

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE FLORENCE COUNTY COUNCIL,
THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 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
Mitchell Kirby, Council Member
Russell W. Culberson, Council Member
Roger M. Poston, Council Member
Kent C. Caudle, 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:

Sheriff Kenney Boone
Arthur C. Gregg, Jr., Public Works Director
Kevin V. Yokim, Finance Director
Joe Eason, Parks & Recreation Department Director
Ryon Watkins, EMS Director
Andrew Stout, Museum Director
Jonathan B. Graham, III, Planning Director
Robert Franks, IT Director
Jack Newsome, Tax Assessor
Patrick Fletcher, Procurement Director
Dale Rauch, Facilities Coordinator
David Alford, Voter Registration/Elections Director
Dorothy Crosby, Interim Library Director
John Sweeney, Morning News
Ellen Meder, Digital Journalist, Morning News

A notice of the regular meeting of the Florence County Council appeared in the March 20, 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.

SWEARING-IN OF NEWLY ELECTED MEMBER OF COUNCIL:

The first order of business was the swearing-in of Jason M. Springs as the newly elected representative of Council District 1. Reverend Dr. Sam Marcengill, Pastor of Lake City United Methodist Church administered the Oath of Office. Councilman Springs expressed appreciation to his family and the voters of District 1 that supported, encouraged and provided guidance during his campaign. He stated that during the campaign, the members of District 1 set heavy expectations on him and told him that public safety was a number one priority. Voters expressed a desire for improved quality of life, including job opportunity, clean drinking water, quality educational opportunities, recreation facilities, and taking care of senior citizens; expecting all to be done as effectively and efficiently as possible. He stated he served at the pleasure of the voters; it was not his seat, but the seat of District 1 voters.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Councilman Dorriety made a motion Council Approve The Minutes Of The February 21, 2013 Regular Meeting and the March 7, 2013 Special Called Meeting Of County Council. Councilman Caudle seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

There were no public hearings scheduled or required.

APPEARANCES:

CHRIS GOSSETT - SCDOT

Mr. Gossett Appeared Before Council To Apprise Council And The General Public Of The Progress On The 2006 Capital Project Sales Tax (Florence Forward). Mr. Gossett stated there were three (3) projects (US 378, US 76 widening and TV Road) that construction plans were ready to go; mitigation plan approval was pending from the US Corps of Engineers and then, subsequent to the approval, permits would be issued for all three projects. If everything moved according to plan, the first two sections of US 378 would go in June. They have begun the surveys for Alligator Road; the design would be the next phase of the project. Right-of-way acquisition phase had begun for all four (4) sections of SC Hwy 51; which would be about a 12 to 14 month process. The four projects (US 378, US 76, TV Road and SC Hwy 51) were all fully funded. The State Infrastructure Bank (SIB) funded an additional \$90 million to fully fund the Alligator Road project. For clarification for the public, Chairman Schofield stated the funding was all in the hands of the State and that the County did not hold control of the funds. All of the funding was set aside for the specific projects voted on by Florence County voters and, pending any unforeseen obstacles, the funding was there to complete all projects. In response to a question from Councilman Mumford, Mr. Gossett stated US 378, US 76 and TV Road could potentially all begin simultaneously. In response to a question from

Councilman Caudle, Mr. Gossett stated he was of the understanding that the projects must move in the order established by the referendum approved by County voters. In response to a question from Councilman Dorriety, Mr. Gossett responded that the plan for Alligator Road was to move to a 5-lane roadway. Councilman Dorriety stated he wanted to point out that with the Capital Project Sales Tax, approximately 30% was paid through tourist dollars so the taxpayers of Florence County only paid 70% of the funding. Councilman Bradley asked if the project for the TV Road widening would address some of the Stormwater drainage issues, particularly in the Spaulding Heights area. Mr. Gossett stated it was included with the roadway plan and would be included in the construction.

S. PORTER STEWART, II, CHAIRMAN – FLORENCE SCHOOL DISTRICT 1

Mr. Stewart Appeared Before Council To Address The Capital Project Sales Tax Act And The Possible Educational Component. Mr. Stewart stated Dr. Julia Mims, Chair of the Florence School District 3 Board, and Raleigh Ward, Chair of Florence School District 2 Board were also present. He stated there were approximately 24,000 public school students in Florence County and given the State's formulation for funding, \$2,700 would be the cost per student for the School District, but the allocation was actually \$2,100 per student. He commended Council for its forward thinking with the potential renewing or maintaining the one cent Capital Project Sales Tax and that within the umbrella of the Act, there was opportunity to look at educational components of the list of projects; specifically, technical and/or career education was listed as a qualifying project under the Act. Councilman Bradley thanked Mr. Stewart for his comments and stated he believed the citizens of Florence County would be blessed by the cumulative efforts of the various groups working together to accomplish a common goal of enhancing the quality of life for all. Councilman Dorriety expressed appreciation for Mr. Stewart's dedication and efforts, as well as the other Board members, to enlighten Council.

SANDERS TATE, AIA, LEED AP

Mr. Tate Appeared Before Council To Provide An Update On The Progress Of The Florence County Museum Construction. The building was about 50% complete. In response to a question from the Chairman, Mr. Tate stated the Museum was under budget at that time. Councilman Caudle asked the projected opening date. Mr. Tate stated substantial completion was projected to be August 2013, at which time the facility would be turned over to Museum Director Andrew Stout and staff to begin the process of set up and bringing in the exhibits. That process should take about three months before the building would be open to the public.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE:

Chairman Schofield stated Council received a memorandum stating that in anticipation of the upcoming fiscal year 2014 budget three meetings were scheduled; April 4th, May 2nd and May 30th at 8 a.m. He requested that the first meeting on April 4th be changed to a special called meeting of Council with two items on the Agenda; the budget and further discussions on EMS.

AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, MILITARY AFFAIRS & INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS:

Committee Chairman Bradley stated the City-County Conference Committee met March 20th to discuss two (2) items: 1) attempt to clean up the corridor into Florence from the airport, and 2) working with the Planning Department to make refurbishing historical buildings in downtown Florence an easier process. Councilman Caudle stated one of the ‘gateways’ he would like to see addressed was the vacant lot at the corner of Irby and Palmetto. Councilman Bradley stated that was a good point and he would mention that at the next meeting.

RESOLUTIONS/PROCLAMATIONS:

PROCLAMATION – 2013 DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH

The Clerk published the title: A Proclamation To Proclaim The Month Of March 2013 As Disabilities Awareness Month In Florence County. Councilman Bradley made a motion Council approve the Proclamation as presented. Councilman Culberson seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously. Secretary-Chaplain Mumford presented Chaqueta Stuckey, a Self-Advocate and Consumer of the DSN, with a framed Proclamation. Ms. Stuckey thanked Council for the Proclamation and the opportunity to speak. She asked that consumers be recognized and made more a part of the community, acknowledge the consumers and respect their presence. She also requested Council assist in any way possible with the provision of transportation for consumers, such as PDRTA.

PROCLAMATION – NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS WEEK

The Clerk published the title: A Proclamation Designating The Week Of April 14-20, 2013 As National Public Safety Telecommunications Week In Florence County. Councilman Mumford made a motion Council approve the Proclamation as presented. Councilman Culberson seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously. Secretary-Chaplain Mumford presented Mitch Fulmore, of the Florence County Emergency Management Department, with a framed Proclamation and published the Proclamation in its entirety. Councilman Mumford stated he called this the heartbeat of the operation, because Central Dispatch was where the calls were received and assistance sent out to the citizens. Chairman Schofield stated that in November 2011, Florence County Central Dispatch was recognized as the South Carolina Communications Center of the Year by the South Carolina Chapter of NENA and APCO. He commended Florence County dispatchers for the professionalism of the organization.

PROCLAMATION – WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD

The Clerk published the title: A Proclamation Recognizing And Supporting The Efforts Of North Vista Elementary School As They Celebrate The Week Of April 14-20, 2013 As The Week Of The Young Child 2013: Early Years Are Learning Years. Councilman Mumford made a motion Council approve the Proclamation as presented. Councilman Bradley seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 18-2012/13

The Clerk published the title of Resolution No. 18-2012/13: A Resolution Authorizing Approval Of A Memorandum Of Understanding Between Progress Energy Carolinas, Inc., H.B. Robinson Steam Electric Plant (HBRSEP) Unit No. 2 And The Florence County Sheriff's Office (FCSO) To Provide Security Presence In The Event Of An Emergency And Authorizing The County Administrator To Execute Said Agreement. Councilman Caudle made a motion Council approve the Resolution as presented. Councilman Dorriety seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 19-2012/13

The Clerk published the title of Resolution No. 19-2012/13: A Resolution Designating April 2013 As Fair Housing Month In Florence County. Councilman Mumford made a motion Council approve the Resolution as presented. Councilman Kirby seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 20-2012/13

The Clerk published the title of Resolution No. 20-2012/13: A Resolution Authorizing The Submission Of An Application By Florence County To The State Of South Carolina Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program For A Community Infrastructure Grant To Provide Infrastructure Upgrades For The Town Of Timmonsville Service Area. Councilman Kirby made a motion Council approve the Resolution as presented. Councilman Caudle seconded the motion. County Administrator Rusty Smith stated that that area was experiencing a very volatile situation and requested Council amend the Resolution as presented to add verbiage required by the Department of Commerce for a waiver to allow the County to request more than the maximum amount allowed by CDBG, due to the cost being substantially above the maximum amount allowed. Councilman Kirby made a motion to amend as requested. Councilman Caudle seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously. Council unanimously approved Resolution No. 20-2012/13 as amended.

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT

The Clerk published the title of a Resolution of Support: A Resolution Supporting The Nomination Of The Honorable James D. Healy To Serve On The National Freight Advisory Committee. Councilman Mumford made a motion Council approve the Resolution as presented. Councilman Culberson seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

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. 26-2012/13 – THIRD READING

The Clerk published the title of Ordinance No. 26-2012/13: An Ordinance Approving The Entry By Florence County, South Carolina Into A Capital Facilities Refunding And Improvement Lease-Purchase Financing, Series 2013, In The Principal Amount Of Not Exceeding \$22,500,000 And Setting Forth The Terms Upon Which Such Financing May Be Undertaken And The Purposes For Which The Proceeds Of Such Financing May Be Used; Authorizing The Execution And Delivery Of Certain Instruments Relating Thereto, Including A Ground Lease Agreement And A Lease Agreement; Approving The Optional Redemption By Refunding And Prepayment Of Amounts Owed With Respect To The Capital Facilities Refunding And Improvement Lease-Purchase Financing, Series 2010 Of Florence County; Approving Such Agreements By Florence County As May Be Required With Respect To The Redemption Of Said 2010 Capital Facilities Refunding and Improvement Lease-Purchase Financing, And The Aforesaid Lease-Purchase Financing; And Approving Other Matters Relating To The Foregoing. Councilman Culberson made a motion Council approve third reading of the Ordinance. Councilman Caudle seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

ORDINANCE NO. 27-2012/13 – THIRD READING

The Clerk published the title of Ordinance No. 27-2012/13: An Ordinance Providing For The Issuance And Sale From Time To Time Of Accommodations Fee Revenue Bonds Of Florence County, Providing For The Pledge Of Accommodations Fees For The Payment Of Such Bonds, Prescribing The Terms And Conditions Under Which Such Bonds May Be Issued, Providing For The Payment Thereof, And Other Matters Relating Thereto. Councilman Caudle made a motion Council approve third reading of the Ordinance. Councilman Dorriety seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:

HOWE SPRINGS FIRE DISTRICT BOARD

Council Unanimously Approved The Appointment Of Mr. Paul Morrison To Serve On The Howe Springs Fire District Board Of Directors To Replace William "Billy" Dillon (Who Has Accepted The Job Of Fire Chief For The Howe Springs Fire District), With Appropriate Expiration Term.

LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Council Unanimously Approved The Appointment Of Charlie Raines To Serve On The Library Board Of Trustees To Represent Council District 5, With Term Beginning May 1, 2013 And Expiring April 30, 2017.

CITY-COUNTY CIVIC CENTER COMMISSION

Council Unanimously Approved The Appointment Of C. B. Askins To Serve On The City-County Civic Center Commission, With Appropriate Expiration Term, Contingent Upon His Resignation From The City-County Building Commission.

REPORTS TO COUNCIL:

ADMINISTRATION

MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORTS

Monthly Financial Reports Were Provided To Council For Fiscal Year 2013 Through January 31, 2013 As An Item For The Record.

ADMINISTRATION/IT/FINANCE

DEDICATED FIBER LINE

Councilman Mumford made a motion Council Approve The Installation Of A 10 Gigabyte Dedicated Fiber Line From The City-County Complex To The Planning Building And The New County Museum At An Estimated Cost Of \$100,000 To Be Funded \$80,000 From Available Excess Bond Funds And \$20,000 From The Museum Construction Budget. Councilman Culberson seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously. Mr. Smith commended IT Director Robert Franks and his staff, Finance Director Kevin Yokim and Administrative Services Director Suzanne King for their ongoing efforts to enhance the IT department. One of the problems the County had been experiencing was connectivity and this would be 100 times larger than what the County had. Based on a financial return on investment standpoint, the County would have paid the same amount of money to a private company within a four to five year period. This would continue to enhance and improve the County's IT system.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS/PROCUREMENT

SOLE SOURCE PROCUREMENT – PUBLIC WORKS ROOF

Councilman Culberson made a motion Council Authorize The Award Of A Sole Source Procurement To A To Z Coatings And Insulation, Inc., Florence, SC, The Only Certified Applicator/Installer In The Region, For The Installation Of A GACO Western Solventless Silicone Coating System On The Public Works Building In The Amount Of \$70,200 To Be Funded From Previously Approved Funds. Councilman Caudle seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU/GRANTS

SC DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION & TOURISM GRANT

Councilman Dorriety made a motion Council Approve A Grant Application For A Tourism Advertising Grant (TAG) In The Amount Of \$90,000 From The South Carolina Department Of Parks, Recreation & Tourism (SCPRT) For The Florence Convention And Visitors Bureau For The Implementation Of The Florence County Marketing Plan For FY14. Councilman Caudle seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously. Councilman Caudle stated he visited the Lynches River County Park recently and it was a fantastic facility and encouraged people to go out and visit the Park. Chairman Schofield stated it was a tremendous asset for Florence County.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/PROCUREMENT

DECLARATION OF SURPLUS PROPERTY

Councilman Caudle made a motion Council Approve The Purchase Of A 2011 Honda Odyssey Van In The Amount Of \$25,163 From Honda Of South Carolina Manufacturing, Inc. For The Florence County Economic Development Partnership; Declare A 2007 Honda Odyssey Van (VIN#5FNRL38687B450435) Surplus And Authorize The Sale Of The Vehicle Via GovDeals In An Estimated Amount Of \$15,000 With Proceeds Allocated To The Department To Offset The Cost Of The Replacement Vehicle. Councilman Mumford seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

RECREATION/PROCUREMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL DISCOVERY CENTER FEASIBILITY STUDY

Councilman Caudle made a motion Council Award The Lynches River County Park Environmental Discovery Center Expansion Feasibility Study In The Amount Of \$28,000 To Collins And Almers Architecture, Florence, SC To Be Funded From FY13 Recreation Departmental Funds. Councilman Dorriety seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

PROCUREMENT

AWARD RFO #12-12/13

Councilman Dorriety made a motion Council Authorize A Contract With The Consortium Of Stevens And Wilkinson, Columbia, SC, Justice Planning Associates, Columbia, SC And Goforth Brown And Associates, Florence, SC To Provide Strategic Planning And Facility Programming Services For The Florence County Administrative And Judicial Complex For A Fixed Fee Of \$148,000, Plus Reimbursables (Estimated To Cost \$6,000). Councilman Bradley seconded the motion, which was approved with an eight to one vote. Councilman Caudle asked for clarification if this was just for the feasibility study and a recommendation would be made to Council on either current property or any new/additional property. Chairman Schofield responded this would be an in-depth study and complex study. Justice Planning & Associates would study the judicial system and administrative parts of the building. They would offer about five different scenarios for Council to consider, ranging from the most efficient way to use space once the City moves out of the City-County Complex to, if the County were successful with the Capital Project Sales Tax implementation or other funding mechanism, that Council build a new judicial complex and what that would entail. Voting in the affirmative were Councilmen Culberson, Poston, Bradley, Schofield, Mumford, Caudle, Dorriety, and Springs. Voting in the negative was Councilman Kirby.

DECLARATION OF SURPLUS PROPERTY

Councilman Mumford made a motion Council Declare Eight (8) Vehicles As Surplus Property For Disposal Through Public Internet Auction Via GovDeals. Councilman Caudle seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

MUSEUM/PROCUREMENT

AWARD RFP #08-12/13

Councilman Culberson made a motion Council Award RFP #08-12/13 For Museum Shelving To Patterson-Pope, Inc., Charleston, SC In The Amount Of \$181,005.80 To Be Funded From Museum Construction Funds. Councilman Poston seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS:

INFRASTRUCTURE

SOUTH LYNCHES FIRE DISTRICT

Councilman Springs made a motion Council Declare One (1) Vehicle (V0930 A 2006 Chevrolet 2500 HD 4x4) As Surplus; Authorize The Sale Of The Vehicle To The South Lynchs Fire District In The Amount Of \$8,600; And, Approve The Funding From Council District 1 Infrastructure Funding Allocation For The Purchase Of The Vehicle. Councilman Caudle seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

INFRASTRUCTURE/UTILITY

FRANCIS MARION RECREATION

Councilman Culberson made a motion Council Approve The Expenditure Of Up To \$3,000 (\$1,500 From Council District 6 Infrastructure Funding Allocation And \$1,500 From Council District 7 Utility Funding Allocation) To Purchase An Ice Machine For Francis Marion Recreation Complex. Councilman Mumford seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

UTILITY

PAMPLICO EMS

Councilman Poston made a motion Council Approve The Expenditure Of Up To \$1,474 From Council District 2 Utility Funding Allocation To Pay For Materials To Be Used In The Installation Of A Driveway At The Pamplico EMS. Councilman Culberson seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Councilman Culberson made a motion Council Enter Executive Session, Pursuant To Section 30-4-70 Of The South Carolina Code Of Laws 1976, As Amended, for Pending Real Property Transaction and A Personnel Matter with the Sheriff's Office. Councilman Dorriety seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Council entered executive session at 10:21 a.m. Council reconvened at 11:29 a.m.

Councilman Kirby left at 10:21 a.m. and did not enter executive session.

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

COUNCIL MEETING ADJOURNED AT 11:30 A.M.