commended them for their service. Councilman Kirby also commended the firefighters for an excellent job. Chairman Poston added to the commendation and stated these gentlemen were very special public servants and he appreciated the service they provided.

RESOLUTION NO. 14-2014/15

The Clerk published the title of Resolution No. 14-2014/15: A Resolution Establishing A Summer Camp Program And A Junior Ranger Program To Be Offered Through The Environmental Discovery Center At Lynches River County Park And Establishing Fees And A Policy For The Programs. Councilman Caudle made a motion Council approve the Resolution as presented. Councilman Springs seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

ORDINANCES IN POSITION:

There were no Ordinances for third reading.

ORDINANCE NO. 24-2013/14 – SECOND READING DEFERRED

Chairman Poston stated second reading of Ordinance No. 24-2013/14 was deferred: An Ordinance To Zone Properties Inclusive Of All Unzoned Properties In Council District Five And Six Bounded By Freedom Boulevard, National Cemetery Road, Francis Marion Road, Wickerwood Road, Flowers Road, Pamplico Highway, South Vance Drive, Furches Avenue, And The Westernmost Boundary Of Council District Six That Connects Furches Avenue And Freedom Boulevard, Florence, SC From Unzoned To The Following Zoning Designations Of R-1, R-2, And R-3A, Single-Family Residential District, B-1, Limited Business District, B-2, Convenience Business District And B-3, General Commercial District; Consistent With The Land Use Element And Map Of The Florence County Comprehensive Plan; And Other Matters Related Thereto.

ORDINANCE NO. 16-2014/15 – INTRODUCED BY TITLE ONLY

The Clerk published the title of Ordinance No. 16-2014/15 and the Chairman declared the Ordinance introduced by Title Only: An Ordinance Authorizing The Execution And Delivery Of A Not Exceeding \$3,800,000 Lease Purchase Agreement Relating To The Purchase Of Certain Equipment For Information Technology Upgrades By Florence County, South Carolina, Authorizing The Execution Of Other Necessary Documents And Papers, And Other Matters Relating Thereto.

ORDINANCE NO. 17-2014/15 – INTRODUCED

The Clerk published the title of Ordinance No. 17-2014/15 and the Chairman declared the Ordinance introduced: An Ordinance To Rezone Properties Owned By Allyson Carter Located At 301, 303, 319, And 321 East Grace Drive, Florence, As Shown On Florence County Tax Map No. 90095, Block 01, Parcels 002, 010, 012 & 016; Consisting Of Approximately 0.518 Acres From R-3, Single-Family Residential District To R-4, Multi-Family Residential District; And Other Matters Related Thereto. Councilman Schofield made a motion to approve introduction of the Ordinance. Councilman Mumford seconded the motion. Councilman Caudle expressed concern regarding the vote of the Planning Commission being a 4 to 3 vote. Councilman Schofield stated he made the motion in error, that Council typically does not vote on introduction (the Chairman declares introduced) and that he withdrew his motion. Councilman Mumford withdrew his second.

ORDINANCE NO. 18-2014/15 – INTRODUCED

The Clerk published the title of Ordinance No. 18-2014/15 and the Chairman declared the Ordinance introduced: An Ordinance To Amend Florence County Code, Chapter 30. Zoning Ordinance, Section 30-28 Table I: Schedule Of Permitted And Conditional Uses And Off-Street Parking Requirements For Residential Districts; And Other Matters Related Thereto.

ORDINANCE NO. 19-2014/15 – INTRODUCED

The Clerk published the title of Ordinance No. 19-2014/15 and the Chairman declared the Ordinance introduced: An Ordinance To Amend Florence County Code, Chapter 30. Zoning Ordinance, Section 30-244. Number Of Principal Buildings/Uses On A Lot; And Other Matters Related Thereto.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:

There Were No Appointments.

REPORTS TO COUNCIL:

ADMINISTRATION

MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORTS

Monthly Financial Reports Were Provided To Council For Fiscal Year 2015 Through November 30, 2014 As An Item For The Record. County Administrator K. G. Rusty Smith, Jr. stated that he also placed at each Councilman’s seat an update on the CPST II projects. Staff was working expeditiously and proceeding rapidly with projects approved under the CPST II, particularly road projects.

ADMINISTRATION/PROCUREMENT

AWARD BID NO. 10-14/15

Councilman Bradley made a motion Council Award Bid No. 10-14/15 SC Highway 403 Water Treatment Plant Improvements For Florence County To The Harper Corporation Of Greenville, SC In The Amount Of \$428,500 To Be Funded By The South Carolina Department Of Commerce Community Development Block Grant Program Pending Department Of Commerce Approval. Councilman Dorriety seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

FINANCE

ACCEPTANCE/PRESENTATION OF ANNUAL AUDIT

Mr. Smith commended Finance Director Kevin Yokim and Kathy Coker of his staff for their dedication to the completion of the audit. Mr. Yokim introduced Ryan Miller and Tim Grow with Elliott Davis, LLC to present an overview of the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2014 Annual Audit. Mr. Miller stated that as a result of the Audit, Elliott Davis, LLC issued an unmodified opinion on the fair presentation of the financial statements, which meant it was a clean opinion; there were no significant deficiencies, material weaknesses, scope limitations or departure from GAAP. Essentially, there was no reason to modify opinion for any issues. Councilman Kirby asked how Florence County compared to other counties in the State. Mr. Miller stated Florence County was one of the best by far, based on his experiences. Mr. Grow stated that Florence County was fortunate to have a Finance Director with Mr. Yokim's caliber and that the County was way ahead in what was considered to be standard accounting procedures. Councilman Kirby asked if there were any 'red flags' with the way the County operated that would affect its financial standing in the next five to ten years. Mr. Miller responded that he didn't note anything that would be a major concern and that the County ran a pretty tight ship. Mr. Yokim provided additional information on GASB 68 relating to OPEB (Other Post-Employment Benefits) and the County's responsibility in reporting that information on the audit in the future. Councilman Mumford made a motion Council Accept The Audit As Presented. Councilman Kirby seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

PARKS & RECREATION/LYNCHES RIVER COUNTY PARK

PRESCRIBED BURNING

Councilman Caudle made a motion Council Authorize The Expenditure Of \$5,727 From Florence County Parks & Recreation Departmental Budget For The South Carolina Forestry Commission To Perform The First Phase Of Prescribed Burning At Lynches River County Park (262 Acres). Councilman Dorriety seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

PROCUREMENT

DECLARATION OF SURPLUS PROPERTY

Councilman Schofield made a motion Council Declare Seven (7) Vehicles, Three (3) Trucks And Two (2) Trailers As Surplus Property For Disposal Through Public Internet Auction Via GovDeals. Councilman Kirby seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

DECLARATION OF SURPLUS PROPERTY

Councilman Kirby made a motion Council Declare Various Parks And Recreation Department Equipment As Surplus For Disposal Through Public Internet Auction Via GovDeals. Councilman Dorriety seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

SURPLUS PROPERTY

Councilman Springs made a motion Council Declare Surplus And Authorize The Sale Of Unit #VS156, A 2008 Ford F-150 Pickup To The Town Of Olanta In The Amount Of \$3,000. Councilman Dorriety seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

The following items were additions to the Agenda:

ADMINISTRATION/PUBLIC WORKS

CPST II

Councilman Springs made a motion Council Authorize The County Administrator To Utilize The County Public Works Department As Needed To Assist With Capital Project Sales Tax II Projects On A Project By Project Basis When Determined To Be The Most Cost Effective And Efficient Means To Complete Projects. Councilman Dorriety seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously. Councilman Caudle commented that he wanted to inform the public works department that Jesse Carraway called the previous day to compliment the public works office for work recently done by the County in his area in response to a complaint submitted by Mr. Carraway. In response to a question from Councilman Bradley relating to the type of work that would be performed, Mr. Smith responded that, for example, where a site would need clearing for building new structures, the public works department could provide some of the site work at a savings to the County. Councilman Springs stated he thought it was important for the County to utilize the services available in-house to alleviate costs and assist with the completion of the CPST II projects.

GRANTS/PROCUREMENT

AWARD RFP#17-14/15

Councilman Springs made a motion Council Award RFP #17-14/15 For Excavation And Placement Of Fill Materials As Horizontal Buffer At Old Landfill Site To R.E. Goodson Construction Company, Inc., Darlington, SC At A Cost To Be Negotiated By The County Administrator And Funded By An Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Brownfields Assessment And Cleanup Cooperative Agreement And Drs. Bruce And Lee Foundation Grant Funds. Councilman Dorriety seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously. Mr. Smith thanked Councilman Springs for working tirelessly on this project. Councilman Springs stated this was a project that was predominately funded by the Drs. Bruce and Lee Foundation, with tremendous efforts on the part of the Public Works department, Administrator Rusty Smith (who was on Council when the project began) and Suzanne King had been outstanding in her ability to help keep the project on track. This would be a tremendous feature to the Lake City Community.

SARDIS TIMMONSVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT/PROCUREMENT

AWARD BID NO. 15-14/15

Councilman Kirby made a motion Council Award Bid No. 15-14/15 For Construction Of The Cartersville Fire Station For The Sardis-Timmons ville Fire Department To ACE Construction Company, Inc. Of Florence, SC In The Amount Of \$444,197 To Be Funded From Capital Project Sales Tax II Funds And Sardis-Timmons ville Fire Department Funds. Councilman Dorriety seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously. Councilman Caudle asked how the bid was, compared to the budget. Mr. Smith responded that it was a little over the budget and the fire department was contributing an additional \$16,300 to make the project possible. Councilman Dorriety stated he was glad to see the bid awarded to a Florence County business.

OTHER BUSINESS:

INFRASTRUCTURE

FRANCIS MARION UNIVERSITY

Councilman Caudle made a motion Council Approve The Expenditure Of Up To \$100,000 From Council Districts' Infrastructure/Utility Funding Allocations (As Indicated On The Approving Documentation) To Assist Francis Marion University With Capital Improvements. Councilman Dorriety seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

DELMAE/SAVANNAH GROVE ATHLETIC COMPLEX

Councilman Caudle made a motion Council Approve The Expenditure Of Up To \$38,000 From Council Districts' Infrastructure/Utility Funding Allocations (As Indicated On The Approving Documentation) To Assist The Delmae/Savannah Grove Athletic Complex With Electrical Repairs And Replacement Of The Air Conditioning Unit In The Concessions Stand. Councilman Kirby seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

UTILITY

LARKSPUR ROAD

Councilman Dorriety made a motion Council Approve The Expenditure Of Up To \$2,969 From Council District 9 Utility Funding Allocation To Pay For And Relay 160 Feet Of 24" Double Wall Pipe On The East Side Of Property At 3023 Larkspur Road In Botany Acres; Botany Acres Is In The SCDOT Road Maintenance System Which Will Require SCDOT Right-Of-Ways For 3023 And 3017 Larkspur Road To Complete The Project. Councilman Kirby seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously. Councilman Dorriety stated this project was needed because all the water in this subdivision fed to this one pipe to drain the area and the pipe was deteriorated and broken through. The State was unable to fund the project. He expressed appreciation to public works for assistance with the project.

LAVERNE ARD PARK

Councilman Schofield made a motion Council Approve The Expenditure Of Up To \$9,315 From Council District 2 Utility Funding Allocation For The Purchase And Replacement Of Damaged Light Poles At The Laverne Ard Park. Councilman Dorriety seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

The following items were additions to the Agenda:

INFRASTRUCTURE

TOWN OF OLANTA

Councilman Springs made a motion Council Approve The Expenditure Of Up To \$13,000 From Council District 1 Infrastructure Funding Allocation To Assist The Town Of Olanta With The Purchase Of A New Police Car. Councilman Dorriety seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

ROAD SYSTEM MAINTENANCE FEE (RSMF)

S. RAILROAD AVENUE

Councilman Schofield made a motion Council Approve The Expenditure Of Up To \$25,000 From Council District 2 RSMF Funding Allocation To Pay For Reclamation And Resurfacing Of A Section Of S. Railroad Avenue (S-21-71) Between Stuckey Road (S-21-607) And W. Egg Farm Road (S-21-1331). *(The Total Cost Is Up To \$47,550, The Additional Funds Will Come From The Local Transportation Committee.)*. Councilman Kirby seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Councilman Schofield 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 Personnel Matter. Councilman Bradley seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Council entered Executive Session at 10:09 a.m. Council reconvened at 11:39 a.m.

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

COUNCIL MEETING ADJOURNED AT 11:40 A.M.