

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE FLORENCE COUNTY COUNCIL,
THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 2013, 9:00 A.M., COUNCIL CHAMBERS
ROOM 803, CITY-COUNTY COMPLEX, 180 N. IRBY STREET,
FLORENCE, SOUTH CAROLINA**

PRESENT:

James T. Schofield, Chairman
Alphonso Bradley, Vice Chairman
Waymon Mumford, Secretary-Chaplain
Russell W. Culberson, Council Member
Roger M. Poston, Council Member
Willard Dorriety, Jr., Council Member
Jason M. Springs, Council Member
K. G. Rusty Smith, Jr., County Administrator
D. Malloy McEachin, Jr., County Attorney
Connie Y. Haselden, Clerk to Council

ALSO PRESENT:

Kevin V. Yokim, Finance Director
Bonita K. Andrews, Human Resources Director
Ryon Watkins, EMS Director
Jonathan B. Graham, III, Planning Director
Dale Rauch, Facilities Coordinator
Sam Brockington, Fire/Rescue Services Coordinator
David Alford, Voter Registration/Elections Director
Dorothy Crosby, Interim Library Director
Chief Deputy Glen Kirby, Sheriff's Office
Barbara Coker, Administrative Manager Sheriff's Office
John Sweeney, Morning News

ABSENT:

Mitchell Kirby, Council Member
Kent C. Caudle, Council Member

A notice of the regular meeting of the Florence County Council appeared in the April 17, 2013 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, and posted in the lobby of the City-County Complex, the Doctors Bruce and Lee Foundation Public Library and all branch libraries, and on the County's website (www.florenceco.org).

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Councilman Dorriety made a motion Council Approve The Minutes Of The March 21, 2013 Regular Meeting and the April 4, 2013 Special Called Meeting Of County Council. Councilman Mumford seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

There were no public hearings scheduled or required.

APPEARANCES:

CHARLES MACNEIL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - PDRTA

Mr. MacNeil Appeared Before Council To Make A Presentation With Regard To Pee Dee Regional Transportation Authority (PDRTA) And Public Transportation Services Provided Throughout Florence County. Since 2007 PDRTA has experienced extensive growth in the use of its services but revenue from State and Federal funding has steadily declined. Recent data indicated that approximately 20% of the clients served were traveling to shop, 18% to school and 45% were traveling to and from work. The annualized cost to operate the transit system was approximately \$1,480,000. The City of Florence provided \$85,000 in funding in the current fiscal year and the County \$13,600. The requested amount for this year was \$182,000 from the City of Florence and \$56,000 from the County, for a total of \$238,000. Chairman Schofield thanked Mr. MacNeil for his presentation.

KATIE WYLIE – LEGISLATIVE DAY COMMITTEE

Ms. Wylie Appeared Before Council On Behalf Of The Legislative Day Committee To Thank Council For Its Support And Funding For The 2013 Legislative Day Event In Columbia On March 19th. The Event was well attended with over 400 visitors at the reception, which showcased the various business and industries in Florence County. Chairman Schofield thanked Ms. Wylie and the Committee for their efforts to showcase Florence County to the Legislature.

ROSEMARY BARILE – PEE DEE MENTAL HEALTH CENTER

Ms. Barile, Community Liaison And Client Advocate for Pee Dee Mental Health Center, Appeared Before Council To Announce The May 15, 2013 Mental Health Awareness Walk. The Pee Dee Mental Health Center has offices located in Florence, Marion and Darlington counties, and in Lake City, providing mental health services for adults and children with chronic and persistent mental illness. Ms. Barile invited Council and the public to attend and participate in the event to show support. Chairman Schofield thanked Ms. Barile for her presentation.

ELLEN HAMILTON – PEE DEE COALITION

Ms. Hamilton Appeared Before Council To Discuss Sexual Assault Awareness And Child Abuse Prevention Month’s Activities. She announced one fundraising event was ‘Walk A Mile In Her Shoes’ where men were asked to wear women’s shoes and walk a mile. Chairman Schofield thanked Ms. Hamilton for her presentation and her years of dedicated service.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE:

Chairman Schofield announced that the Committee on Administration & Finance had a budget worksession scheduled for Thursday, May 2nd at 8 a.m. He asked County Administrator K. G. Rusty Smith, Jr. to have staff submit all options that could be on the table for limiting or eliminating the proposed tax increase by cutting spending or other types of revenue enhancement other than millage.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS REPORT REQUESTED:

Chairman Schofield also requested that the new fire/rescue coordinator and emergency management director prepare a report for Council to be presented at the next meeting of Council regarding potentially hazardous materials in Florence County that were stored or processed in a quantity that presented a danger to the public, such as occurred in Texas recently at a fertilizer plant explosion. Council's concern for public safety was paramount in this regard and the reason for embarking on a new direction in public safety services in Florence County. He welcomed Mr. Brockington on board to help coordinate this effort. He further stated that if any portion of the report would concern disclosure of information helpful to those who wish harm to the citizens of Florence County, that that information be presented in executive session. He stated he wanted to be as open and transparent as possible, with that cautionary note in mind.

CAPITAL PROJECT SALES TAX:

Chairman Schofield informed the public there would be a public meeting of the Capital Project Sales Tax Commission at Poynor Auditorium at 7 p.m. that night.

JUSTICE & PUBLIC SAFETY:

Committee Chairman Mumford stated the Committee on Justice & Public Safety met prior to the regular meeting of Council to further the discussion on litter. Special guest was Linda Shadel with Palmetto Pride who expressed an interest in partnering with Florence County to enhance litter control efforts. He expressed appreciation to the Morning News for a recent article regarding litter. One of the projects Palmetto Pride was encouraging was the Adopt-A-Highway program. He encouraged citizens and groups to get involved and participate in the program.

CAPITAL PROJECT SALES TAX:

Chairman Schofield stated for the record that he wanted to make a comment regarding the Capital Project Sales Tax issue. "We are sending a response to the South Carolina Department of Revenue in regards to their concerns with the capital project sales tax, as many of you have seen in the paper. The County's position is that we completely reject the argument and assertions that they made. This is done after advice from several individual attorneys, the South Carolina Association of Counties legal staff and opinion by Haynsworth Sinkler Boyd, one of the premier law firms specializing in bond work, which is used extensively in conjunction with capital projects funding. The capital

projects referendum that's potentially going to be on in November of this year is absolutely critical to the people of Florence County in providing, what I consider to be, absolutely essential emergency and public safety capital needs that we have in this County. And I believe that when you look at the things that happened in Boston this week and you look at the thing that's gone on this morning in Texas, it just heightens your awareness that your EMS and your fire departments have to be ever ready to handle every challenging situations and, my friends, that takes capital to do it and the only way this Council will have the capital to make this public safety improvements is through the capital project sales tax."

RESOLUTIONS/PROCLAMATIONS:

RESOLUTION NO. 21-2012/13

The Clerk published the title of Resolution No. 21-2012/13: A Resolution Consenting To A Three-Year Extension Of The Investment Period For H. J. Heinz Finance Company And BNP Paribas Leasing Corporation Under Their Fee In Lieu Of Tax Agreement With Florence County Pursuant To Title 12, Chapter 44 Of The Code Of Laws Of South Carolina, 1976, As Amended, And Other Matters Related Thereto. Councilman Mumford made a motion Council approve the Resolution as presented. Councilman Culberson seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 22-2012/13

The Clerk published the title of Resolution No. 22-2012/13: A Resolution Approving Multi-Jurisdictional Agreements And Criminal Patrol Agreements Requested By The Florence County Sheriff And Authorizing The County Administrator To Execute Said Agreements. Councilman Dorriety made a motion Council approve the Resolution as presented. Councilman Springs seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 23-2012/13

The Clerk published the title of Resolution No. 23-2012/13: A Resolution Authorizing The Addition Of A Surplus Vehicle To The County Fleet For The Fire/Rescue Services Coordinator Position. Councilman Mumford made a motion Council approve the Resolution as presented. Councilman Springs seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 24-2012/13

The Clerk published the title of Resolution No. 24-2012/13: A Resolution Authorizing Submission Of An Application To The South Carolina Department Of Commerce Coordinating Council Economic Development Set-Aside Grant Program For Cost Associated With Wastewater Treatment Upgrades For Project Strongman In The Amount Of \$500,000. Councilman Poston made a motion Council approve the Resolution as presented. Councilman Dorriety seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously. Mr. Smith commended Councilman Poston for his efforts on this project, which was anticipated to result in a major expansion in Florence County of approximately a \$5.5 million investment.

ORDINANCES IN POSITION:

ORDINANCE NO. 17-2012/13 – THIRD READING DEFERRED

Chairman Schofield stated third reading of Ordinance No. 17-2012/13 would be deferred: An Ordinance To Authorize The Execution And Delivery Of Various Documents In Order To Fund A Portion Of The Costs Associated With Soil Remediation Of The Lake City Park Project; To Authorize The Execution And Delivery Of These Documents In Connection Therewith; And Other Matters Relating Thereto.

ORDINANCE NO. 29-2012/13 – INTRODUCED

The Chairman published the title of Ordinance No. 29-2012/13 and Declared The Ordinance Introduced: An Ordinance To Ratify FY13 Budget And Grant Council Actions Previously Authorized By Council And Other Matters Related Thereto.

ORDINANCE NO. 01-2013/14 – INTRODUCED

The Chairman published the title of Ordinance No. 01-2013/14 and Declared The Ordinance Introduced: An Ordinance To Provide For The Levy Of Taxes In Florence County For The Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2013 And Ending June 30, 2014; To Provide For The Appropriation Thereof; To Provide For The Revenues Of The Payment Thereof; And To Provide For Other Matters Related Thereto. Mr. Smith noted for the record that there was a scrivener's error on page 53 in the Agenda package. The correct amount for Fund 10, County General Fund, should be \$52,211,780.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:

LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Council Unanimously Approved The Re-Appointment Of Charles Howle To Serve On The Library Board of Trustees To Represent Council District 9, With Appropriate Expiration Term.

PEE DEE REGIONAL HEALTH SERVICES DISTRICT

County Attorney Malloy McEachin Requested Council Defer Action On The Recommendation Of J. Boone Aiken, III, General Counsel To McLeod Health, For The Appointment Of The Following Individuals To Serve On The Pee Dee Regional Health Services District With Appropriate Expiration Terms And Pending Approval Of The Governor: David Durant, Starlee Alexander, John Curl, And Carl Humphries.

REPORTS TO COUNCIL:

ADMINISTRATION

MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORTS

Monthly Financial Reports Were Provided To Council For Fiscal Year 2013 Through February 28, 2013 As An Item For The Record.

FINANCE

RFP – EMS COLLECTIONS

Councilman Dorriety made a motion Council Approve The Development Of An RFP In Order To Solicit Proposals From Collection Agencies For The Collection Of EMS Outstanding Balances More Than One Year And Less Than Three Years Old On Which Florence County Is No Longer Receiving Any Payments. Councilman Culberson seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

PROCUREMENT

DECLARATION OF SURPLUS PROPERTY

Councilman Springs made a motion Council Declare Surplus And Authorize The Donation Of V#1125, A Trailer Model CS612TA2, VIN#4FPFB12295G090511 To The Olanta Fire Department From The Emergency Management Department (The Town Previously Gave Emergency Management A Hazmat Truck). Councilman Poston seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE/PROCUREMENT

DECLARATION OF SURPLUS PROPERTY

Councilman Mumford made a motion Council Declare 60 HP Laptop Battery Chargers As Surplus Property For Disposal Via GovDeals. Councilman Dorriety seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE/HUMAN RESOURCES

RECLASSIFICATION/SALARY INCREASE

Councilman Mumford made a motion Council Authorize A Budget Neutral Reclassification Of A Registered Nurse Position (Slot #120) From Grade 22 To Grade 23 And Authorize The Position To Be Filled Above The Minimum Salary Due To Exceptional Training And Experience In The Amount Of \$17,117 To Be Funded From FY13 Budgeted Funds. Councilman Culberson seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS:

INFRASTRUCTURE

JOHNSONVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

Councilman Poston made a motion Council Approve The Expenditure Of Up To \$300 From Council District 2 Infrastructure Funding Allocation To Pay For Hot Patch For A Road At Johnsonville High School. Councilman Dorriety seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

MONUMENT – CITY OF JOHNSONVILLE

Councilman Poston made a motion Council Approve The Expenditure Of Up To \$20,000 From Council Districts 2 and 8 Infrastructure Funding Allocations (\$10,000 From Each District) To Assist The City Of Johnsonville With The Purchase And Erection Of The Francis Marion Monument. Councilman Mumford seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

LYNCHEs RIVER ATHLETIC PARK

Councilman Mumford made a motion Council Approve The Expenditure Of Up To \$8,000 From Council District 8 Infrastructure Funding Allocation For Improvements To Lynches River Athletic Park. Councilman Culberson seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

ROAD SYSTEM MAINTENANCE FEE (RSMF)

CAMPBELL ROAD

Councilman Poston made a motion Council Approve The Expenditure Of Up To \$60,324 From Council District 2 RSMF Funding Allocation To Pay For Rock And Crushed Asphalt For Campbell Road. Councilman Springs seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

UTILITY

BYRD LANE

Councilman Mumford made a motion Council Approve The Expenditure Of Up To \$36,550 From Council District 7 Utility Funding Allocation To Pay For Reclamation And Resurfacing Of Byrd Lane. Councilman Bradley seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

FIESTA ROAD

Councilman Mumford made a motion Council Approve The Expenditure Of Up To \$2,000 From Council District 7 Utility Funding Allocation To Pay For Repairing The Side Of Fiesta Road (Located Within The Right-of-Way) In The Ponderosa Subdivision. Councilman Bradley seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

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

COUNCIL MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:38 A.M.