

**REGULAR MEETING
OF
FLORENCE CITY COUNCIL**



**COUNCIL CHAMBERS
324 W. EVANS STREET
FLORENCE, SOUTH CAROLINA**

**MONDAY
JANUARY 12, 2026
1:00 P.M.**



**REGULAR MEETING OF FLORENCE CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 2026 – 1:00PM
CITY CENTER – COUNCIL CHAMBERS
324 WEST EVANS STREET
FLORENCE, SOUTH CAROLINA**

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. INVOCATION

Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

December 8, 2025 – Regular Meeting

IV. HONORS AND RECOGNITIONS

SERVICE RECOGNITIONS

Gregory Allen – 35 years – Beautification and Facilities

Daniel Correa – 15 years – Beautification and Facilities

Retha Brown – 20 years – Community Services

Alex Ussery – 20 years – Police Department

Jon Watts – 15 years – Police Department

Kristopher Russell – 10 years Police Department

Alex McGovern – 15 years – Fire Department

Jacob Shuler – 15 years – Fire Department

Trenton Gore – 15 years – Fire Department

V. ORDINANCES IN POSITION

a. Bill No. 2025-43 – Second Reading

An Ordinance to amend Section 14-21, Section 14-22, and Section 14-23 of the City of Florence municipal code regarding provision related to regulating the curfew for juveniles and other matters related thereto.

VI. INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

a. Resolution No. 2026-01

A Resolution honoring Smiling Scoops for their contributions to the efforts to revitalize downtown Florence.

b. Resolution No. 2026-02

A Resolution to recognize National Marriage Week in the City of Florence.

c. Resolution No. 2026-03

A Resolution of Recognition for the 12u Florence All-Star Football team for winning the South Carolina Athletics Program State Championship.

d. Resolution No. 2026-04

A Resolution of Recognition for Thomas Mitchell for his contributions to the City of Florence.

VII. REPORT TO COUNCIL

a. Appointments to Boards and Commissions

(Note: This item may be discussed in Executive Session.)

a. Bowen National – Report on the Housing Study

VIII. CITY MANAGER’S REPORT

IX. MAYORAL REPORT

X. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Business Development Committee

b. Community Development Committee

• Appointments to Building Florence Together

(Note: Action may be taken during the Community Development Committee report.)

c. Finance, Audit and Budget Committee

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

a. For a discussion regarding appointments to city Boards and Commissions [30-4-70(a)(1)].

b. For a discussion regarding an economic development project located in the Downtown Central District [30-4-70(a)(5)].

After returning to open session, Council may take action on matters discussed during Executive Session.

XII. ADJOURN



**REGULAR MEETING OF FLORENCE CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2025 – 1:00 P.M.
CITY CENTER – COUNCIL CHAMBERS
324 WEST EVANS STREET
FLORENCE, SOUTH CAROLINA**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mayor Lethonia Barnes, Mayor Pro Tempore George Jebaily, Councilman Bryan A. Braddock, Councilwoman LaShonda NeSmith-Jackson, Councilman J. Lawrence Smith, II and Councilman Zach McKay

MEMBERS ABSENT

Councilman Chaquez T. McCall

ALSO PRESENT

Mr. Scotty Davis, City Manager; Mr. Ronald Scott, City Attorney; Mr. Luke Carter, City Attorney; Mrs. Casey Moore, Municipal Clerk; Ms. Patrice Rankin, Assistant City Clerk; Mr. Clint Moore, Assistant City Manager of Development; Deputy Chief Alex McGovern, Florence Fire Department; Interim Police Chief Stephen Starling, Florence Police Department; Mr. Michael Hemingway, Director of Utility Planning and Economic Development; Mr. Jerry Dudley, Director of Planning; Mrs. Jennifer Krawiec, Director of Human Resources; Mrs. Victoria Nash, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Sports Tourism; Mr. Glenn Bodenheimer, Interim Finance Director and Mr. Joshua Whittington, Director of Utilities

MEDIA PRESENT

Eric Cooper with WBTW News 13 was present for the meeting.

Notices of this regular meeting of City Council were provided to the media and individuals requesting a copy of the agenda informing them of the date, location, and time of the meeting.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Barnes called the December 8, 2025 Regular meeting of Florence City Council to order at 1:02pm.

INVOCATION

Mayor Barnes gave the invocation for the meeting. The pledge of allegiance to the American Flag followed the invocation

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilwoman Nesmith-Jackson made a motion to adopt the minutes of the November 10, 2025 Regular Meeting and Councilman Smith seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously (6-0) adopted.



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ADDENDUM TO THE AGENDA

Pro tem Jebaily made a motion to add Resolution No. 2025-49 to the December 8, 2025 regular meeting agenda and Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson seconded the motion. This item was added to the agenda by unanimous vote (6-0).

Councilman Smith made a motion to add a Personnel Matter per SC State Code Section 30-4-70(a)(1) to Executive Session and Pro tem Jebaily seconded the motion. This item was added to the agenda by unanimous vote (6-0).

SERVICE RECOGNITIONS

Mr. Glenn Bodenheimer, Interim Finance Director, recognized Hazle Wilson for 20 years of service with the City of Florence.

GRANT PRESENTATION

Mrs. Mindy Taylor, Duke Energy, Director of Government and Community Relations, presented a \$10,000 grant to the City of Florence to assist with weatherization related projects through the City's Weatherization Program.

ORDINANCES IN POSITION

Bill No. 2025-39 – Second Reading

An Ordinance to amend Chapter 17 of the City Code of the City of Florence to add Article IV and provisions related to regulating improper use of public place and urban camping and other matters related thereto.

Pro tem Jebaily made a motion to adopt Bill No. 2025-39 on second reading and Councilman McKay seconded the motion.

Mr. Tommy Campbell with No One Unsheltered (NOU) shared that he works part-time at the Salvation Army and has been assisting the homeless for approximately six years. He reported a 300% increase in homelessness over the past three years. Mr. Campbell spoke in support of Bill No. 2025-39, calling it a positive step forward, though he noted that there are still many challenges ahead. He emphasized that NOU supports the ordinance but urged that training and resources be provided to law enforcement officers when interacting with the homeless.

Councilman Braddock thanked Mr. Campbell and NOU for their dedicated work in supporting homelessness efforts in the community.

Pro tem Jebaily highlighted the community benefits of No One Unsheltered and asked Councilman Braddock to explain how it works. Councilman Braddock said NOU ensures that anyone experiencing homelessness has a place to sleep. Previously, multiple organizations worked independently, and limited communication made it difficult to know which shelters had available beds or to provide transportation. City staff encouraged these nonprofits to collaborate under one organization, with the City providing funding. When someone stays at a shelter through NOU, the City fully reimburses the cost. The City allocates \$75,000 annually to NOU, and any remaining funds at year's end are distributed as grants to participating organizations.



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Mr. Campbell confirmed that Florence has two shelters: House of Hope, which serves approximately 98% of the homeless population, and the Salvation Army Shelter, which operates as an emergency overflow facility. He said shelters are typically at full capacity, and when no beds are available, NOU places individuals in a hotel for one night. He noted that NOU consistently exhausts its funding each year and faces challenges managing resources quarter to quarter, particularly during summer and winter when extreme temperatures increase demand. He also reported an increase in families experiencing homelessness.

Councilman Braddock referenced discussions about potential funding for a community resource center, noting that further discussion is needed. Mr. Campbell expressed his support and willingness to assist.

Ms. Suzanne LaRochelle referenced the first reading of Bill No. 2025-39 and raised concerns about the amendment. She emphasized that criminalizing homelessness is a misuse of police resources, noting both local and nationwide crime concerns. She shared personal experiences assisting homeless individuals with basic needs and supported the idea of a day shelter or resource hub, citing successful models in other cities. Ms. LaRochelle said citations should not be issued when no shelter beds are available and advocated for law enforcement training, documented outreach, and a warning-first approach before issuing citations. She also stressed the importance of safeguarding homeless individuals' identification and medications if they are arrested, emphasizing the need for compassion, particularly for those with mental health issues.

Councilman Smith said Council wanted to ensure the ordinance aligns with the efforts of organizations serving the homeless. He asked Mr. Scotty Davis, City Manager whether city staff met with these organizations and if they had concerns. Mr. Davis confirmed that meetings were held and that the organizations did not oppose the amended ordinance, though they did request additional resources.

Councilman Braddock sought clarification on enforcement, asking whether an initial violation would result in a warning, with subsequent violations referred to Homeless Court, where individuals can complete a program in exchange for having charges dismissed. Mr. Davis confirmed this approach, emphasizing that arrest is a last resort, and that the City's intent is not to criminalize homelessness. He explained that the ordinance aims to prevent public spaces from being used for sleeping or housing while ensuring individuals receive warnings, information about available resources, and transportation to shelters when needed.

Council voted unanimously (6-0) in favor of the motion. Bill No. 2025-39 was adopted.

Bill No. 2025-42 – Second Reading

An Ordinance to annex and zone NC-6.3 South Irby Street, identified as Florence County Tax Map Number 00152-01-029.

Pro tem Jebaily made a motion to adopt Bill No. 2025-42 on second reading and Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson seconded the motion.

Council voted unanimously (6-0) in favor of the motion. Bill No. 2025-42 was adopted.



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INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

Bill No. 2025-43 – First Reading

An Ordinance to amend Section 14-21, Section 14-22, and Section 14-23 of the City of Florence municipal code regarding provisions related to regulating the curfew for juveniles and other matters related thereto.

Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson made a motion to pass Bill No. 2025-43 on first reading and Councilman Smith seconded the motion.

Mr. Clint Moore, Assistant City Manager, explained that the original ordinance defined a juvenile as anyone 16 years of age or younger, with a curfew from midnight to 6:00am. The proposed amendment would raise the juvenile age limit to 17 years of age, aligning it with the state code definition. The curfew hours would also be revised to 10:00pm to 6:00am city-wide, with a stricter curfew of 9:00pm to 6:00am in the Downtown D1 Redevelopment District.

Councilman Smith inquired whether the difference in curfew times was already implemented in other municipalities, possibly Charleston. Mr. Moore confirmed that many municipalities have different curfew regulations for their downtown areas. This is typically due to the more urbanized, high-density nature of downtowns, where there are more businesses and greater potential for juvenile mischief compared to suburban areas. As a result, curfews tend to be tighter in these districts.

Councilman Smith further asked about exceptions to the curfew. Mr. Moore clarified that, like restrictions for new drivers, exceptions would apply for juveniles working during curfew hours.

Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson raised a concern about whether there was an increase in violence between 10:00pm and midnight, and if the earlier start time was intended to address this. Mr. Moore affirmed that the goal was to reduce violence, explaining that many businesses close by 10:00pm, leaving only drinking establishments open. Since these venues are not allowed to admit anyone under 21, the curfew is designed to align with and support these existing restrictions.

Council voted unanimously (6-0) in favor of the motion. Bill No. 2025-43 was passed on first reading.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 2025-47

A Resolution of Recognition for Dr. John A. Keith, III in honor of his contributions to the revitalization and sustained growth of downtown Florence, South Carolina.

Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson made a motion to pass Resolution No. 2025-47 and Pro tem Jebaily seconded the motion.

Mayor Barnes and Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson presented the Resolution to Dr. John A. Keith, III. Dr. Keith thanked Council for the recognition. Pro tem Jebaily also thanked Dr. Keith for his contributions to downtown Florence.

Council voted unanimously (6-0) in favor of the motion. Resolution No. 2025-47 was passed.



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Resolution No. 2025-48

A Resolution of Recognition for Foster Care Crisis Awareness in the City of Florence.

Councilman Braddock made a motion to pass Resolution No. 2025-48 and Councilwoman Nesmith-Jackson seconded the motion.

Mayor Barnes presented the Resolution to Tyler Shackelford with South Carolina Youth Advocacy Program. Mr. Shackelford thanked Council for the recognition and spoke on the importance of foster care services.

Council voted unanimously (6-0) in favor of the motion. Resolution No. 2025-48 was passed.

Resolution No. 2025-49

A Resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into a Facility Encroachment Agreement with CSX Transportation, Inc.

Councilman Smith made a motion to pass Resolution No. 2025-49 and Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson seconded the motion.

Mr. Michael Hemingway, Director of Utility Planning and Economic Development, explained that this Resolution authorizes the City Manager to sign an agreement with CSX Transportation that will enable city staff to proceed with the Jeffries Creek Sanitary Sewer Project. This project will require construction within the CSX right-of-way along South Church Street to install a new 54-inch gravity sewer line.

Pro tem Jebaily asked Mr. Hemingway to clarify why the new gravity sewer line is necessary.

Mr. Hemingway explained that this is Phase I of a larger project to install a new sewer line along Jeffries Creek. The gravity sewer system will run from South Cashua Street to the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Phase II will extend the line along South Irby Street and Second Loop Road, with the addition of a new lift station. The overall goal is to improve the infrastructure originally designed to handle sewer flow along Jeffries Creek. The new system will take on the approximately 2.5 million gallons of new flow from the western side of the system that currently travels through Jeffries Creek, easing the load on the existing Jeffries Creek Interceptor.

Pro tem Jebaily sought clarification on the total project cost, asking if it was around \$50 million. Mr. Hemingway confirmed, explaining that each phase is estimated at \$25 million. He added that the City has secured \$24 million in state funding to support Phase I.

Pro tem Jebaily raised concerns from the public about sanitary sewer overflows during stormwater events, asking if these issues were due to the high capacity of the current line running through Jeffries Creek. Mr. Hemingway confirmed this, explaining that the new sewer line along Second Loop Road would alleviate pressure on the existing line and allow for necessary upgrades and repairs, which would reduce leaks.

Pro tem Jebaily then inquired about the timeline for Phase I. Mr. Hemingway said that the project is tentatively scheduled for bidding in the first quarter of 2026, with a projected completion date in Fall 2028, though the timeline will be finalized once a contractor is secured.

Pro tem Jebaily concluded by commending city staff for their hard work and dedication to the project.

Council voted unanimously (6-0) in favor of the motion. Resolution No. 2025-49 was passed.



REPORT TO COUNCIL

Steadman Group – Opioid Analysis and Recommendations

Mr. Glenn Bodenheimer, Interim Finance Director, reported that the City of Florence is expected to receive approximately \$4.5 million over the next 18 years from the \$360 million statewide opioid litigation settlements. To date, the City has completed two funding cycles. In the 2023 cycle, Council awarded \$582,860 to four organizations: Circle Park (\$55,860), Resurrection Restoration Center for the Homeless (\$105,000), Tenacious Grace (\$172,000), and House of Hope (\$250,000). In the 2024 cycle, Council awarded \$554,524 to five organizations: Potter House Recovery, Inc. (\$72,949), Tenacious Grace (\$73,220), Pee Dee Healthy Start (\$100,000), Circle Park (\$58,355), and House of Hope (\$250,000). Mr. Bodenheimer also noted that the South Carolina Opioid Recovery Fund allows political subdivisions to use \$25,000 of their allocation to develop a long-term community opioid remediation plan. The City issued a Request for Proposals and selected The Steadman Group to develop the City of Florence Community Action Plan. He then introduced Ms. Brianna Robles and Ms. Courtney Lange of The Steadman Group.

Ms. Brianna Robles and Ms. Courtney Lange presented the Opioid Settlement Community Action Plan to Council. Ms. Robles summarized the project, noting that it was informed by a gap analysis, focus groups, and community meetings. She outlined the three phases of the project: Phase I involved contracting with The Steadman Group to develop a community-informed, data-driven action plan for opioid settlement funds; Phase II focused on conducting a gap analysis to identify strengths and service gaps within Florence County; and Phase III resulted in the development of a data-informed Community Action Plan to support transparent, community-driven decision making in Florence. Ms. Robles said that the next step is implementation of the plan.

Ms. Robles also reviewed the inputs used to develop the plan, including qualitative data from community focus groups, independent interviews, and community action planning meetings, as well as quantitative data from publicly available sources and organizational data. Key findings included the need to expand prevention efforts, particularly in schools, limited treatment access for uninsured and underinsured individuals, fragmented resource navigation, strong but disconnected recovery supports, inconsistent naloxone access, and opportunities to improve governance of opioid funding. She concluded with recommendations to strengthen prevention and youth education, improve treatment access through better coordination and affordability supports, enhance recovery services through housing, peer support, and employment initiatives, integrate naloxone education and harm reduction into prevention strategies, and establish shared governance and communication structures to better coordinate opioid response efforts across the City and potentially Florence County.

Ms. Courtney Lange reviewed the Community Action Plan's three-strategy framework: Strategy I—Prevention, Community Awareness, and Harm Reduction; Strategy II—Treatment Access and Navigation; and Strategy III—Recovery Ecosystem. She noted that the strategies were developed through three two-hour strategic planning sessions. Strategy I aims to reduce opioid misuse, stigma, and overdose risk through youth education, community outreach, naloxone training, and harm reduction efforts. It carries the largest allocation at \$200,000 and prioritizes prevention and awareness campaigns, youth and family education, naloxone distribution, and community harm reduction education. Strategy II focuses on improving timely access to treatment and behavioral health care, particularly for uninsured and high-risk individuals. The \$140,000 allocation supports initiatives such as a care navigation program, a centralized resource directory, and potential County-led efforts including expanded withdrawal management services and a treatment affordability pool. Strategy III seeks to strengthen housing, peer support, and long-term recovery pathways. With a \$160,000 allocation, priorities include recovery housing, expanded peer



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support, and potential County-led initiatives such as a Recovery Provider Compact and a Recovery-Friendly Workplace Initiative. Ms. Lange noted that these allocations cover a five-year period and are based on the approximately \$560,000 currently available in the City's opioid settlement funds.

Ms. Lange also outlined the Implementation Roadmap, which includes establishing a Florence Opioid Response Council for governance and ensuring transparency through public updates, community engagement, and a public dashboard; and evaluating outcomes through shared indicators and annual reports. The implementation timeline spans 2026–2030 with a total budget of \$60,000. She added that the City may consider hiring an opioid response coordinator to oversee implementation, evaluation, and proper use of funds.

In closing, Ms. Lange summarized the proposed budget allocations: Strategy I—\$200,000 (36%), Strategy II—\$140,000 (25%), Strategy III—\$160,000 (29%), and Implementation—\$60,000 (11%). She also suggested exploring collaboration between the City of Florence and Florence County to better coordinate opioid response and recovery resources.

Councilman Braddock asked for clarification on how the approximately \$560,000 in opioid settlement funds would be distributed over the five-year period, expressing concern that dedicating funds to implementing the Community Action Plan could reduce support for organizations currently providing services. He emphasized the importance of allowing organizations to establish programs with the expectation that funding would taper as settlement revenues decline. Ms. Lange explained that funding decisions would be determined through the proposed governance model and noted that the \$60,000 implementation cost, primarily for a coordinator or facilitation support, would be spread over five years, or approximately \$12,000 annually. Councilman Braddock also inquired about detoxification solutions and best practices. Ms. Lange responded that The Steadman Group evaluated whether to expand the existing detox facility or develop a new one and concluded that expanding the current facility would be the most cost-effective and practical option for Florence, given the City's size and available funding.

Pro tem Jebailly thanked Ms. Robles and Ms. Lange for their presentation and referenced earlier discussions on homelessness and the new Leatherman Behavioral Health Center. He emphasized the importance of ensuring that these efforts work together cohesively and asked what steps would be needed to implement the plan. Ms. Robles stated that these issues are interconnected and align with the Community Action Plan, recommending the use of facilitators or a dedicated coordinator to lead the Opioid Abatement Council and bring stakeholders together. She also highlighted the positive impact of the Leatherman Behavioral Health Center. Pro tem Jebailly requested that the Opioid Community Action Plan be placed on the agenda for the January Council Budget Work Session for further discussion and direction.

Councilman Braddock asked whether the strategies outlined in the plan comply with opioid settlement funding requirements. Ms. Robles and Ms. Lange confirmed that all strategies are eligible and compliant, noting that the plan includes a detailed law enforcement co-response model to support deflection and de-escalation during crisis situations.

Councilman Braddock sought clarification on data indicating that overdose deaths in Florence are 40% higher than the state average. Ms. Robles attributed this in part to limited treatment and detox capacity. Ms. Lange added that the data was carefully reviewed and confirmed, noting that rural areas often face greater challenges due to limited resources and barriers to seeking help.



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Building Florence Together Annual Report

Ms. Michelle Morgan, Executive Director of Building Florence Together, presented the Building Florence Together Annual Report to Council, highlighting several key achievements. She shared that the organization successfully built two new homes this year and was awarded a \$500,000 line of credit to leverage its existing assets. Additionally, the City contributed 11 single family homes to the organization. Ms. Morgan pointed out that the initial \$400,000 investment from the City has grown to nearly \$4 million. She expressed her enthusiasm for the work the organization is doing, emphasizing that none of this would have been possible without the City's support. She also introduced various Board Members who were in attendance, and each board member took a moment to thank both Ms. Morgan and the City for their continued support. Finally, Ms. Morgan provided the audited financial statements to the Council, noting that the organization received a clean audit report.

Pro tem Jebaily and Mayor Barnes thanked Ms. Morgan and the Board for their hard work and dedicated service.

Appointments to Boards and Commissions

Mayor Barnes said this item may be discussed in Executive Session. Without objection, this item will be discussed in Executive Session.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Scotty Davis, City Manager, took the opportunity to highlight the remarkable contributions of City employees during the season of giving. He praised their generosity and service, which made a significant impact on the community throughout the year. Several community initiatives were mentioned, including the Carolina vs. Clemson Harvest Hope Food Drive, where 2,907 pounds of food were donated. He also noted the success of the Angel Tree program, which fulfills the Christmas wishes of 40 children with incarcerated parents, and the Annual Pee Dee Heart Walk, where City employees raised over \$7,000. Additionally, the City earned the Golden Sponsor Award for its strong participation in the United Way campaign, contributing more than \$49,000. The Florence Police Department and others participated in Greg's Grocery, packing 400 food boxes and distributing 425 turkeys. Mr. Davis also highlighted the City's involvement in the Adopt A Dorm program, supported by both the Fire and Police Departments, which provides toys to families in need. The City's Police Toy Giveaway was another initiative that brought joy to many local families. Mr. Davis acknowledged that all these contributions came from employees' personal finances, further emphasizing their strong commitment to uplifting the community.

In addition to recognizing these efforts, Mr. Davis announced that the City of Rock Hill will be visiting Florence to study the Fire Department's successful practices. He expressed pride in the department's achievements and noted that other cities are taking notice of the exceptional work being done by the City of Florence Fire Department.

MAYORAL REPORT

Mayor Barnes acknowledged that this would be the final Council meeting of the year and expressed her gratitude to everyone for the positive spirit they bring to the city. She extended warm wishes for a Happy Holiday season and thanked the community for their ongoing contributions and efforts throughout the year. Mayor Barnes also recognized the South Florence High School Football Team for reaching the State Championship. While they did not secure the title, she commended them for their outstanding season and hard work. Mayor Barnes announced that Florence 1 Schools will hold a ribbon-cutting ceremony this



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Thursday at 5:00pm to celebrate the new Poyner Healthcare Innovation Facility. Lastly, she took a moment to reflect on the success of the Annual Christmas Tree Lighting event.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Business Development Committee, Chaired by Pro tem Jebaily

Pro tem Jebaily said the committee received an update from STYX Corporation regarding Project Urban Square. He announced the groundbreaking ceremony for The Gamble Apartments will take place on December 18th at 2:00pm, followed by a reception. The committee also received updates on various city projects.

Community Development Committee, Chaired by Mayor Barnes

Mayor Barnes said the committee did not meet due to the holiday season and will resume meetings in January.

Finance, Audit and Budget Committee, Chaired by Councilman McCall

Councilman Braddock reported the committee received a presentation from The Steadman Group regarding the opioid analysis and recommendations. The committee also discussed the declining business license rates and Councilman Braddock thanked Mr. Glenn Bodenheimer, Interim Finance Director, for bringing this initiative to the committee's attention.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Barnes said Council will be entering into Executive Session for a discussion regarding appointments to city Boards and Commissions and for a personnel matter.

Councilman Smith made a motion to enter into Executive Session and Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson seconded the motion. Council voted unanimously (6-0) to enter into Executive Session at 2:30pm.

[Councilman McKay left the meeting.]

Pro tem Jebaily made a motion to resume open session and Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson seconded the motion. The motion carried. Council resumed open session at 2:59pm and took action on the following items:

Appointments to Boards and Commissions

Mr. Davis presented the packet of appointments to Boards and Commissions to Council.

Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee

Pro tem Jebaily made a motion to appoint Jackie Travis to the Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee and the motion carried unanimously. Jackie Travis was appointed to the Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee for a term to begin immediately and expire on June 30, 2028.



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Design Review Board

Due to his absence, Councilman McCall's nomination to the Board was deferred.

Construction and Maintenance Board of Adjustments and Appeals

Mayor Barnes deferred remaining nominations to the Board.

Resilience and Sustainability Advisory Committee

Councilman Smith deferred his nomination to the Board.

Public Safety Citizen's Review Board

Due to his absence, Councilman McKay's nomination to the Board was deferred.

Board of Zoning Appeals

Mayor Barnes deferred her nomination to the Board.

City-County Memorial Stadium Commission

Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson made a motion to recommend that Ondrea Shabazz be appointed to the City-County Memorial Stadium Commission. City Council unanimously voted (5–0) to recommend that Ondrea Shabazz be appointed to the City-County Memorial Stadium Commission for a term expiring June 30, 2030, subject to approval by Florence County Council.

ADJOURN

Without objection, the December 8, 2025 Regular meeting of City Council was adjourned at 3:01pm.

Dated this 12th day of January 2026.

Casey C. Moore, Municipal Clerk

Lethonia Barnes, Mayor

FLORENCE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

DATE: December 8th, 2025
AGENDA ITEM: Ordinance
DEPARTMENT/DIVISION: City Manager's Office

I. ISSUE UNDER CONSIDERATION:

An Ordinance to amend Section 14-21, Section 14-22, and Section 14-23 of the City of Florence municipal code regarding provisions related to regulating the curfew for juveniles and other matters related thereto.

II. CURRENT STATUS/PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

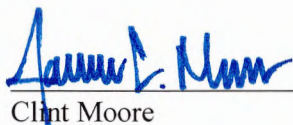
1. No previous action by City Council has been taken regarding this matter.

III. POINTS TO CONSIDER:

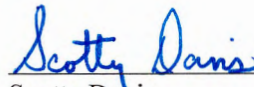
1. In an effort to be consistent with South Carolina State Code § 63-19-20 the proposed amendment increases the age of a juvenile from sixteen (16) years of age and younger to seventeen (17) years of age and younger.
2. To help reduce the opportunity for juveniles to become involved in criminal activities and to help further protect the public health, safety, and welfare, the curfew hour of 12:00 am - 6:00 am has been amended to 10:00 pm – 6:00 am within the municipal limits.
3. Within the D-1 Redevelopment District the proposed curfew is 9:00 pm – 6:00 am.

IV. ATTACHMENTS:

1. Ordinance
2. D-1 Redevelopment District Map



Clint Moore
Assistant City Manager



Scotty Davis
City Manager

ORDINANCE NO. 2025 - _____

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 14-21, SECTION 14-22, AND SECTION 14-23 OF THE CITY OF FLORENCE CODE OF ORDINANCES REGARDING PROVISIONS RELATED TO REGULATING THE CURFEW FOR JUVENILES AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO.

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, the City of Florence, South Carolina (the “City”) seeks to maintain public health, safety, and welfare within its jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, regulating the presence of unaccompanied minors diminishes the likelihood that juveniles will engage in criminal conduct; and

WHEREAS, the City of Florence finds that enhanced curfew requirements are necessary within its Central Business District due to increased evening activity; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City (“the City Council”) desires to regulate the presence of unaccompanied minors in public places within the City by amending provisions in the City of Florence Code of Ordinances (“the Code”);

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City in meeting duly assembled that:

- a. There are amendments to Chapter 14, Section 14-21 entitled “Curfew – For juveniles”, Section 14-22 entitled “Same – Parent, guardian, responsible adult, and/or child; penalty”, and Section 14-23 entitled “Minor in need of supervision” such section being set forth in the attached Exhibit A.
- b. This Ordinance shall become effective upon its approval and adoption by the City Council of the City.

ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2025.

Approved as to form:

RONALD T. SCOTT
CITY ATTORNEY

LETHONIA BARNES
MAYOR

ATTEST:

CASEY MOORE
CITY CLERK

EXHIBIT A

Sec. 14-21. Curfew—For juveniles.

- a) It shall be unlawful for any minor (seventeen (17) years of age or younger) to loiter, wander, stroll or play in or upon the public streets, highways, roads, alleys, parks, playgrounds or other public grounds, public places, vacant lots or any place unsupervised by an adult having the lawful authority to be at such places, between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. This section does not apply to the following:
 - 1) When a minor is accompanied by his or her parent, legal guardian or other adult person (twenty-one years of age or older) having the lawful care and custody of the minor;
 - 2) When a minor is directed to perform an emergency errand by his or her parent or legal guardian or other adult person (twenty-one (21) years of age or older) having the lawful care or custody of the minor;
 - 3) When a minor is returning directly home from a school activity, recreational activity, or dance;
 - 4) When a minor is returning directly home from a lawful employment that makes it necessary to be in the above referenced places during the prescribed period of time;
 - 5) When a minor is in a motor vehicle involved in interstate travel;
 - 6) When a minor is on the sidewalk abutting the minor's residence; or
 - 7) When a minor is exercising First Amendment rights protected by the United States Constitution, such as the free exercise of religion, freedom of speech, and the right of assembly.
- b) D-1 Redevelopment District.
 - 1) Within the downtown D-1 Redevelopment District the curfew hours shall be between the hours of 9:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. The same exceptions listed within 14-21(a) apply to this section.

Sec. 14-22. Same—Parent, guardian, responsible adult, and/or child; penalty.

It shall be unlawful for the parent, guardian, or other person having custody or control of any child (seventeen (17) years of age or younger) to permit, or by insufficient control, to allow such child to be in or upon the public streets or any other places described herein within Section 14-21. It shall further be unlawful for any child (seventeen (17) years of age or younger) to be in or upon the public streets or any other places described within Section 14-21.

The first violation will result in a warning citation and shall be issued to both the child and the parent or guardian of the child. A second violation will result in a fine not to exceed two hundred dollars (\$200.00) or imprisonment in jail for not more than thirty (30) days. Upon second violation, the offender will also have the option to work on public streets or work in the public works of the city for not more than thirty (30) days.

Each violation of section 14-21 or 14-22 shall constitute a separate offense. Provided, however, no parent, guardian or other person having custody of any child (seventeen (17) years of age or younger) shall be subject to the fine or penalties noted above if, prior to an offense of the child, said parent, guardian, or responsible adult has notified the Florence Police Department that they have lost control of said child and are unable to prevent the child from violating this section 14-21 or 14-22. Prior notice shall be effective for the purposes of this section 14-21 and 14-22 only after the parent, guardian, or responsible adult fills out and signs the attached [prescribed] form which will be kept on record by the Florence Police Department.

Sec. 14-23. Minor in need of supervision.

(a) Any minor aged six (6) through seventeen (17) years old that loiters, wanders, strolls, or plays in or upon any "public place", as defined in subsection (c) below, unsupervised by an adult having the lawful authority, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. on any "school day", as defined in subsection (c) below, shall be considered a minor in need of supervision unless the minor falls into one of the categories specified in subsection (b) below.

(b) A minor shall not be considered a minor in need of supervision under the following circumstances.

- 1) When a minor has written documentation from school authorities that he or she is excused from school attendance at that particular time.
- 2) When a minor attends a private school and the school is not in session at that particular time.
- 3) When the minor is enrolled in a valid home study program as authorized by the laws of the State of South Carolina.
- 4) When the minor has been emancipated pursuant to the laws of the State of South Carolina.
- 5) When the minor is accompanied by such minor's parent, guardian, or other adult person having the lawful care and custody of the minor.
- 6) When the minor is engaged in lawful employment pursuant to an age or schooling certificate or is traveling directly home or to school from such lawful employment.
- 7) When a minor is performing an emergency errand directed by such minor's parent or guardian or other adult person having the lawful care and custody of such minor.
- 8) When a minor is travelling to or from home or school as a direct result of a school directed, sponsored, or endorsed activity, entertainment, recreational opportunity, or dance.
- 9) When a minor is attending or traveling directly to or from an activity involving the exercise of First Amendment Rights of Free Speech, Freedom of Assembly, or Free Exercise of Religion.
- 10) When a minor is in a motor vehicle with parental consent for normal travel, or engaged in interstate travel through the city.

(c) For the purposes of this section, the following definitions shall apply unless the context clearly indicates or requires a different meaning:

- 1) "Public place" means any public streets, highways, roads, alleys, parks, playgrounds, malls, buildings open to the public, cemeteries, school yards, bodies of water, any privately or publicly owned place of amusement, entertainment, or public accommodation, including parking lots and other areas adjacent thereto, or any vacant lots of land.
- 2) "School Day" means any day on which the public schools in Florence School District One are open and operating for students.

(d) Upon a police officer approaching an individual under this section and in determining whether an individual is a minor in need of supervision as defined herein, the following shall apply:

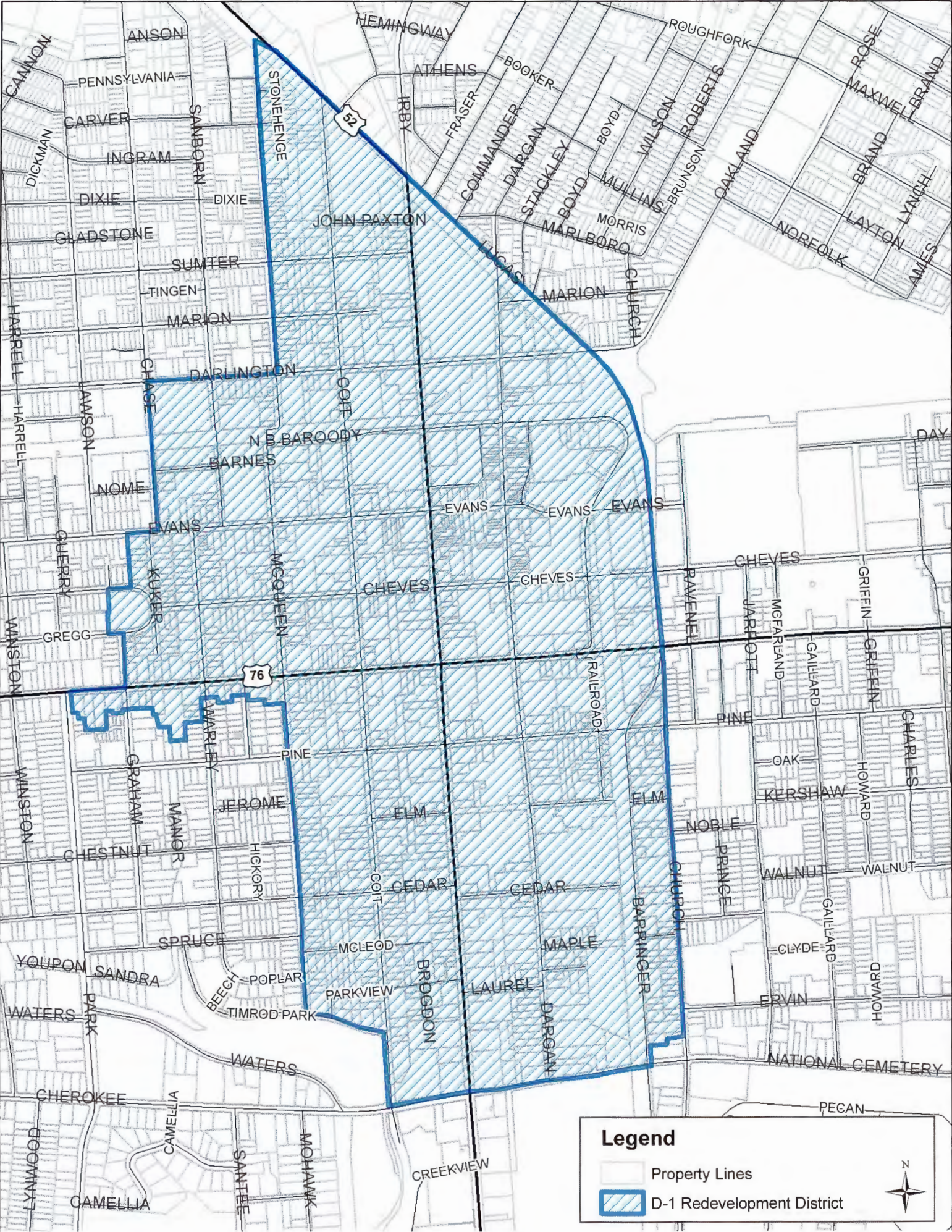
- 1) Before taking any enforcement action under this section, a law enforcement officer shall ask or attempt to ask the individual questions regarding age and reason for being in a public place during curfew hours. The law enforcement officer shall not take charge of the minor under this section unless the law enforcement officer reasonably believes that the minor is a minor in need of supervision as described in this section.
- 2) In the event a police officer determines that a minor is a minor in need of supervision as defined herein, then the minor shall be given the following options:
 - a. The minor will be offered transportation either to the minor's school, unless such minor is currently under expulsion or suspension. In this case, the minor will be offered transportation to the home of the minor;
 - b. If the minor chooses not to accept the transportation, then the police officer will issue a citation to the parent, legal guardian, or other person having legal custody or control of the minor pursuant to subsection (e) herein.
- 3) The law enforcement officer shall follow the policies, procedures, rules, directives and regulations of the City of Florence and/or of the Florence Police Department at all times under this subsection.

(e) It shall be unlawful for the parent, legal guardian, or other person having custody or control of any minor as defined herein to knowingly commit an act or knowingly fail to act when such act or omission would cause the minor to be found to be a minor in need of supervision as defined in subsection (a) above.

- 1) This section does not apply if the parent or legal guardian has invoked the jurisdiction of the juvenile court prior to the time that the minor is found being a minor in need of supervision.
- 2) Upon first conviction of a violation of subsection (b), a person shall not be fined and will be notified of opportunities and programs in place to assist the parent or guardian in providing supervision for such minor. Upon subsequent convictions, a person shall be subject to a fine of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) per offense. Each day a minor is found by law enforcement to be a minor in need of supervision, as defined in subsection (a), shall constitute a separate offense for the purposes of the fines specified herein. Persons

charged with violating subsection (b) of this section shall not be subject to custodial arrest, but shall be issued a summons to appear in municipal court.

D-1 Redevelopment District



FLORENCE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

DATE: January 12, 2026
AGENDA ITEM: Resolution
DEPARTMENT/DIVISION: City Council
Sponsored by Councilman Chaquez McCall

I. ISSUE UNDER CONSIDERATION:

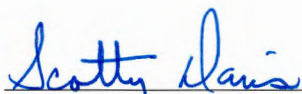
A Resolution honoring Smiling Scoops for contributions to the efforts to revitalize downtown Florence.

II. POINTS TO CONSIDER:

1. The investment by Smiling Scoops in Florence is playing a role in the continued development of Florence's Downtown Business District.
2. Upon recommendation from the Greater Florence Chamber of Commerce, Florence City Council recognizes businesses that have made contributions to the development of downtown.

III. ATTACHMENTS:

1. Proposed Resolution



Scotty Davis
City Manager

(STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
()
(CITY OF FLORENCE)

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-01

**A RESOLUTION HONORING SMILING SCOOPS FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE
EFFORTS TO REVITALIZE DOWNTOWN FLORENCE.**

- WHEREAS,** the owners of Smiling Scoops have established an original ice cream parlor in Downtown Florence and are community-minded small business owners; and
- WHEREAS,** the investment by Smiling Scoops is welcomed and is playing a role in the continued development of Florence's Downtown Business District, and
- WHEREAS,** the owners of Smiling Scoops, Stoney and Whitney Dupree, are dedicated Chamber of Commerce members and contributors to the community's growth through their unique themed establishment; and
- WHEREAS,** the Greater Florence Chamber of Commerce has requested that the City recognize the business efforts of Smiling Scoops and its presence and contributions to our community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT, upon the petition of the Greater Florence Chamber of Commerce and in recognition of Smiling Scoops' contributions to the continued efforts to revitalize downtown Florence, the City Council of the City of Florence hereby declares the months of January through March, Smiling Scoops Quarter.

AND IT IS SO RESOLVED, this 12th day of January, 2026.

LETHONIA BARNES, MAYOR

GEORGE D. JEBAILY, MAYOR PRO TEM

LASHONDA NESMITH-JACKSON, DISTRICT 1

J. LAWRENCE SMITH, II., DISTRICT 2

BRYAN A. BRADDOCK, DISTRICT 3

ATTEST:

ZACH MCKAY, AT-LARGE

CASEY C. MOORE, MUNICIPAL CLERK

CHAVEZ T. MCCALL, AT-LARGE

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

CITY ATTORNEY

FLORENCE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

DATE: January 12, 2026
AGENDA ITEM: Resolution
DEPARTMENT/DIVISION: City Council
Sponsored by Councilman Bryan A. Braddock

I. ISSUE UNDER CONSIDERATION:

A Resolution to recognize National Marriage Week in the City of Florence.

II. POINTS TO CONSIDER:

1. National Marriage Week is observed annually from February 7--14 and is dedicated to promoting marriage education, strengthening relationships, and highlighting the social, emotional, and economic benefits of healthy marriages for individuals, families, and communities.

III. ATTACHMENTS:

1. Proposed Resolution



Scotty Davis
City Manager

(STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
(
(CITY OF FLORENCE)

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-02

A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING FEBRUARY 7-14, 2026 AS NATIONAL MARRIAGE WEEK IN THE CITY OF FLORENCE.

WHEREAS, National Marriage Week is an annual observance taking place February 7–14 that encourages communities, organizations, couples, families, and civic leaders to celebrate and strengthen marriage through intentional support, awareness, and engagement; and

WHEREAS, National Marriage Week seeks to promote the positive impact that healthy marriages have on individuals, families, and the broader community by providing resources, events, and opportunities for couples to invest in their relationships; and

WHEREAS, this week emphasizes the importance of strong marriages in fostering stable and flourishing families, which contribute significantly to the cultural, social, and economic well-being of the City of Florence; and

WHEREAS, National Marriage Week is celebrated nationwide as an opportunity for communities to come together with a shared purpose of strengthening marriages and supporting couples in every season of life; and

WHEREAS, the City of Florence values healthy, enduring marriages and recognizes their foundational role in building strong families and a thriving community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of Florence, South Carolina hereby proclaims February 7–14, 2026 as National Marriage Week in the City of Florence, and encourages all residents, faith-based groups, businesses, and community organizations to recognize and support the importance of marriage through community and family-focused activities during this observance and throughout the year.

RESOLVED THIS 12TH DAY OF JANUARY 2026.

Approved as to form:

HAYNSWORTH SINKLER BOYD, P.A.
CITY ATTORNEY

LETHONIA BARNES
MAYOR

ATTEST:

CASEY C. MOORE
MUNICIPAL CLERK

FLORENCE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

DATE: January 12, 2026
AGENDA ITEM: Resolution
DEPARTMENT/DIVISION: City Council
Sponsored by Councilman J. Lawrence Smith, II

I. ISSUE UNDER CONSIDERATION:

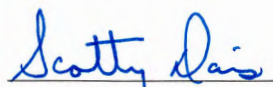
A Resolution of Recognition for the Florence All-Star Football League 12U Team for winning the South Carolina Athletics Program State Championship.

II. POINTS TO CONSIDER:

1. The Florence All-Star Football League 12U (ages 11 and 12) Team advanced to the South Carolina Athletics Program State Championship after winning the Lower State Championship on November 24, 2025, hosted at the Freedom Florence Recreation Complex in Florence, South Carolina.
2. On December 13, 2025, the Florence 12U All-Star Football Team competed in the State Championship game at Greenwood High School's J.W. Babb Stadium in Greenwood, South Carolina, defeating Fountain Inn by a score of 28–20.

III. ATTACHMENTS:

1. Proposed Resolution



Scotty Davis
City Manager

(STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
()
(CITY OF FLORENCE)

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-03

**A RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION FOR THE FLORENCE ALL-STAR FOOTBALL
LEAGUE 12U TEAM FOR WINNING THE SOUTH CAROLINA ATHLETICS PROGRAM
STATE CHAMPIONSHIP.**

WHEREAS, the Florence All-Star Football League 12U Team competed in the South Carolina Athletics Program State Championship, earning the state title through outstanding athletic performance; and

WHEREAS, the Florence 12U All-Star Football Team advanced to the State Championship after winning the Lower State Championship on November 24, 2025, hosted at the Freedom Florence Recreation Complex in Florence, South Carolina, defeating North Strand, Sumter, and Myrtle Beach over the course of two weeks without allowing a single point to be scored against them; and

WHEREAS, the Florence 12U All-Star Football Team faced Fountain Inn in the State Championship game on December 13, 2025, at Greenwood High School's J.W. Babb Stadium in Greenwood, South Carolina, defeating Fountain Inn by a score of 28–20 and snapping their opponent's 27-game winning streak; and

WHEREAS, under the leadership and guidance of coaches Craig Anderson, Renaldo Cannon, Darrien Rollerson, and James Woodberry, these young athletes demonstrated exceptional teamwork, discipline, perseverance, and sportsmanship; and

WHEREAS, through hard work and determination, these athletes have proven themselves State Champions and serve as positive role models for area youth.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT, the City Council of the City of Florence, South Carolina commends this athletic accomplishment and congratulates the Florence All-Star Football League 12U Team for winning the South Carolina Athletics Program State Championship.

RESOLVED THIS 12TH DAY OF JANUARY 2025.

Approved as to form:

HAYNSWORTH SINKLER BOYD, P.A.
CITY ATTORNEY

LETHONIA BARNES
MAYOR

ATTEST:

CASEY C. MOORE
MUNICIPAL CLERK

FLORENCE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

DATE: January 12, 2026
AGENDA ITEM: Resolution
DEPARTMENT/DIVISION: City Council
Sponsored by Councilwoman LaShonda NeSmith-Jackson

I. ISSUE UNDER CONSIDERATION:

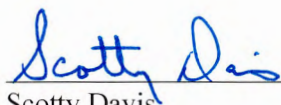
A Resolution of Recognition honoring Thomas Mitchell for his contributions to the Florence community.

II. POINTS TO CONSIDER:

1. Thomas Mitchell is a Florence native who has been a business owner in his hometown for the past 15 years. He first opened City Grille and later expanded his entrepreneurial efforts with the opening of Jazz on Dargan.
2. Through his businesses, Mr. Mitchell has played a significant role in contributing to downtown vitality, local employment, and Florence's cultural and dining scene. Jazz on Dargan has served as a gathering place for residents and visitors while highlighting live music and fostering community connections.

III. ATTACHMENTS:

1. Proposed Resolution



Scotty Davis
City Manager

(STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
()
(CITY OF FLORENCE)

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-04

**A RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION FOR THOMAS MITCHELL AND HIS CONTRIBUTIONS
TO THE CITY OF FLORENCE.**

WHEREAS, Thomas Mitchell is a Florence native who has demonstrated a deep and enduring commitment to his hometown through entrepreneurship, investment, and community engagement; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Mitchell has been a business owner in the City of Florence for more than fifteen (15) years, contributing to the local economy through job creation, business development, and sustained investment in the community; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Mitchell began his entrepreneurial journey in Florence as the owner of City Grille, establishing a successful local restaurant that served residents and visitors and strengthened the City's dining and hospitality landscape; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, Mr. Mitchell expanded his impact on downtown Florence by opening Jazz on Dargan, a restaurant and live jazz venue that became a cultural destination and cherished gathering place within the City's downtown district; and

WHEREAS, Jazz on Dargan has played a significant role in the cultural and economic vitality of downtown Florence by supporting live music, local artists, and creating a welcoming space that fostered community connection and celebration of the arts; and

WHEREAS, as Jazz on Dargan concludes its operation, the City of Florence recognizes the deep appreciation and support expressed by the community and acknowledges the lasting legacy the establishment leaves on downtown Florence; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Mitchell's vision, leadership, and investment exemplify the positive impact that locally owned businesses can have on the identity, spirit, and vibrancy of the City of Florence;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Florence, South Carolina, does hereby honor and commend Mr. Thomas Mitchell for his outstanding contributions to the City of Florence and for the meaningful cultural and economic impact of his businesses, including the lasting influence of Jazz on Dargan within the community.

RESOLVED THIS 8TH DAY OF DECEMBER 2025.

Approved as to form:

HAYNSWORTH SINKLER BOYD, P.A.
CITY ATTORNEY

LETHONIA BARNES
MAYOR

ATTEST:

CASEY C. MOORE
MUNICIPAL CLERK