

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE FLORENCE COUNTY COUNCIL,  
THURSDAY, MAY 21, 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 (entered the meeting at 9:02 a.m.)  
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

**ABSENT:**

Waymon Mumford, Council Member

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Judge Michael Nettles  
Connie Reel-Shearin, Clerk of Court  
Doris Poulos, Deputy Clerk of Court  
Arthur C. Gregg, Jr., Public Works Director  
Kevin V. Yokim, Finance Director  
Suzanne S. King, Administrative Services Director  
Ryon Watkins, EMS Director  
Ronnie Pridgen, Parks & Recreation Department Director  
Jonathan B. Graham, III, Planning Director  
Jack Newsome, Tax Assessor  
Larry Roscoe, Deputy Assessor  
Sam Brockington, Fire/Rescue Services Director  
Alan Smith, Library Director  
Chief Deputy Glen Kirby  
David Alford, Voter Registration/Elections Director  
Dale Rauch, Facilities  
Gavin Jackson, Morning News Staffwriter  
Amy Lipman, WMBF Reporter  
Tonya Brown, WPDE TV15 Reporter  
Nick Sturdivant, WBTW TV13 Reporter  
Nickolas Ammons, Intern

A notice of the regular meeting of the Florence County Council appeared in the May 20, 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](http://www.florenceco.org)).

Chairman Poston called the meeting to order. Councilman Dorriety provided the invocation and Vice Chairman Schofield led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag. Chairman Poston welcomed everyone attending the meeting.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Councilman Caudle made a motion Council Approve The Minutes Of The April 16, 2015 Regular Meeting And The May 7, 2015 Special Called Meeting/Budget Worksession Of County Council. Councilman Dorriety seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

### **PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

The Clerk published the titles of the items for Public Hearing and the Chairman opened the Public Hearings.

### **ORDINANCE NO. 28-2014/15**

An Ordinance Authorizing The Issuance And Sale Of Not Exceeding Two Million One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$2,100,000) General Obligation Refunding Bond Of Florence County, South Carolina, To Prescribe The Purposes For Which The Proceeds Shall Be Expended, To Provide For The Payment Thereof, And Other Matters Relating Thereto.

### **ORDINANCE NO. 29-2014/15**

An Ordinance To Amend Sections Of Florence County Code Chapter 13, Garbage And Trash, Article 1. In General; And Other Matters Relating Thereto.

### **ORDINANCE NO. 30-2014/15**

An Ordinance To Amend The Florence County Comprehensive Plan Land Use Map For Property In Florence County Located North Of Meadors Road, More Specifically Shown On Tax Map Number 00052, Block 01, Parcel 005, From Rural Preservation To Residential Preservation; And Other Matters Related Thereto.

### **ORDINANCE NO. 32-2014/15**

An Ordinance To Amend The Florence County Comprehensive Plan Land Use Map To Change The Flood Hazard District To Reflect The New 2014 Flood Zones; And Other Matters Related Thereto.

**ORDINANCE NO. 33-2014/15**

An Ordinance Authorizing The Execution And Delivery Of Documents Relating To The Provision Of County Facilities; Consenting To And Approving The Issuance Of Not Exceeding \$42,000,000 Florence County Public Facilities Corporation Installment Purchase Revenue Bonds (Judicial Center Project) Series 2015 By Florence County Public Facilities Corporation To Provide Funding To Finance The Costs Of Acquisition, Construction, Renovation And Expansion Of County Facilities; Consenting To And Approving The Execution Of A Base Lease And Conveyance Agreement By And Between Florence County, South Carolina And Florence County Public Facilities Corporation; Consenting To And Approving The Execution Of A Facilities Purchase And Occupancy Agreement Relating Thereto By And Between Florence County, South Carolina And Florence County Public Facilities Corporation; Consenting To The Form Of A Bond Purchase Agreement To Be Entered Into By Florence County Public Facilities Corporation And The Initial Purchaser Of The Bonds; Consenting To The Form Of A Trust Agreement To Be Entered Into By Florence County Public Facilities Corporation, And The Trustee For The Bonds; And Together Therewith An Assignment To The Trustee For The Bonds Of Certain Rights To Payment And Other Rights Of Florence County Public Facilities Corporation Under The Facilities Purchase And Occupancy Agreement; And Making Provision For All Other Matters Relating To The Foregoing.

**ORDINANCE NO. 34-2014/15**

An Ordinance To Ratify FY15 Budget And Grant Council Actions Previously Authorized By Council And Other Matters Related Thereto.

**ORDINANCE NO. 01-2015/16**

An Ordinance To Provide For The Levy Of Taxes In Florence County For The Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2015 And Ending June 30, 2016; To Provide For The Appropriation Thereof; To Provide For Revenues For The Payments Thereof; And To Provide For Other Matters Related Thereto.

**APPEARANCES:**

**FRANK GREEN**

Mr. Green, A Resident Of Wagon Wheel Road, Appeared Before Council To Discuss The Matter Of Rural Water In The Vox Community. Chairman Poston stated there were two issues Mr. Green expressed: 1) Water – the County no longer had water so it would have to be provided by the City of Johnsonville, which was just awarded a \$350,000 RIA grant to supplement the CPST II for the provision of water in the rural areas, including Vox; and 2) the condition of the Road – roads with rock or slag that were placed on the CPST II list must be enhanced first and then if any excess funding were available, additional roads that needed attention would be added.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

### **JUSTICE & PUBLIC SAFETY**

In the absence of Committee Chairman Mumford, Committee Member Springs advised that as a result of a meeting held by the Committee on March 19<sup>th</sup>, an expedited level of litter enforcement was ongoing and Ordinance No. 29-2014/15 was currently on the Agenda for public hearing and second reading to enable the County to increase litter enforcement.

### **EDUCATION, RECREATION, HEALTH & WELFARE**

Committee Chairman Caudle stated he didn't have a report but asked Parks & Recreation Director Ronnie Pridgen to provide an update on baseball activities. Mr. Pridgen stated baseball was going well and the Miracle League was scheduled to conclude for this year on Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup>.

### **AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, MILITARY AFFAIRS & INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS**

Committee Chairman Bradley stated the Committee had a very informative meeting on May 19<sup>th</sup> and acknowledged Co-Chair Buddy Brand from the City, who was present.

## **RESOLUTIONS/PROCLAMATIONS:**

### **RESOLUTION NO. 25-2014/15**

The Clerk published the title of Resolution No. 25-2014/15: A Resolution Authorizing (1) An Extension Of The Period For Payment Of Fees In Lieu Of Ad Valorem Taxes With Respect To That Certain Fee In Lieu Of Tax Agreement Dated As Of December 1, 1998 (The "Fee Agreement") Between South East Express Inc. (The "Company") And Florence County, South Carolina (The "County"); (2) The Execution And Delivery Of A First Amendment To The Fee Agreement Between The Company And The County To Provide For Such An Extension Of The Investment Period Under The Fee Agreement; And (3) Other Matters Relating Thereto. Councilman Schofield made a motion Council approve the Resolution as presented. Councilman Springs seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

### **RESOLUTION NO. 26-2014/15**

The Clerk published the title of Resolution No. 26-2014/15: A Resolution To Amend Section 4.10D(5) Of The Florence County Personnel Policy Manual (PPM) Regarding The Vehicle Collision Review Board (VCRB) Procedure. Councilman Schofield made a motion Council approve the Resolution as presented. Councilman Springs seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

The Chairman declared the Public Hearings closed.

**ORDINANCE NO. 28-2014/15**

Citizen Billy Fowler was the only individual that signed up to speak with regard to Ordinance No. 28-2014/15 (\$2.1 million GO Refunding Bond). He expressed his disagreement with this Ordinance.

**ORDINANCE NO. 29-2014/15**

Citizen Billy Fowler was the only individual that signed up to speak with regard to Ordinance No. 29-2014/15 (Amend Code Chapter 13, Garbage and Trash). He stated Council needed to come up with a way to monitor the manned convenience centers with regard to commercial haulers and out of County residents.

**ORDINANCE NO. 30-2014/15**

The following citizens spoke with regard to Ordinance No. 30-2014/15 (Comprehensive Plan Land Use Map Amendment):

- Louis Hopkins – spoke in favor of the Ordinance.
- Darryl Hall – spoke in favor of the Ordinance.
- Michael York – expressed concerns regarding infrastructure for the development.
- Robert Hawkins – expressed opposition due to the infrastructure required.
- Sue Coccola – spoke in favor of the Ordinance.
- Wayne Sturkie – spoke in favor of the Ordinance.
- Jason Singletary – signed the sign-in sheet but was not present during the public hearing segment of the meeting.
- Toney Moore – spoke in favor of the Ordinance.
- Brian Casey – spoke in favor of the Ordinance.
- Gary Finklea – spoke in favor of the Ordinance; Mr. Finklea provided a copy of restrictive covenants for the property in question.

Councilman Dorriety stated he wanted to make several points. He understood the desire for R-2 over RU-1 – there was a considerable difference. The biggest problem he had was the comments received from residents off of Pelican. He said he had always been in favor of development, but when he received 200+ phone calls he had to address those concerns. As far as the schools, West Florence High School needed to be replaced. The school was built for 1,300 students and, based on current enrollment, 1,900 students were expected for the next school year. He was of the opinion that over-crowding in the schools would be a larger deterrent than the roads would be in the future. He stated he did not want another West Pointe in that area he wanted another West Wind. Mr. Finklea stated he wanted this to be his signature project and hoped/planned to deliver what was expected.

Councilman Kirby stated the main concerns he was hearing was with regard to traffic. He asked if a traffic study had been done. Mr. Finklea responded that under the County Code, Section 28.6-47 a traffic study was not required unless 500 or more lots in a residential subdivision were prepared, so the proposed development fell way under that criteria. Currently, there were three (3) outlets proposed for traffic from that subdivision. He stated there were some things they could potentially work with SCDOT on with regard to signage, intersections, etc. He stated the R-2 use would create less of a traffic hazard than many uses allowable under the current RU-1 District designation.

**ORDINANCE NO. 32-2014/15**

There were no signatures on the sign-in sheet for Ordinance No. 32-2014/15 (Comp Plan Land Use Map – Flood Hazard District).

**ORDINANCE NO. 33-2014/15**

The following citizens spoke with regard to Ordinance No. 33-2014/15 (Judicial Center Project):

- Haigh Porter – spoke in favor of the Ordinance and commended Council for its efforts to move the project forward.
- Judge Michael Nettles – spoke in favor of the Ordinance and commended Council for its diligence and vision for the much needed project and efforts to ensure the safety of the citizens of Florence County.
- Billy Fowler – expressed opposition to the Ordinance.
- City Councilman Buddy Brand – spoke in favor of the Ordinance.
- Anthony Ward – urged Council to explore every option and not increase property tax millage.
- Tom Sheehy – stated the public needed to be more informed. He agreed the County needed the facility but asked Council to look more carefully at the size and cost of a new facility and the renovations of the Complex.

**ORDINANCE NO. 34-2014/15 AND ORDINANCE NO. 01-2015/16**

There were no signatures on the sign-in sheets for Ordinance No. 34-2014/15 (To Ratify FY15 Budget And Grant Council Actions) or Ordinance No. 01-2015/16 (FY16 Budget Ordinance).

**ORDINANCES IN POSITION:**

**ORDINANCE NO. 27-2014/15 – THIRD READING**

The Clerk published the title of Ordinance No. 27-2014/15: An Ordinance To Amend Ordinance No. 21-1991/92 In Order To Exempt Vehicles From Being Assessed The Road System Maintenance Fee That Are Exempted By State Law From Having To Pay Property Taxes. Councilman Caudle made a motion Council approve third reading of the Ordinance. Councilman Schofield seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

**ORDINANCE NO. 28-2014/15 – THIRD READING**

The Clerk published the title of Ordinance No. 28-2014/15: An Ordinance Authorizing The Issuance And Sale Of Not Exceeding Two Million One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$2,100,000) General Obligation Refunding Bond Of Florence County, South Carolina, To Prescribe The Purposes For Which The Proceeds Shall Be Expended, To Provide For The Payment Thereof, And Other Matters Relating Thereto. Councilman Schofield made a motion Council approve third reading of the Ordinance. Councilman Dorriety seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

**ORDINANCE NO. 33-2014/15 – THIRD READING**

The Clerk published the title of Ordinance No. 33-2014/15: An Ordinance Authorizing The Execution And Delivery Of Documents Relating To The Provision Of County Facilities; Consenting To And Approving The Issuance Of Not Exceeding \$42,000,000 Florence County Public Facilities Corporation Installment Purchase Revenue Bonds (Judicial Center Project) Series 2015 By Florence County Public Facilities Corporation To Provide Funding To Finance The Costs Of Acquisition, Construction, Renovation And Expansion Of County Facilities; Consenting To And Approving The Execution Of A Base Lease And Conveyance Agreement By And Between Florence County, South Carolina And Florence County Public Facilities Corporation; Consenting To And Approving The Execution Of A Facilities Purchase And Occupancy Agreement Relating Thereto By And Between Florence County, South Carolina And Florence County Public Facilities Corporation; Consenting To The Form Of A Bond Purchase Agreement To Be Entered Into By Florence County Public Facilities Corporation And The Initial Purchaser Of The Bonds; Consenting To The Form Of A Trust Agreement To Be Entered Into By Florence County Public Facilities Corporation, And The Trustee For The Bonds; And Together Therewith An Assignment To The Trustee For The Bonds Of Certain Rights To Payment And Other Rights Of Florence County Public Facilities Corporation Under The Facilities Purchase And Occupancy Agreement; And Making Provision For All Other Matters Relating To The Foregoing. Councilman Schofield made a motion Council approve third reading of the Ordinance. Councilman Caudle seconded the motion, which was approved with a seven (7) to two (2) vote. Voting in the affirmative were Chairman Poston, Councilmen DeBerry, Bradley, Schofield, Caudle, Springs and Mumford (by proxy given to Councilman Bradley – a copy of which is attached and incorporated by reference). Voting ‘no’ were Councilmen Kirby and Dorriety.

Councilman Schofield stated he took exception to the comment that the public had not been properly advised of the judicial center project. He stated he had worked on the project for nine (9) years and the project had been discussed in open sessions of Council. In response to questions Council was asked by a citizen he offered the following:

- 1) The amount of money spent on the purchase of properties was \$3,107,606 (or \$19.32 per square foot) with eight (8) parcels being purchased (6 very close to appraised value).
- 2) What are the expected design costs and how was the architect chosen? Design cost - \$2,610,000 and the architect was chosen based on a RFQ, reviewed by Council in public meetings, with the most experienced team with a proven track record of efficient, safe, and modern courthouses being selected.
- 3) Study – he displayed a copy of the study that was provided by the architect and advised that he had shared this information with all citizens that requested to see the information and came to his office to review.
- 4) What are the expected construction costs? \$32 million.
- 5) What is the anticipated loan bond amount and what is the projected cost of the bond? \$42 million on the bond. The cost of the bond depends on when the millage started, what

the interest rates were, which had not been determined yet. Some scenarios indicate if the millage was started early a realized savings of \$3.5 million would be possible or start even earlier and save \$6.1 million. If it went the life of the bond the County could potentially pay up to about \$66 or \$67 million dollars for the price of the courthouse and financing the project.

6) What are the annual operating costs for the new facilities? The projections indicate approximately \$400,000 to \$500,000 more than was presently allocated.

7) What is the life cycle cost and how are they being collected? The only way County Council had to collect anything was millage. The majority of Council would prefer sales tax or something other than millage.

8) What are the projected costs to renovate space being vacated in the current building? Project costs are not relevant until decisions were made as to who would occupy the space being vacated. Spaces could potentially be used by County offices 'as is' or leased to an agency or individual with that lessee being responsible for any costs.

9) What offices currently not in the County building will be relocated in the renovated space? Solicitor's office check warrant division, but other than that, it could not accurately be determined at the time.

10) What additional manpower costs will be required to operate the facility? Potentially, it would be less. In the current Complex, there were two entrances requiring guards. In that facility, there would be one. No new personnel were anticipated at this time to operate the building for janitorial service. A newer building would be more energy efficient and the cost to operate should be less than the current facility.

11) What additional tax increases will be required to meet the costs and expenses identified in the list above? As stated previously, about 1 mill to operate the facility.

Councilman Schofield stated he was recently asked the question if the bonds could be paid off sooner than the anticipated term. He researched and was told that yes, the bonds could be paid off sooner. What was proposed would begin tax collection for the project in 2018. In two to three years after that, the County taxpayers could elect to re-impose a capital project sales tax penny specifically for the judicial center. He stated Horry County court system was operating in 160,000 square feet of space with the same caseload as Florence County and Florence County was operating in 50,000 square feet of space and had been for 43 years. The proposed judicial center was 120,000 square feet, with the potential to expand if/when needed. He stated that 12 out of 15 counties in South Carolina had built new judicial centers to accommodate the growing need. He quoted a comment in the Morning News editorial from September 22, 2013, "*Being saddled with the job of updating infrastructure is not exactly a rosy political position but infrastructure has an expiration date so when the clock runs out, the problem must be confronted head-on. For Florence County courthouse that time is now. Florence County has a laundry list of needs but this one needs to be done posthaste. Can we afford to do it? The better question might be 'Can we afford not to?'*" If Florence County received by law what the laws of the State require, there would be \$1.8 million more in revenue. There would be no tax increase for personnel, nor would there be a tax increase for the

courthouse. The Legislature had chosen since 2008 not to fully fund the Local Government Fund (LGF). If the Council had raised millage the amount allowed under Act 388 since its implementation, the County would have slightly over \$20 million more in the coffers. If the LGF had been fully funded since 2008, there would be an additional \$10 million in the bank.

Councilman Kirby expressed his appreciation for the information Councilman Schofield shared and stated that his stance was that through a referendum the County could educate the public more on the need for the judicial center and let the public make the decision. He was hoping to re-impose the penny tax to fund the judicial center as opposed to increasing millage. He said he knew the County needed the judicial center but his concern was how to pay for it without overburdening the tax payers.

Chairman Poston said he was proud to be on Council and serve as its Chair. He said he had less than six (6) people call him to discuss the proposed judicial center. Around 50 years ago, a similar decision was made by the sitting Council to build the current facility. During that time, the County had grown with a plethora of structures, facilities, industries, educational institutions, etc. The new judicial center would lend more safety, more efficiency and more organizational structure than ever before. The County must move forward; the path was set. He expressed appreciation for support and patience.

Councilman Dorriety stated he appreciated the work Councilman Schofield had put into the project. He had no doubt the County needed the judicial center and his opposition was how could it be done cheaper and inform the citizens more. He said the information provided at the meeting today was more informative than anything the County had done. He recalled a comment made by Senator Strom Thurmond years ago. The Senator was asked what he would do about taxes and he responded, "I try to ascertain the difference between needs and wants of the public. You need to provide the needs and provide it at the lowest possible cost to the taxpayer."

**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. 29-2014/15 – SECOND READING**

The Clerk published the title of Ordinance No. 29-2014/15: An Ordinance To Amend Sections Of Florence County Code Chapter 13, Garbage And Trash, Article 1. In General; And Other Matters Relating Thereto. Councilman Springs made a motion Council approve second reading of the Ordinance. Councilman Dorriety seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

**ORDINANCE NO. 30-2014/15 – SECOND READING**

The Clerk published the title of Ordinance No. 30-2014/15: An Ordinance To Amend The Florence County Comprehensive Plan Land Use Map For Property In Florence County Located North Of Meadors Road, More Specifically Shown On Tax Map Number 00052, Block 01, Parcel 005, From Rural Preservation To Residential Preservation; And Other Matters Related Thereto. Councilman Dorriety made a motion Council approve second reading of the Ordinance. Councilman Caudle seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

**ORDINANCE NO. 31-2014/15 – SECOND READING**

The Clerk published the title of Ordinance No. 31-2014/15: An Ordinance To Rezone Property Owned By South Florence Developers And Gary Finklea Located On Meadors Road And Lake Oakdale Drive, Florence County As Shown On Florence County Tax Map No. 00052, Block 01, Parcel 005 Consisting Of Approximately 60.12 Acres From RU-1, Rural Community District To R-2, Single-Family Residential District; And Other Matters Related Thereto. Councilman Dorriety made a motion Council approve second reading of the Ordinance. Councilman Caudle seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

**ORDINANCE NO. 32-2014/15 – SECOND READING**

The Clerk published the title of Ordinance No. 32-2014/15: An Ordinance To Amend The Florence County Comprehensive Plan Land Use Map To Change The Flood Hazard District To Reflect The New 2014 Flood Zones; And Other Matters Related Thereto. Councilman Schofield made a motion Council approve second reading of the Ordinance. Councilman Dorriety seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

**ORDINANCE NO. 34-2014/15 – SECOND READING**

The Clerk published the title of Ordinance No. 34-2014/15: An Ordinance To Ratify FY15 Budget And Grant Council Actions Previously Authorized By Council And Other Matters Related Thereto. Councilman Schofield made a motion Council approve second reading of the Ordinance. Councilman Springs seconded the motion. Councilman Springs made a motion to Amend Ordinance No. 34-2014/15 To Add Section 1b Regarding The Expenditure Of \$200,000 Of Local Accommodations Fund Fund Balance To Help Offset A Portion Of The Funding Shortfall For The Johnsonville Recreation Park Project, To Add Section 1c Regarding The Transfer Of \$648,773 From The Museum Capital Project Fund Back To The Local Hospitality Tax Fund, And To Add Section 1d Regarding The Expenditure Of \$27,018 Of Revenue Received By The Local Hospitality Tax Fund For The Operation Of Classes Held At The Florence County Museum. Councilman Dorriety seconded the motion to Amend, which was approved unanimously. Second reading of the Ordinance as Amended was approved unanimously.

**ORDINANCE NO. 01-2015/16 – SECOND READING**

The Clerk published the title of Ordinance No. 01-2015/16: An Ordinance To Provide For The Levy Of Taxes In Florence County For The Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2015 And Ending June 30, 2016; To Provide For The Appropriation Thereof; To Provide For Revenues For The Payments Thereof; And To Provide For Other Matters Related Thereto. Councilman Caudle made a motion to approve second reading of the Ordinance. Councilman Dorriety seconded the motion.

Councilman Springs made a motion to Amend Ordinance No. 01-2015/16 To Increase The Appropriation For The Local Accommodations Tax Fund By \$200,000 To \$2,822,804 To Help Offset A Portion Of The Funding Shortfall For The Johnsonville Recreation Park Project, To Increase The Appropriation For The Local Hospitality Tax Fund By \$350,000 To \$1,900,295 To Offset The Loss Of Grant Funding For The Lake City Lake Project, And To Increase The Appropriation For The E-911 System Fund By \$650,000 To \$1,901,756 To Carryover The Amount Appropriated In FY2014-15 To Replace The CAD System. Councilman Dorriety seconded the motion to Amend, which was approved unanimously.

Councilman Springs made a motion to Amend Ordinance No. 01-2015/16 To Increase The Debt Service Millage For The Florence Fire District To 7.4 Mills And To Increase The Appropriation For The Fire And First Responder Debt Service Fund By \$471,000 To \$890,000 In Order To Provide Funding For New Debt Service On A New General Obligation Bond To Be Issued For Various Apparatus And Equipment For The Rural Fire Departments. Councilman Caudle seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Councilman Schofield made a motion to Amend Ordinance No. 01-2015/16 To Reduce The Operating Millage Rate For The Florence Fire District To 19.5 Mills From 27.5 Mills And To Add The Following Language To The Budget Ordinance: ‘Section 10d. There Is Hereby Created A \$25.00 First Responder Fee To Be Charged To All Real Property Parcels In The Unified Fire District To Provide Funding For The Operation Of The Various Rural Fire Departments.’ Councilman Caudle seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Second reading of Ordinance No. 01-2015/16 as amended was approved unanimously.

**ORDINANCES INTRODUCED**

The Clerk published the titles of the following Ordinance and the Chairman declared the Ordinance Introduced By Title Only:

**ORDINANCE NO. 35-2014/15 – INTRODUCED BY TITLE ONLY**

An Ordinance To Provide For The Issuance And Sale Of Not Exceeding Three Million Five Hundred Sixty Thousand Dollar (\$3,560,000) General Obligation Bond Of Florence County, South Carolina, To Prescribe The Purposes For Which The Proceeds Shall Be Expended, To Provide For The Payment Thereof, And Other Matters Relating Thereto.

**ORDINANCE NO. 36-2014/15 – INTRODUCED BY TITLE ONLY**

Councilman Caudle Published The Title and Introduced By Title Only Ordinance No. 36-2014/15: An Ordinance To Provide For The Issuance And Sale Of A Not Exceeding Eight Million Three Hundred Thousand Dollar (\$8,300,000) General Obligation Bond Of Florence County, South Carolina (Florence County Fire Protection District), To Prescribe The Purposes For Which The Proceeds Of Said Bond Shall Be Expended, To Provide For The Payment Of Said Bond, And Other Matters Relating Thereto. Chairman Poston declared the Ordinance Introduced By Title Only

**APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:**

**COMMISSION ON ALCOHOL & DRUG ABUSE**

Councilman Kirby made a motion Council Approve The Recommendation Of The Commission On Alcohol & Drug Abuse For The Reappointments of Ben McInville (District 4 Seat) And David Milligan (District 9 Seat) To Continue To Serve On The Commission And The Appointment Of Dr. Gavin Criser, DDS, MS, PA To Fill The At-Large Seat Left Vacant By The Resignation Of Randy McDonald, With Appropriate Expiration Terms. Councilman Caudle seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

**PUBLIC FACILITIES CORPORATION**

Councilman Caudle made a motion Council Approve The Reappointments Of Councilman Waymon Mumford, Administrative Services Director Suzanne S. King, And Finance Director Kevin V. Yokim To Serve On The Public Facilities Corporation. Councilman Springs seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

**REPORTS TO COUNCIL:**

**ADMINISTRATION**

**CPST II UPDATE**

County Administrator K. G. Rusty Smith, Jr. provided a brief update on the Capital Project Sales Tax projects I and II progress and also provided a summary of the most recent meeting with department heads.

**MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORTS**

Monthly Financial Reports Were Provided To Council For Fiscal Year 2015 Through March 31, 2015 As An Item For The Record.

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING – EBENEZER PARK**

Councilman Kirby made a motion Council Approve A Memorandum Of Understanding Between Florence County And The Ebenezer Adult Softball League Regarding The Use Of The Field At Ebenezer Park. Councilman Bradley seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

**RE-CONVEYANCE AND ACCEPTANCE OF PROPERTY**

Councilman Caudle made a motion Council Approve The Re-Conveyance Of Approximately One (1.0) Acre TMP# 00256-02-049 To Virginia P. Poston; The Original Conveyance Was For The Construction Of A Fire Station And The Site Has Been Determined Not To Be Suitable For That Purpose And The County Has No Further Use For The Property; And Acceptance Of Approximately One And One Tenth (1.10) Acre Of TMP# 00256-02-003 From Virginia P. Poston For The Construction Of The New Fire Station In Friendfield Which Has Been Determined To Be Suitable. Councilman Springs seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

**ADMINISTRATION/PROCUREMENT**

**AWARD RFP NO. 26-14/15**

Councilman Springs made a motion Council Award RFP No. 26-14/15 Lake City Train Depot Building Foundation Stabilization Services To Terratec, Inc. Of W. Columbia, SC In The Amount Of \$43,495.00 From The Capital Project Sales Tax II Funds. Councilman Schofield seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

**PROCUREMENT/JOHNSONVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT**

**AWARD RFP NO. 23-14/15**

Councilman Schofield made a motion Council Award RFP No. 23-14/15 Design/Build Services-New Main Fire Station For The Johnsonville Fire Department To Bobbitt Design/Build Of Columbia, SC In The Amount Not To Exceed \$1,700,000 From The Capital Project Sales Tax II Funds. Councilman Springs seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

**PROCUREMENT**

**DECLARATION OF SURPLUS PROPERTY**

Councilman Bradley made a motion Council Declare Six (6) Vehicles And Four (4) Various Equipment Items As Surplus Property For Disposal Through Public Internet Auction Via GovDeals. Councilman DeBerry seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Councilman Caudle asked if any local bids were received for RFPs No. 23 and 26. Mr. Smith responded that on the train depot (RFP 26) it was very specialized and only 3 proposals were received and none were local. On the Johnsonville Fire Department item (RFP 23) there was a local company that bid but was not the successful bidder. Councilman Caudle asked if this was a situation where the County was not receiving local bids or declining to bid or exactly what the situation was. Mr. Smith responded that local vendors were provided opportunity to bid but he was of the opinion that with work on the street now many of the vendors were busy and these two projects were more specialized. Councilman Caudle expressed concern regarding the County needing to improve communication with local vendors to ensure vendors were advised of County projects. Mr. Smith responded that staff would continue to maximize efforts to include and encourage local vendors to participate.

## **SHERIFF'S OFFICE/PROCUREMENT**

### **PROJECT MANAGEMENT/SERVICE SOFTWARE SYSTEM**

Councilman Schofield made a motion Council Authorize The Purchase Of A Project Management/Service Software System From ARC Services Staffing Solutions Of Austin, TX In The Amount Of \$219,716 And A Five (5) Year Service Agreement From Southern Software, Inc. Of Southern Pines, NC In The Amount Of \$131,678.30 For The Florence County Sheriff's Office To Be Funded From Capital Project Sales Tax II Funds (\$175,697.15) And Budgeted Department Funds (\$175,697.15). Councilman Springs seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously. Mr. Smith stated that, for the record, the County would save, just in maintenance costs \$443,000 over a five-year period and this would be compatible with the new CAD system that was being installed at the EOC.

The following items were additions to the Agenda:

## **PROCUREMENT**

### **DECLARATION OF SURPLUS PROPERTY**

Councilman Caudle made a motion Council Declare Two (2) Vehicles As Surplus Property For Disposal Through Public Internet Auction Via GovDeals. Councilman Schofield seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

## **PROCUREMENT/ADMINISTRATION**

### **CONTRACT APPROVAL**

Councilman Springs made a motion Council Authorize Additional Services To Davis And Floyd Program Manager Contract For The Necessary Construction Engineering And Inspection Services (CEI) For Resurfacing Projects Included In Bids #19-14/15, #20-14/15, And #21-14/15, Previously Approved By Council, In An Amount Not To Exceed \$160,000 To Be Funded From Capital Project Sales Tax II Funds. Councilman Dorriety seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously. Mr. Smith stated that of the roads on the list, over 25.24 miles were State roads and 9.7 were City and County roads.

## **ADMINISTRATION**

### **SMILE MEDIA**

Councilman Schofield made a motion Council Approve The Expenditure Of \$3,825 To Smile Media From Contingency For An Informational Video Of Capital Project Sales Tax II Projects In Council Districts 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, And 9. Councilman Bradley seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

## **ADMINISTRATION/VA**

### **VIETNAM VETERANS BILLBOARD**

Councilman Caudle made a motion Council Approve The Expenditure Of \$1,290 From Contingency Funds For A Billboard To Run From June Until November 2015 Honoring The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Of The Vietnam Veterans Return Home. Councilman Dorriety seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

## **PUBLIC WORKS/PROCUREMENT**

### **AWARD BID NO. 29-14/15**

Councilman Caudle requested Council Defer Action On This Item Pending Rebid Of The Project, Since It Came In Over Budget: Award Bid No. 29-14/15 For Site Improvements To The Greenwood Convenience Center To Brocks Grading And Land Clearing, LLC Of McBee, SC In The Amount Of \$488,164.18 To Be Funded From Landfill Fund Balance. There were no objections.

## **OTHER BUSINESS:**

### **INFRASTRUCTURE**

#### **TIMMONSVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Councilman Kirby made a motion Council Declare VS215, A 2009 Dodge Charger-V8 (VIN Number 2B3KAY3T69H597149) As Surplus; Authorize The Sale Of The Vehicle To The Timmonsville Fire Department For \$9,000; And, Approve The Expenditure In An Amount Up To \$9,000 From Council District 4 Infrastructure Funding Allocation For The Purchase And Corrected The Entity As Being The Timmonsville Police Department. Councilman Bradley seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

### **UTILITY**

#### **BROOKS McCALL PARK**

Councilman Bradley made a motion Council Approve The Expenditure Of Up To \$4,000 From Council District 3 Utility Funding Allocation To Replace And Re-Anchor The Pond Fountain Pump Motor At Brooks McCall Park. Councilman Schofield seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

### **INFRASTRUCTURE/UTILITY**

#### **LYNCHEs RIVER COUNTY PARK**

Councilman Caudle made a motion Council Approve The Expenditure Of Up To \$6,000 From Council Districts' Infrastructure/Utility Funding Allocations (Approximately \$667 From Each District) To Replace And Install Carpet At The Residence For The Lynches River County Park Superintendent. Councilman Springs seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously. Councilman Caudle stated the carpet currently in that residence was over 30 years old.

The following items were additions to the Agenda:

### **ROAD SYSTEM MAINTENANCE FEE (RSMF)**

#### **RIVER BEND DRIVE**

Councilman Kirby made a motion Council Approve The Expenditure Of Up To \$2,052 From Council District 4 RSMF Funding Allocation To Pay For Rip-Rap For River Bend Drive. Councilman Dorriety seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

## **INFRASTRUCTURE/UTILITY**

### **FRANCIS MARION RECREATION**

Councilman Bradley made a motion Council Approve The Expenditure Of Up To \$1,700 From Council Districts 3, 6 And 7 Infrastructure/Utility Funding Allocations (Approximately \$567 From Each District) To Purchase A Commercial Grade Fryer For Concessions At Francis Marion Recreation Athletic Complex. Councilman DeBerry seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

### **YMCA**

Councilman Dorriety made a motion Council Approve The Expenditure Of Up To \$11,000 From Council Districts' Infrastructure/Utility Funding Allocations (Approximately \$1,223 From Each District) To Assist The YMCA With Capital Improvements. Councilman DeBerry seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

## **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Councilman Schofield congratulated the Johnsonville Fire Department for its recent attainment of an ISO rating of Class 3, which was the lowest rating for a rural fire department in the State of South Carolina. He said it was due to hard work by the fire district volunteers but also to Council stepping up and putting full time fire fighters on duty during the daytime in that area. He reminded Council it had done the same thing in other areas and he hoped to see the same rewards in those areas. He asked the Chairman to relate the savings he personally experienced due to these changes. Chairman Poston stated his residence was in the Hannah-Salem-Friendfield Fire District and his homeowners insurance was reduced by approximately \$200 and the increase on his tax millage was about \$14. Johnsonville should experience the same. Chairman Poston expressed his appreciation to the various fire departments for their dedicated service. Councilman Schofield stated that by the time all the CPST II projects were completed, all residents within Florence County should be within five (5) miles of a fire station. He said the County was very fortunate to have the volunteers we had and the County owed it to the volunteers to provide the equipment needed to do the job asked of them.

Councilman Caudle stated he had a constituent tell him this week it was impossible for a rural fire department to obtain a ISO rating of 3 so he would like to obtain the information indicating this rating so he could show it to that constituent. He would also like for this information to be posted on the County's website, highlighting this wonderful accomplishment.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Councilman Caudle 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 And A Potential Real Property Transaction. Councilman Springs seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Council entered Executive Session at 11:15 a.m. Council reconvened at 11:45 a.m.

Subsequent to Executive Session, Council took the following actions:

**EASEMENTS**

Councilman Caudle made a motion Council Approve The Execution Of A Revocable Easement And A Construction Easement Between The County Of Florence And BCN Holdings LLC For Surface Water Drainage Purposes. Councilman Springs seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR - EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT**

Councilman Kirby made a motion Council Approve The Extension Of The Employment Contract For The County Administrator For One Year From November 16, 2015 To November 16, 2016. Councilman Bradley seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously (Councilman Mumford voted in favor of the motion by proxy given to Councilman Bradley. The proxy is attached and incorporated by reference.)

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

**COUNCIL MEETING ADJOURNED AT 11:46 A.M.**