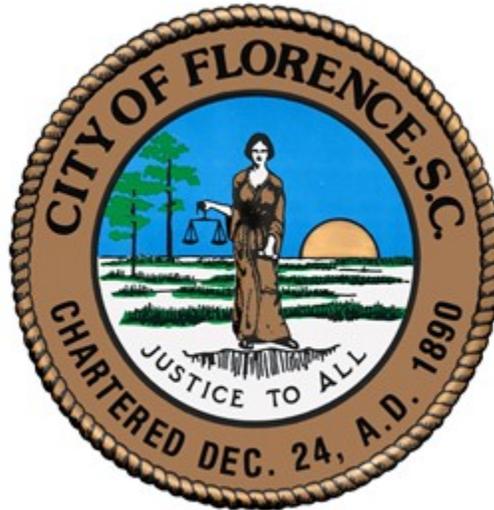


**REGULAR MEETING
OF
FLORENCE CITY COUNCIL**



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

**MONDAY
MARCH 9, 2026
1:00 P.M.**



**REGULAR MEETING OF FLORENCE CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, MARCH 9, 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. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

January 8-9, 2026 – Work Session
February 9, 2026 – Regular Meeting

V. HONORS AND RECOGNITIONS

SERVICE RECOGNITIONS

Almario Preacher – 25 years – Beautification and Facilities
Isaiah Harley – 20 years – Beautification and Facilities
Jennifer Krawiec – 15 years – Human Resources

GRANT PRESENTATION

The Duke Energy Foundation Grant – Presented by Mindy Taylor, Duke Energy – Director of Government and Community Relations.

VI. APPEARANCES BEFORE COUNCIL

a. Robert McCready

To discuss removing fluoride from the drinking water.

VII. ORDINANCES IN POSITION

a. Bill No. 2026-01 – Second Reading

An Ordinance to annex and zone RU the property located at 2916 West Palmetto Street, identified as Florence County Tax Map Number 00100-01-031.

- b. **Bill No. 2026-02 – Second Reading**
An Ordinance to amend the Planned Development District for New Ebenezer Baptist Church at 312 South Ravenel Street, identified as Florence County Tax Map Number 90103-03-001.
- c. **Bill No. 2026-03 – Second Reading**
An Ordinance to amend the City of Florence *Unified Development Ordinance* regarding itinerant vendor sales, mobile services, and temporary use permits.
- d. **Bill No. 2026-05 – Second Reading**
An Ordinance authorizing the conveyance of property located at 804 Waverly Avenue, identified as Florence County Tax Map Number 90061-11-015, to facilitate the construction of a home which will be marketed for sale at prices based on fair market value as part of the neighborhood redevelopment efforts within the City of Florence.
- e. **Bill No. 2026-06 – Second Reading**
An Ordinance to amend the budget for Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026.

VIII. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

- a. **Bill No. 2026-04 – First Reading**
An Ordinance to amend the City of Florence *Unified Development Ordinance* regarding in-home childcare facilities.
- b. **Bill No. 2026-07 – First Reading**
An Ordinance to annex and zone NC-15 the property located at 2511 Ascot Drive, identified as Florence County Tax Map Number 01221-01-191.
- c. **Bill No. 2026-08 – First Reading**
An Ordinance to annex and zone NC-15 the property located at 2710 Trotter Road, identified as Florence County Tax Map Number 00984-01-007.
- d. **Bill No. 2026-09 – First Reading**
An Ordinance to amend the City of Florence *Unified Development Ordinance* regarding window signage.
- e. **Bill No. 2026-10 – First Reading**
An Ordinance to create the Florence City-County Convention and Visitors Commission, to provide for the operation of the Florence Convention and Visitors Bureau to include provisions for the Commission's organization and funding, and other matters related thereto.
(Note: This item may be discussed in Executive Session.)

IX. INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

a. Resolution No. 2026-10

A Resolution of Recognition for the United '74 class for their contributions to the community.

b. Resolution No. 2026-11

A Resolution of Recognition for Justin Purvis for his outstanding community service and contributions to the community.

c. Resolution No. 2026-12

A Resolution of Recognition for the Florence Christian School Girls Basketball Team for winning the state championship.

d. Resolution No. 2026-13

A Resolution of Recognition honoring the Mayor's Women's Ambassadors for their service and contributions to the community.

e. Resolution No. 2026-14

A Resolution and Conditional Grant and Development Agreement to provide an incentive for the development of new housing within Historic West Florence and Waverly Avenue as part of the ongoing Neighborhood Redevelopment Project.

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

X. REPORT TO COUNCIL

a. Appointments to Boards and Commissions

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

b. Parks and Beautification Commission

Presentation of the annual plan.

c. Glenn Bodenheimer, Finance Director

To provide an update on Opioid Funding.

XI. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

XII. MAYORAL REPORT

XIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Business Development Committee

b. Community Development Committee

c. Finance, Audit and Budget Committee

XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- a. Discussion and receipt of legal advice regarding proposed contractual arrangements involving the creation of an intergovernmental public body as referenced in Bill No. 2026-10 [30-4-70(a)(2)].**
- b. Discussion regarding a development project as referenced in Resolution No. 2026-14 [30-4-70(a)(5)].**
- c. Discussion regarding appointments to city Boards and Commissions [30-4-70(a)(1)].**
- d. Discussion regarding an Economic Development project located within the Downtown Central (D-2) District [30-4-70(a)(5)].**
- e. Discussion and receipt of legal advice regarding proposed contractual arrangements involving Florence School District One [30-4-70(a)(2)].**
- f. Personnel matter regarding the reappointment of judges [30-4-70(a)(1)].**

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

XV. ADJOURN



**FLORENCE CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 2026 – 9:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.
FRIDAY, JANUARY 9, 2026 – 9:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.
THE GEORGE HOTEL
615 FRONT STREET, GEORGETOWN, SC 29440**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mayor Lethonia Barnes, Mayor Pro Tempore George Jebaily, Councilman Chaquez T. McCall, Councilman Bryan A. Braddock, Councilwoman LaShonda NeSmith-Jackson, Councilman J. Lawrence Smith, II and Councilman Zach McKay (via telephone)

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; Mr. Glenn Bodenheimer, Interim Finance Director; Interim Police Chief Stephen Starling, Florence Police Department; Chief Shannon Tanner, Florence Fire Department; Mrs. Jennifer Krawiec, Director of Human Resources; Mr. Jerry Dudley, Director of Utility Operations; Mr. Josh Whittington, Director of Utility Operations; Mr. Michael Hemingway, Director of Utility Planning and Economic Development; Mrs. Victoria Nash, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Sports Tourism; Mrs. Amanda Pope, Director of Marketing/Communications and Municipal Services and Mr. Adam Swindler, Director of Public Works

Notices of this Work Session 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.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Barnes called the Thursday, January 8, 2026 Work Session of Florence City Council to order at 9:07a.m.

INVOCATION

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

WORK SESSION

Mr. Scotty Davis, City Manager, opened the session and said his budget philosophy is that staff has an unwavering commitment to ensuring the city is delivering high-quality services and is responsive to the needs and concerns of our residents. How do we do this?



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WORK RETREAT – JANUARY 8-9, 2026**

1. Develop operational budgets within projected available revenues.
2. Focus on goals of Comprehensive Plan:
 - Growth Capacity
 - Land Use and Development
 - Housing and Neighborhoods
 - Transportation
 - Economic Development
 - Recreation and Amenities
3. Invest strategically in employees by providing adequate pay, benefits, training, technology resources, support, etc.
4. Balance reinvestment in the City's existing infrastructure and facilities with the creation of new opportunities for investing in the future of the City.
5. Maintain a minimum General Fund balance of at least 30% of the General Fund budget.
6. Maintain sufficient working capital in the utility funds.

Mr. Davis gave an overview of the meeting agenda:

1. FY 2024-2025 Year End Financial Review
 - The General Fund
 - Water and Sewer Fund
 - Storm Water Utility Fund
 - Debt
2. FY 2026-2027 Budget Influencers
3. Municipality Funding Sources
4. City Manager's Office/City Center Market
5. Human Resources
6. Police
7. Fire
 - Building Department
8. Public Works
 - Beautification and Facilities
 - Equipment Maintenance
 - Sanitation
9. Parks, Recreation and Sports Tourism
10. Utilities Department
11. Water & Sewer Master Planning & Economic Development
12. Utilities Quarterly Update
13. Community Services
14. Growth and Development
15. Housing Needs Assessment
16. Residential Development
17. Projects Update
18. Artificial Intelligence
19. Opioid Funding Discussion
20. Discussion & Questions

Mr. Davis reviewed the First Principle of Public Finance which includes promoting accountability, creating value with public money, ensuring fairness, upholding stewardship of public resources, championing financial resiliency and being a decision architect. Mr. Davis also mentioned that a Capital Improvement Plan will be provided for Council's consideration on the General Fund side. He noted that



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the Utility Fund has had a Capital Improvement Plan for some time now. This will be a first time for the General Fund and Mr. Davis noted that the city won't see the fruits of this plan until a few years due to building the plan up.

Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson inquired about what types of expenses could be covered under the Capital Improvement Plan. Mr. Davis explained that the funds could be used for Public Safety needs, such as purchasing a new fire truck or new police vehicles, as well as updating heavy equipment for the Public Works Department and other capital-related purchases. He also noted that funds could be set aside annually to help cover the cost of future capital purchases when they become necessary.

FY 2024-25 Year End Review

Mr. Glenn Bodenheimer, Interim Finance Director, reviewed the FY 2024-2025 audit results for the City of Florence. Mr. Bodenheimer shared that the City received an unmodified (“clean”) opinion. He also shared that the City ended fiscal year 2025 in a strong overall financial position, with total net position of \$248.1 million, reflecting the excess of assets over liabilities. Governmental activities increased net position by \$9.9 million, while business-type activities increased net position by \$12.9 million. Total net position increased by \$22.8 million during the year, demonstrating continued financial stability.

Highlights of the FY 2025 Annual Comprehensive Financial Plan:

- For the Fiscal Year ended June 30, 2025, the City’s General Fund reported a combined fund balance of \$42.9 million, an increase \$633,652.
- At year end, the City’s Governmental Funds reported total outstanding debt declined by \$13.1 million, a decrease of 6.2%.
- The City maintains strong credit ratings: AA- (Standard & Poor’s), Aa2 (Moody’s).
- Business-type activities increased net position by \$12.9 million. Utility rate adjustments implemented in FY 2024 to support capacity expansion, regulatory compliance and long-term system reliability.
- Utility revenues increased by approximately \$5.6 million (13.1%) compared to prior year.

The General Fund:

The following chart illustrates the General Fund Revenues in 2025 compared to 2024. Property tax revenue is up from 2024, as well as miscellaneous revenues and revenues from other funding sources.

General Fund Revenues

Revenues	2025	2024	% Variance
Property Tax	\$14,453,969	\$12,333,683	17.19%
Licenses, Permits, and Fees	18,646,775	18,358,492	1.57%
Intergovernmental	8,248,637	6,155,674	34.00%
Charges for Services	3,963,189	3,602,808	10.00%
Fines and Forfeitures	229,652	175,180	28.89%
Investment Earnings	966,680	1,072,640	-9.8%
Miscellaneous	1,339,207	640,574	109.06%
Other Funding Sources	314,221	392,392	-19.92%



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Transfers In	8,634,913	17,561,402	-50.83%
Total Revenues	\$56,797,243	\$60,295,845	-5.80%

Councilman McKay asked about the total revenue generated from the rental registry. Mr. Clint Moore, Assistant City Manager Clint, explained that revenue was approximately \$7,700 in 2021, increased to about \$15,000 in 2022 as compliance improved, then decreased to just over \$10,000 in 2023 and 2024, which was expected since owners with five or more units only pay the permit fee once. Revenue rose again to around \$15,000 in 2025 after additional compliance efforts. Councilman McKay expressed concern that, if not fully utilized, the registry could seem like an unnecessary tax. Mr. Moore responded that the city has seen positive impacts in working with property owners to bring properties into compliance without shutting down residential units. Following discussion among Council and staff, Mayor Barnes requested that Council convene at a later date to further review and discuss the rental registry.

The following chart illustrated the General Fund Expenditures in 2025 compared to 2024. Total expenditures have decreased approximately 1.7%.

General Fund Expenditures

Expenditures	2025	2024	% Variance
General Government	\$ 6,193,335	\$ 5,627,764	10.05%
Public Safety	19,408,287	18,316,189	5.96%
Public Works	8,725,381	7,950,334	9.75%
Culture and Recreation	5,491,315	4,240,104	29.51%
Community Development	385,800	392,201	-1.63%
Non-Departmental	6,299,663	6,439,019	-2.16%
Debt Service: Principal	2,321,651	1,851,053	25.42%
Debt Service: Interest	847,556	1,000,891	-15.32%
Capital Outlay	7,970,749	12,819,814	-37.82%
Total Expenditures	\$57,643,737	\$58,637,369	-1.69%

Water and Sewer Fund:

The following chart illustrates the Water and Sewer Fund Revenues in 2025 compared to 2024. Total Revenues have increased approximately 14%.

Water & Sewer Fund Revenues

Revenues	2025	2024	% Variance
Current Use Charges	\$48,095,823	\$42,511,041	13.1%
Service Fee	56,806	7,202	688.8%
Miscellaneous	966,454	792,099	22.0%
Water & Sewer Tap Fees	1,299,312	1,209,086	7.5%
Investment Earnings	2,130,244	2,495,572	-14.6%



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Other Miscellaneous Revenue	36,750	72,300	-49.2%
Intergovernmental	3,961,113	1,154,030	243.2%
Gain on Asset Disposal	26,301	243,708	-89.2%
Contributed Capital	3,176,320	4,142,580	-23.3%
Total Revenues	\$59,749,123	\$52,627,618	13.5%

The following chart illustrates the Water and Sewer Fund Expenditures in 2025 compared to 2024. Total Expenditures have increased approximately 10%.

Water & Sewer Fund Expenditures

Expenses	2025	2024	% Variance
Personnel	\$7,470,989	\$6,341,871	17.8%
Employee Benefits	3,132,430	2,837,569	10.4%
Engineering	272,792	284,009	-3.9%
Utility Finance	619,178	590,794	4.8%
Wastewater Treatment	5,041,846	5,219,424	-3.4%
Water Production	4,418,129	3,744,643	18.0%
Distribution Operations	1,886,102	1,090,236	73.0%
Collection Operations	901,814	807,997	11.6%
Non-Departmental	2,028,217	2,728,711	-25.7%
Depreciation	11,243,190	10,148,298	10.8%
Economic Development	3,090,456	2,187,287	41.3%
Interest Expense	3,601,776	2,426,054	48.5%
Issuance Costs	362,336	435,329	-16.8%
Transfers	4,726,777	5,425,155	-12.9%
Total Expenditures	\$48,796,032	\$44,267,377	10.2%

Storm Water Utility Fund:

The following chart illustrates the Storm Water Utility Fund Revenues for 2025 compared to 2024. Revenues have decreased approximately 18%.

Storm Water Fund Revenues

Revenues	2025	2024	% Variance
Storm Water Service Fee	\$ 1,661,771	\$ 1,637,489	1.48%
Miscellaneous	22,280	32,647	-31.75%
Investment Earnings	273,198	287,353	-4.93%
Intergovernmental	200,583	110,041	82.28%
Gain/(Loss) on Disposals	14,799	71,510	-79.30%



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Capital Contributions	950,600	1,689,420	-43.73%
Total Revenues	\$3,123,231	\$3,828,460	-18.42%

The following chart illustrates the Storm Water Utility Fund Expenses for 2025 compared to 2024. Total expenses have decreased approximately 3%.

Storm Water Fund Expenditures

Expenses	2025	2024	% Variance
Personnel	\$269,269	\$434,116	-13.2%
Stormwater Operations	336,500	502,536	-11.3%
Depreciation and Amortization	380,726	330,956	47.3%
Interest Expense	97,136	104,439	-6.4%
Transfers Out	123,831	120,701	10.1%
Total Expenses	\$ 1,207,462	\$1,492,748	-2.5%

There was a discussion among Council and staff regarding the Storm Water Utility Fund.

Outstanding Debt:

Mr. Bodenheimer went over current outstanding debt. He said it is important to know the current debt, why municipal debt matters and what it means for the City of Florence. The City is analyzed by two rating agencies: Moody’s and Standard and Poors. The City has a rating of Aa2 with Moody’s and a rating of AA- with Standard and Poors, meaning the City is in very good standing. Mr. Bodenheimer highlighted the current outstanding governmental debt and utilities debt for the City and their maturity dates.

There was a discussion among Council and staff regarding the city’s outstanding debt. Pro tem Jebaily requested that a Stormwater Rate Study be conducted by staff to compare the City of Florence with other municipalities in the state and presented to the Business Development Meeting.

2027 Budget Influencers

External factors influencing the budget are inflation, the labor market, improved borrowing costs, residential growth and revenue uncertainty. The average inflation rate for 2025 was 2.7%, down from 2.9% in 2024. The Florence County unemployment rate is 5.3% compared to the South Carolina unemployment rate of 4.3% and the United States unemployment rate of 4.4%. Federal interest rates are projected to reduce their rate two times in 2025. Current federal rates average 4.5%-4.75% with projections of 4.8% in 2024 and 3.8% in 2025.

Mr. Glenn Bodenheimer, Interim Finance Director, went over Fiscal Year 2026-27 revenue and expenditure assumptions. It is assumed that property tax revenue will increase based off property tax assessments. Building permit revenue is down 11.6% from this time last year; however, it is too early to determine if this will continue but expectations are revenues will remain relatively flat. Business license revenue is 13.5%, but it is too early to determine if this trend will continue. Hospitality revenue is up 3.34%. Water revenue is up 10.3% and should continue to stay around this due to the rate increases. Sewer revenue is up 8.0%. Water and sewer rates will increase by 9% and 11% respectively, for inside



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city limit customers and outside customers for the Fiscal Year 2027. Operational and capital costs will continue to rise as a result of wage inflation, labor market conditions, interest rates and borrowing costs, and the impacts of tariffs.

[Break: 11:05am – 11:20am]

Mr. Bodenheimer highlighted the Municipality Funding Sources for the City which include property taxes, business licenses/franchise fees, building permits, local government fund, local taxes (local option sales tax, local accommodations taxes), grants and bonds/debt.

Mr. Bodenheimer reviewed the city’s Business License Declining Rate Structure. Declining rates for business licenses mean the tax percentage decreases as a business’s gross income climbs past certain thresholds, so larger revenue earners pay a slightly smaller rate per thousand (effective tax rate), even through their total tax bill rises. The intention is to prevent disproportionate taxation of very large businesses and maintain competitiveness for high-sales-volume operations. The design of the declining rate structure significantly impacts equity and revenues. The current structure is highly favorable to large manufacturers, big box retailers, distribution and logistics operations and functions as an implicit incentive, not a targeted policy. The chart below illustrates the City’s current Declining Rate Structure:

Bracket	% Charge	# Customers
\$0-\$1M	100%	2,110
\$1M-\$4M	90%	419
\$4M-\$7M	75%	60
\$7M-\$10M	50%	31
\$10M-\$20M	25%	25
\$25M+	10%	25

Mr. Bodenheimer presented three policy options for Council’s consideration regarding a Business License Declining Rate Structure:

Policy Option 1: MASC Model Ordinance

- Smaller brackets; shrinks brackets to \$1M increments
- Caps maximum discount at 60%
- Widely used across South Carolina and aligns Florence with peer municipalities

Revenue impact:

- Prior year: \$4,650,707
- Revised: \$6,068,262
- Increase: \$1,417,555

Bracket	% Charge	# Customers
\$0-\$1M	100%	2,110
\$1M-\$2M	90%	273
\$2M-\$3M	80%	95
\$3M-\$4M	70%	51
\$4M+	60%	141



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Policy Option 2: Additional Upper Tiers

- Slows the rate of decline
- Maintains incentive structure but moderates the extreme outliers
- Puts a cap at 50% vs. the current 10% for business over \$20M

Revenue impact:

- Prior year: \$4,650,707
- Revised: \$6,065,554
- Increase: \$1,414,847

Bracket	% Charge	# Customers
\$0-\$1M	100%	2,110
\$1M-\$4M	90%	419
\$4M-\$7M	80%	60
\$7M-\$10M	70%	31
\$10M-\$20M	60%	25
\$20M+	50%	25

Policy Option 3: Small Business Oriented

- Caps highest tier at \$7M (small business friendly)
- Maintains incentive structure but moderates the extreme outliers
- Puts a cap at 60% vs. the current 50% for businesses over \$7M

Revenue impact:

- Prior year: \$4,650,707
- Revised: \$6,231,946
- Increase: \$1,581,239

Bracket	% Charge	# Customers
\$0-\$1M	100%	2,110
\$1M-\$3M	90%	368
\$3M-\$5M	80%	79
\$5M-\$7M	70%	32
\$7M+	60%	81

Mr. Bodenheimer and Mr. Davis noted that this information was presented to the Finance, Audit and Budget Committee at a previous meeting. There was a discussion among Council and staff regarding the Business License Declining Rate Structure and proposed policy options.

Florence County Penny Sales Tax IV

Mr. Bodenheimer provided what the City can and cannot do regarding the 1% Capital Projects Sales Tax. He shared that the City cannot enact a city sales tax without a change in state law. The City can receive Capital Project Sales Tax (CPST) revenue through the County. There is no statutory minimum or maximum on how much CPST funding Florence can receive. CPST allocations are determined by county leadership, any commission created, and voters; however, a commission is not legally required.



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Mr. Moore shared that the CPST IV Referendum is in November 2028. The City would provide a list of projects in 2027 to Florence County. Florence County will appoint a six-member commission and vote by summer 2028 to place on the November 2028 ballot a measure to reimpose the 1% sales tax, beginning May 1, 2029 and funds are provided by summer 2029. Potential projects for the CPST IV include \$50M for groundwater treatment plant rehabilitation, \$20M for Jeffries Creek Interceptor (Phase II), \$15M water line rehabilitation, \$28M Florence-Timmonsville Interceptor, \$7.5 Fire Station and associated equipment, \$20M road improvements, \$15M corridor improvements (Irby Street, Church Street, Palmetto Street), \$15M trail improvements and \$15M stormwater projects. There was a discussion among Council and staff regarding the Penny Sales Tax.

General Fund Capital Equipment Replacement Plan

Mr. Bodenheimer presented the General Fund Capital Equipment Replacement Plan for Council’s consideration. The proposed annual contribution for this plan is \$1.44M. He shared that dedicated annual contribution smooths costs over time, avoids emergency purchases and supports fiscal sustainability. The assets covered by this plan include 3 patrol vehicles for the Police Department; 2 ladder trucks, 6 fire engines and 1 rescue truck for the Fire Department; dump trucks, backhoes/loaders and an asphalt truck for Beautification/Public Works and 4 commercial sanitation trucks for Sanitation.

Mr. Bodenheimer shared that stormwater user fee revenues are no longer sufficient to cover operating expenses, debt service and required fund transfers resulting in a growing structural funding gap. A stormwater user fee increase is needed in the upcoming budget year to maintain service levels and financial stability. A rate study similar to the Water and Sewer rate will be conducted to review the city’s stormwater user fees to implement a 10-year replacement plan.

Human Resources

Mrs. Jennifer Krawiec, Human Resources Director, emphasized that employees are the most important part of the organization. She said that Human Resources is committed to recruiting, retaining, and investing in employees while competing with government and private sector jobs, as well as other geographic locations.

Mrs. Krawiec also provided an overview of compensation strategies, highlighting the importance of annual cost-of-living and merit increases to maintain competitive starting salaries and prevent salary compression. She also shared the benefits that the City currently offers to employees to include healthcare, retention bonuses for some departments and an employee finders fee.

Calendar Year	Inflation Rate	Fiscal Year	COL Increase	Merit Increase
2016	1.3%	2016-17	2.0%	2.0% and 4.0%
2017	2.1%	2017-18	1.0%	2.0% & 4.0%
2018	2.4%	2018-19	1.0%	2.0% & Bonus
2019	1.8%	2019-20	2.0%	2.0%
2020	1.2%	2020-21	2.0%	2.0% & 4.0%
2021	4.7%	2021-22	2.0%	2.0% & Bonus
2022	8.0%	2022-23	2.0%	2.0% & Bonus
2023	4.1%	2023-24	8.0%	0.0%
2024	2.7%	2024-25	4.0%	2.0% & Bonus
2025	3.0%	2025-26	4.0%	0.0%



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Mrs. Krawiec discussed compensation challenges the City faces. Regarding the Police Department, this year's 4% cost of living increase allowed the compensation for non-certified and certified officers to continue to be competitive with surrounding agencies.

The City offers benefit opportunities to include PEBA health insurance, state retirement, an onsite nurse practitioner, and paid retiree insurance.

Mrs. Krawiec said some concepts that are currently implemented to assist with recruitment and retention include a higher finder's fee for key positions; bus wrap with Pee Dee Regional Transportation Authority (PDRTA); hiring events/career fairs; new promotional videos. Advertising is expensive, yet the City's top recruiting methods are digital outreach and personal connections.

There was a discussion among Council and staff regarding the reappointment of city judges.

City Manager's Office

Mrs. Amanda Pope, Director of Marketing, Communications, and Municipal Services, provided an update on the City's Marketing and Promotions 2025 recap. In 2025, the City shared 17 Florence in Focus videos, published numerous awareness campaigns, maintained the Interactive Water Management Portal, held two sessions of City University, with the first session of Youth City U being held in Fall 2025, completed and launched website redesign in February 2025 and updated to a new domain (www.cityofflorence.sc.gov) in October 2025.

Mrs. Pope provided an overview of Municipal Services 2025, highlighting several key initiatives and updates. She reported progress on the comprehensive recodification of the City's Code of Ordinances. Once CivicPlus completes the final edits, the City will move forward with printing and distributing the updated Code, a process expected to take approximately 2 – 3 months. The adopting ordinance is projected to go before Council for approval in late spring/early summer 2026. Mrs. Pope also shared that implementation of the new Agenda Management Solution is ongoing. Staff training on agenda creation is underway, with full operational use anticipated in February 2026. In addition, she highlighted several Employee Wellness Program initiatives, including the 10th annual Flo Town 5K, participation in the Pee Dee Heart Walk, the Full Forward Fitness program, and the Earth Day cleanup walk.

Mrs. Pope outlined proposed citywide initiatives from the City Manager's Office, including updating the Christmas decorations along the I-20/David McLeod Boulevard corridor and developing new city branding. She noted that the existing holiday decorations, installed in the early to mid-2000s, are due for replacement. The estimated cost for new decorations and garland ranges from \$150,000 to \$200,000. Additionally, the City is considering refreshing its branding. She said that a community's brand is more than just a name, logo, or tagline; it represents a shared promise, shaped by every interaction and experience within the community. The current "Full Life, Full Forward Florence" brand was launched in April 2017, and the estimated cost for development and implementation of new branding is between \$100,000 and \$150,000. Mr. Davis added that, if Council chooses to proceed, these initiatives could be funded through the 30% early purchases allocation.

Mrs. Pope provided an update on the City Center Farmers Market. She shared that the market received a \$1,250 Art Support Grant from the South Carolina Arts Commission to fund a mural on the dumpster enclosure. She also outlined several future needs, including general maintenance costing approximately \$50,000 to \$100,000; a new entrance sign at Darlington and Sanborn Streets costing approximately \$20,000; an additional permanent shed costing approximately \$85,000; and a software management program costing approximately \$5,000 to \$6,000.



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Mrs. Pope also provided an update on the Commercial Kitchen. She discussed the number of current users, future considerations such as the repair or replacement of commercial kitchen equipment, and shared success stories from former kitchen users. Mr. Davis reminded Council that requests for repairs/maintenance could be funded with the 30% early purchases funding.

[Recess for lunch: 1:02pm – 2:01pm]

[Councilman McKay, via telephone, left the meeting at 1:02pm.]

Police Department

Captain Stephen Starling, Interim Police Chief, presented the 2025 call volume report, crime statistics, and an update on downtown patrol coverage. He reported that the Florence Police Department responded to just under 58,000 calls for service during the year and that overall violent crime has decreased by approximately 13% compared to 2024.

Mr. Davis asked Captain Starling what he attributes to the reduction in crime. Captain Starling cited the department's continued investment in technology, including FLOCK cameras and other technological resources, as key factors contributing to the decline. He also noted that the department achieved a 100% homicide clearance rate for 2024 cases and currently stands at 99% for 2025. Regarding downtown patrol coverage, Class III and CAT officers rotate through the area as availability allows throughout their shifts. The department plans to add an additional CAT officer in January 2026. In addition, Captain Barley and Lieutenant Watts conduct foot patrols at various times during the day to enhance the department's downtown presence.

Captain Starling reviewed the life expectancy of a patrol vehicle. The goal is to keep a patrol vehicle for 5 years and/or 90,000-100,000 miles but it's actually 3-4 years and/or 60,000-75,000 miles. The biggest factor in the life expectancy of patrol vehicles is engine hours. The average patrol vehicle can have over 3,000 engine idle hours within years of use. This is the equivalent of 90,000 miles. Captain Starling shared that the Police Department has on average 50 vehicles that are used for daily response services and another 20-25 vehicles are utilized by specialty units. The Police Department received \$480,000 in state grant funding, which allowed the Police Department to purchase 1 transport vehicle and 1 K-9 patrol vehicle. 2 crime scene trucks and 3 unmarked vehicles were also purchased for Administrative positions such as Evidence, Victim's Advocate and community services.

Captain Starling said the approximate cost for a patrol vehicle is \$80,000, with the vehicle costing approximately \$50,000 and upfitting costs around \$30,000. The Police Department is requesting 5 patrol vehicles, approximately costing \$400,000. He shared that the best method for cycling vehicles is to purchase 3-5 vehicles per year which will allow a turnover of approximately one quarter of the fleet every 4 years.

Councilman Braddock raised concerns about Police Department vehicles being stored in an open lot, noting that from both a safety and appearance standpoint, the vehicles should be housed in a warehouse or other enclosed storage facility. He expressed concern that the current arrangement could create a negative public perception. Captain Starling responded that most of the vehicles in the lot are either out of service or designated as spare vehicles and agreed with Councilman Braddock's concerns regarding storage and presentation.



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Captain Starling then presented a request for a firearm upgrade, approximately costing \$100,000. The firearm upgrade would include new weapons for the Police Department, as well as new holsters.

Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson inquired on how often the Police Department participates in firearm training. Captain Starling said the Department must complete annual certification with the state and officers are required to participate in a quarterly certification or training within the Department. It was suggested that the firearms upgrade could be purchased with the 30% early purchase funding.

Captain Starling then reviewed technology upgrades to include Clearview AI, five Panasonic toughbooks and three DJI avata drones. Additional technology upgrades include a Knightscope Emergency Call Box Tower for trails and remote areas, Knightscope Emergency E-Phone for parking garages, parking lots or alleyways and surveillance trailers, a security option for large events and temporary or long-term overwatch in specific need areas. There was a discussion among Council and staff regarding technology upgrades for the Police Department.

Captain Starling then provided statistics for the Real Time Crime Center. Since the implementation of the Real Time Crime Center (RTCC), the Police Department has utilized FLOCK cameras and Drone as a First Responder (DFR) to improve the quality of service offered to the citizens through increased officer safety, improved information gathering for more adequate and prompt police response, low priority call clearances, reducing strain of resources and decreased lead time and increased clearance rates for reported crimes. The RTCC has been instrumental in the informational phases of investigating crimes and has played the primary role in numerous investigations resulting in arrests or felons.

Captain Starling shared the continued costs for the RTCC and options for the RTCC moving forward to include the FLOCK safe city program, a 10 year contract approximately \$3.9 million. There was a discussion among Council and staff regarding the RTCC and the FLOCK safe city program.

Fire Department

Mr. Shannon Tanner, Fire Chief, shared that the Fire Department averages about 4,400 calls per year. The Fire Department is about 40% medical and 60% fire related issues. Chief Tanner discussed the current and upcoming needs of the Fire Department. He began with an overview of the current status of the Fire Department. Chief Tanner said the Fire Department is currently running seven companies comprised of six Engine Companies and one Ladder Company, responding out of six stations. In order to maintain the current ISO rating of 1, Fire Department response must be in five minutes 90% of the time for the first due engine and nine minutes 90% of the time for the second due engine and first due ladder.

Chief Tanner discussed fire apparatus replacement. Currently, the Fire Department needs to replace one first out pumper that has 7,075 engine hours, which equates to an odometer reading of 283,000 miles. Two staff vehicles also need to be replaced. Chief Tanner also shared that the Fire Department's Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBAs) must be replaced, according to Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) guidelines and Department of Transportation (DOT) mandates. The Fire Department has submitted a grant for the purchase of replacement SCBAs, which has a 10% match. If the department does not receive the grant, the SCBAs will need to be purchased outright using a lease program starting in the FY 26-27 budget to stay in compliance with the regulations.

Chief Tanner spoke of Fire Department facilities and growth. Due to annexation and continued growth, Chief Tanner discussed the need to add an additional Engine Company on the west side of the City at Fire Station #4, an additional Battalion Chief, and an additional Fire Station on the southeast side of the City.



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Adding this additional company would improve response times and resource distribution in a high demand zone and support community growth by aligning resources with expanding infrastructure and population. It also helps to maintain coverage and response times in line with guidelines to growth boundaries. The Fire Department has applied for a SAFER grant which would offset the cost of the personnel for three years. If the grant is received, the grant will pay 75% of the cost of the personnel for the first two years of employment and then 35% for the third year. After the third year, the City would absorb the total cost of the personnel.

Chief Tanner discussed the current Building Department status. Over the last three years, the Building Department has experienced an overall increase of over 40% in inspections. If this increase continues, the City will need to hire additional inspectors to keep up with the increase. Chief Tanner said the Building Department will be reinstating re-inspection fees and proposed increasing building permit fees to be more in line with other municipalities. There was a discussion regarding the inspection process and fees among Council and staff.

After much discussion of fees among Council and staff, Councilman McCall requested that Council be provided a list of all fees proposed in the FY 2026-27 budget.

Public Works Department

Mr. Adam Swindler, Public Works Director, said Beautification and Facilities (including the animal shelter), Equipment Maintenance, and Sanitation are the three divisions of the Public Works Department. Mr. Swindler then provided an overview of future Public Works needs. Current Beautification and Facilities Division needs include four additional employees; various capital equipment such as forklift, motor grader, backhoe, skid-steer, tree trucks, brush chipper, fleet pickups, and fleet mowers; and new housing/space for offices, equipment storage, and sign shop operations. Mr. Swindler also discussed necessary facility repairs for the animal shelter. There was a discussion among Council and staff regarding the operations of the animal shelter.

Current Equipment Maintenance Division needs include three additional employees; an updated/new facility and amenities to meet current and future service/repair needs; capital equipment; and other items such as a Fleet Maintenance Management Software. Mr. Swindler shared that the Fleet Management Software will begin implementation in February and is scheduled to go live in March 2026.

Mr. Swindler spoke on the Sanitation Division next. Sanitation collects approximately 14,450 residential units per week or approximately 2890 units per day. For every 500 units added, an additional route/truck is needed. Mr. Swindler discussed the transfer fee increases over the last 8 years. The recycling fee has risen significantly and now stands at \$186.85 per ton, while only about 25% of the City's residents participate in the program. In fiscal year 2025, 296 tons of co-mingled/single-stream recyclable material were collected, at an approximate cost of \$50,320. He emphasized that the City needs to make a decision regarding recycling due to low participation coupled with rising costs. There was a discussion among Council and staff regarding yard waste collection and recycling.

Mr. Swindler presented needs for the Sanitation Division to include new facilities and additional trucks. Mr. Swindler discussed aging offices and buildings at the Public Works Department site. New facilities needed include offices, meeting and training rooms, lockers and bathrooms and showers. Depending on annexation numbers, it is forecast that two residential rear loader trucks will be necessary at a cost of approximately \$700,000. If the City continues the recycling program, an additional commercial front loader truck will be necessary at a cost of approximately \$600,000. Prices for sanitation trucks are expected to increase. Currently, a commercial front loader is \$400,000, a basic residential rear loader is



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\$275,000, an upgraded residential rear loader is \$325,000, a grapple loader is \$200,000 and a lift gate truck for roll cart delivery is \$65,000. Mr. Swindler reviewed some issues sanitation faces to include landlord evictions. In South Carolina State Code, a landlord is able to set the evicted tenant's belongings on the curb. The City then must collect the items, but only after forty-eight hours has passed. There was a discussion among Council and staff regarding best practices for handling landlord evictions.

ADJOURN

Without objection, the January 8, 2026 Retreat Work Session of City Council was adjourned at 4:58p.m.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 9, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Barnes called the Friday, January 9, 2026 Work Retreat Session of Florence City Council to order at 8:59a.m.

INVOCATION

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

Water & Sewer Impact Fee Proposal

Mr. Davis explained that impact fees are a tool the City can use to help fund growth and development. These fees would apply to water and sewer services, as well as general government services such as Fire, Police, Public Works, and Parks and Recreation. As development continues, impact fees would be proposed to help ensure that existing residents are not required to cover, through their taxes, the costs associated with new development. For example, a large new subdivision could create demand for additional equipment, such as a fire truck or sanitation truck, to adequately serve the area and meet service requirements. The City of Florence was also compared with other municipalities throughout the state to evaluate how its proposed impact fees align with those currently in place elsewhere.

Mr. Daryll Parker and Ms. Tara Hollis of Willdan Financial Services joined the meeting via teleconference to present the Water and Sewer Impact Fee Proposal to Council. The following chart illustrates the Water and Sewer Impact Fee Proposal:

City of Florence, SC	Water	Wastewater	Combined
Proposed Fee per ERU	\$ 4,260	4,450	8,710

Mr. Parker shared that the figures presented represent maximum allowable amounts, and that Council has may adopt fees at any level below those amounts, provided they remain legally defensible.

Councilman Braddock asked whether the fees would apply to all new development. Mr. Parker confirmed that they would be imposed on any new residential or commercial development connecting to the City's utility system. Councilman Braddock expressed concerns that implementing impact fees could discourage affordable and workforce housing opportunities from coming to the area.



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Councilman McKay spoke against imposing impact fees, saying that the City is currently functioning well and managing growth effectively without them.

Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson expressed support for impact fees, noting that they could help offset the costs of road maintenance, particularly when roads are damaged by heavy equipment associated with new development and construction activity.

Councilman McCall asked for clarification on whether there would be separate impact fees for water and sewer versus general services. Mr. Parker responded that these fees are typically structured as separate categories.

There was a discussion among Council and staff regarding the Water and Sewer Impact Fee Proposal.

The following chart illustrates the General Services Impact Fee Proposal:

Land Use	Fire and Rescue Facilities	Police Facilities	Parks and Rec Facilities	Sanitation Facilities	Total
Residential (per Dwelling Unit)					
Single Family	\$ 1,615.82	\$ 571.03	\$ 3,130	\$ 332.28	\$ 5,649.13
Multifamily	1,051.34	371.55	2,037	216.20	3,676.09
Nonresidential (per 1,000 sq. ft)					
Commercial	\$ 646.66	\$ 228.52	\$ -	\$ 492.84	\$ 1,368.02
Industrial	436.53	154.26	\$ -	492.84	1,083.63

Ms. Hollis shared that Parks and Recreation will have the most variation in rates due to only being applied to residential customers.

Councilman McCall inquired on the projected annual revenue amount from impact fees. Mr. Hemingway said it has not been determined at this time.

There was a discussion among Council and staff regarding the General Services Impact Fee Proposal. Mayor Barnes suggested that Council reconvene at a later time to review impact fees and find a solution that will benefit the City. Mr. Davis said if Council wishes to move forward with impact fees, it will require to go before Planning Commission for review before being adopted by Council.

Water & Sewer Master Planning & Economic Development

Mr. Michael Hemingway, Utility Planning and Economic Development Director, highlighted potential federal funding opportunities. Current funding requests include \$5M Continuing Resolution (CR) for the City’s for the Surface Water Treatment Plant Expansion from Senator Lindsey Graham and \$2.75M CR



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for the Surface Water Treatment Plant Expansion through the Water Resources Development Act 2024 from Congressman Russell Frye, 7th District South Carolina Representative.

Mr. Hemingway then highlighted key achievements of the City to include:

- City Council adopted Master Plans – Water, Sewer and Stormwater
- SCRIA – SCIPP Water Line Distribution projects all completed and operational
- Began SCRIA – SCIPP GE GWTP Project
- Installation of the new 24 inch water transmission main to serve Florence Global Technology Park along Energy Drive
- Increased consistency of monthly meter reading for water billing
- Bid and awarded \$52M SWTP Project
- Obtained better than market projection \$138M Water & Sewer Bond Issuance for water and sewer projects

Mr. Hemingway also highlighted 2026 Goals for Water & Sewer Master Planning & Economic Development:

- Closeout SCRIA-SCIPP Projects Grant - \$9,908M
- GE GWTP online
- Achieve SCRIA \$1.5M grant for sewer project – Spring 2026
- Complete all installation and operational gravity sewer, force main, and pump station to serve Florence Global Technology Park
- SWTP capital maintenance and rehabilitation project begins
- SCDES approves SWTP increased production capacity from 10-15MG
- Start construction of the new IMG Florence East Industrial Park elevated water tank
- Start construction of the East Palmetto Phase I sewer corridor improvements
- Awarded and obtained in hand federally funded projects
- Continue to increase meter staff efficiency with quality customer service

Mr. Hemingway and Mr. Whittington provided a copy of the Water & Sewer Quarterly Update to Council and reviewed the \$138M current bond water and sewer projects.

Councilman McCall requested that Council receive pictures of SCADA installation on the city's water plants.

Parks, Recreation, and Sports Tourism

Mrs. Victoria Nash, Director of Parks, Recreation and Sports Tourism and Mr. Scotty Davis, City Manager, highlighted the City of Florence Parks, Recreation and Sport Tourism Master Plan which was conducted by Coastal Carolina University's Sport Management Graduate Department in spring 2025. Eight recommendations were included in the Master Plan to include aquatic programs, focus on maintaining trails and trail safety, increase community events, adapted programming for people with disabilities, implement homeless and safety protocols, fitness and wellness programs, community engagement/marketing and increase participation fees.

Mrs. Nash spoke on the importance of adding wayfinding signage to the city's trails and said this initiative could be funded with the 30% early purchase funding. Investing in quality wayfinding signage will not only improve the safety of the trail system but also enhance the overall enjoyment. She also



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highlighted interpretive signage at the city's parks. Interpretive signs serve as outdoor graphic displays that enhance awareness, appreciation and understanding of the environment.

Mrs. Nash also highlighted the importance of additional park site amenities. Upgrading these amenities, such as upgrading the existing park benches, not only add practical value but also promote a sense of community and encourage outdoor activities. There is a need to replace picnic shelters at Lucas Park and Jebaily Park. Upgrading these shelters allows for the installation of durable materials and low-maintenance features, reducing long-term costs and ensuring the shelters remain in good condition for an extended period of time.

Mrs. Nash then shared that Lester Park no longer meets the needs of the community due to low usage, aging infrastructure and the high cost of ongoing maintenance relative to its benefit. It was proposed to better invest resources currently allocated to Lester Park in parks and facilities that serve a larger portion of the community to align with current recreation demands.

There was a discussion among Council and staff regarding potential initiatives to replace with Lester Park.

Mrs. Nash said improving Jebaily Park by adding a disc golf course and enhancing passive play areas would activate the space while preserving its natural character.

Mrs. Nash spoke of the Blue Trail System and Florence Trail System. She highlighted the current accessibility challenges at the boat launches, specifically at Cashua Drive, Jeffries Creek and Naturally Outdoors. Current access points seem to be inadequate and there is a need for better infrastructure to facilitate easier and safer boat launches.

Mrs. Nash shared that part of the 30% fund request includes a bus for Parks, Recreation and Sports Tourism to support city programs. This request supports the replacement of an aging 2002 bus and meets growing transportation needs. The cost for the bus is approximately \$150,000.

Mrs. Nash provided an update on the Carolina Bank Field Upgrades. These upgrades are required by the Coastal Plain League Facility Standards and Compliance Procedures. The league will cover the cost of the pitch clocks. There is a need for the jumbotron at the stadium, approximately \$190,000. The league will also implement a sonic deck, which will be paid for by the league.

Mrs. Nash spoke on department projects. These projects will be covered under the hospitality bond and include a football complex, tennis projects, expansion of the Pearl Moore Basketball Center and the Levy Park expansion project. Mrs. Nash shared that Timrod Park and McLeod Park Master Plans have been considered to maintain and upgrade these parks. Once funding becomes available, these Master Plans will be implemented.

Mrs. Nash closed by highlighting the repairs needed at the Freedom Florence Complex. The complex is experiencing significant age-related infrastructure issues that impact safety, functionality and code compliance. An estimated \$1 million investment is needed to modernize the facility, address deferred maintenance and bring the complex back into full compliance to ensure long-term usability and safety.

[Break: 10:57am – 11:16am]



Utilities Department

Mr. Josh Whittington, Utilities Director, spoke on the workforce of the Utilities Department. The City is in a strong position with licensed operators in Water Production and Wastewater Treatment. Utilities Department is comprised of employees with technical expertise and specialized skills. Mr. Whittington said entry level positions are easy to fill but mid-level skill positions such as Equipment Operators and Team Leaders are harder to fill. The Utilities Department will continue to implement policies to incentivize training and employee development to address these challenges.

Mr. Whittington highlighted the effects of rising costs on the Utilities Department to include electricity, chemicals, landfill fees, pipe fittings and supplies, and contracting utility work beyond the city staff's capability.

Mr. Whittington reviewed the equipment needs of the Utilities Department which include an excavator with truck and flatbed (approximately \$500,000), vacuum tanker (approximately \$75,000) and a sewer vac truck (approximately \$575,000).

Mr. Whittington said project needs for the Utilities Department include:

- Otis Way water
- Kings Gate sewer force main
- Irby Street water
- McCurdy Road water
- Spoil pile removal from Public Works
- Asbestos program
- Stadium Road water

Mr. Whittington highlighted the benefits of remote monitoring and SCADA by providing a demonstration of the city's SCADA system. SCADA has the ability to remotely monitor, access and control offsite locations. It assists in monitoring lift stations for failure and/overflow, groundwater production and potential problems, receive alarms to operators for quick response, and monitor tank levels and water system pressures. City staff is able to log into VT SCADA to view water plants, tanks, system pressure and lift stations.

Pro tem Jebaily referenced the water and sewer projects included in the bond approved by Council and asked if it will fully resolve the City's water quality issues. Mr. Whittington said that the proposed projects will resolve about half of the issues, with the remaining issues being addressed in the second phase of the bond. Mr. Hemingway the remaining bond is for \$50 million and shared that the current bond will occur over a 3-year period. He explained that the City cannot bond money for years and not use it.

There was a discussion among Council and staff regarding water quality issues and the plans to address water quality issues. Council requested a way to show the community the progress of the distribution system. Pro tem Jebaily requested a timeline regarding water quality plan/repairs and updates.

Mr. Whittington then reviewed Distribution Operations. In FY 2025–26, funding was allocated to establish a dedicated leak repair team to promptly address and repair water line breaks. Looking ahead, he emphasized that as treatment plants are rehabilitated, corresponding investments must also be made in the distribution system. There was a discussion among Council and staff regarding hiring a public relations firm for water operations



[Break: 12:06pm – 12:25pm]

Mr. Whittington then highlighted the City's wastewater treatment operations. He noted that the wastewater treatment plant is in need of updates and repairs, which have been incorporated into the Wastewater Treatment Bond projects. Additional investments are also needed in SCADA monitoring for lift stations, along with maintenance contracts for generators and medium-voltage equipment.

Mr. Whittington also addressed Collections and Stormwater Operations. He explained that the Collections System is aging, and some necessary repairs require costly contractor agreements. The Council previously approved the Sewer Master Plan, which includes a total of 16 projects valued at approximately \$225 million and scheduled through 2045. Mr. Whittington stated that the Sewer Master Plan will serve as a roadmap for investing in and improving the Collections System, as well as for managing and eliminating sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs).

There was a discussion among Council and staff regarding SSOs.

Mr. Whittington further noted that the City's stormwater system is also aging and complex, and it was not designed to accommodate the intensity of storms that have become more common in recent years. He noted that the City, Florence County and South Carolina Department of Transportation (DOT) all own a part of the stormwater system. He referenced the Stormwater Master Plan and related Capital Improvement Projects, which include 51 projects totaling approximately \$47.6 million.

Mr. Whittington highlighted the Maintenance/Compliance Division. He said this is a small division but handles a big variety of important work. The Maintenance Division primarily focuses on maintenance of Utilities plants and equipment, other city facilities such as parks, recreational areas, offices), and banners and Christmas lights. He spoke of the new NFPA 70B requirements and said going forward, adequate staff needs to be ensured to handle the electrical and maintenance needs of the City.

Mr. Whittington said the Compliance Division maintains regulatory compliance and main focus is on safety. He acknowledged the addition of a new safety position, and this person will move safety programs forward and push safety to a new level in Utilities.

Community Services

Mr. Dudley gave an overview of the projects in progress to include rehabilitation, weatherization, demolition, new home construction and the East Pine Development. Mr. Dudley also provided an overview of Building Florence Together, the city's nonprofit organization, the Pine Street Master Plan and the City Center Building.

Growth and Development

Mr. Jerry Dudley, Planning Director, spoke on the methods of annexation. South Carolina has three methods of annexation: 100% method in which 100 percent of residents in a defined area petition for annexation; 75% method in which 75 percent of residents in a defined area petition for annexation; or 25% method in which 25 percent of residents in a defined area petition for annexation, a public referendum must be held, and a majority vote will determine if the properties are annexed. Mr. Dudley also reviewed the annual cost comparison between city residents and county residents. The annual cost for city residents is \$3,821.71, compared to \$4,641.99 for county residents. There was a discussion among Council and staff regarding annexations and the benefits for residents and businesses inside the city limits to include Police, Fire, Sanitation, Utilities, Public Work, and Administrative Services.



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Mr. Dudley spoke on future considerations for city growth and development. Important concepts to consider with annexation, growth and development is the direction of residential growth; the direction of commercial growth; and impacts related to the extension of water and sewer infrastructure, stormwater, road maintenance, street lighting, sanitation services, fire services, police services, codes enforcement and zoning. There are common municipal strategies to assist with the cost for growth, such as impact fees and special purpose tax districts.

Mr. Dudley spoke on upcoming projects that will need to be addressed in the Unified Development Ordinance. These include an update to the sign ordinance, tiny homes/cottage development, townhomes, a tree ordinance and neighborhood stores. Projects underway include the five-year update to the 2020 Comprehensive Plan, a Neighborhood Revitalization Plan, and a Housing Study, which is in the final phases.

Mr. Dudley and Mr. Moore provided an overview of the Housing Needs Assessment. Key points from the assessment include 7.5% growth in households from 2010-2020, majority of the growth occurred in West Florence (14.4%) and South Florence (8.7%), the City has an aging population, housing affordability, housing availability and a rental shortage. Council will receive the full report of the Housing Needs Assessment by Patrick Bowen with Bowen National Research at the January 12th Council meeting. Mr. Dudley and Mr. Moore also provided a housing and rental outlook. The estimated population by 2030 is 47,000 residents. The recent median sales price for a home in Florence is \$240,000, up from \$159,500 in 2019. The average household income is \$65,046. The current cost of a new build residential home is \$146 per square foot and current thirty-year fixed mortgage rate is 6.20%.

Mr. Moore shared that the City has been tracking residential development since 2018. Projects in the residential development include under review, approved, under construction and complete projects. Inside the city limits, there has been 678 multifamily homes, 799 townhomes, 4,158 single family homes, and 22 tiny homes, totaling 5,657 housing units within the city limits. Outside the city limits, there has been 336 multifamily homes, 354 townhomes, 2,352 single family homes, totaling 3,042 units outside the city limits and an overall total of 8,699 housing units.

Projects Update

Mr. Moore provided an update on stormwater projects in relation to the \$7 million stormwater bond. Projects completed include St. Anthony/College Park, Sandhurst West, Tarleton Estates. Surveying and engineering has begun for Malden Drive. Cannon Street is on hold, portions of work will be tied in with Pennsylvania Street and the city is working with Florence County on Woodland Drive. Rebecca Street has been on hold for 2 years due to easement related issues. Pennsylvania Street is under construction. Engineering is set to begin spring 2026 for Dargan and Elm Streets and the Cheves Street (underpass) projects. Engineering is set to begin spring 2026 for Wisteria Drive. Cedar and McQueen Street is under construction. The North Church and Oakland Avenue project has gone through permitting and will be up for bid in January or February. The Stormwater Master Plan is complete and was adopted by Council on September 8, 2025.

Mr. Moore provided information regarding the Capital Projects Sales Tax III that was passed by referendum in November 2020. The City received \$40,000,000 from the County and a bond was issued in the summer of 2021. Approximately 170 total roadways and projects were included, and, to date, eighty roadways have been completed. Group 11, comprising twelve streets, and Group 13, comprising eleven streets will begin work the beginning of this year. There was a discussion among Council and staff



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regarding the Penny Sales Tax. Councilman McCall requested that this information be shared on social media to show the work that is currently being done.

Mr. Moore gave an overview of projects in progress, to include the Carolina Theater Renovation and 349 W. Evans Street. The Carolina Theater renovation is expected to be completed by early 2026. A \$100,000 grant was received for 349 W. Evans Street to upfit the two commercial spaces for a retail incubator and will be completed by May 2026.

Mr. Moore provided an update on the Rental Uniform Property. This property covers fourteen acres and is approximately 95,590 total square feet. City staff had discussions with the owner and a realtor regarding the City acquiring the property. Current status of the property is as follows: Phase I and Phase II ESA has been completed, all previous studies with environmental engineer Stantec have been reviewed, the non-responsible party voluntary cleanup contract from South Carolina Department of Environmental Services has been received and the Analysis of Brownfields Cleanup Analysis (ABCA) has been completed. There was a discussion among Council and staff regarding the Rental Uniform Property.

Mr. Moore highlighted the City's public-private partnerships for projects such as Urban Square, 175 N. Dargan Street, 127 W. Evans Street, Warley Street townhomes, 262 W. Cheves Street Multi-Use Development and The Sarah Townhomes. Council requested that city staff review and present funding options for increasing upfit grants.

[Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson left the meeting at 2:03pm.]

Artificial Intelligence

Currently, the City uses Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the City Manager's Office through the City's chatbot, Cypress. There was a discussion among Council and staff regarding the risks and benefits for AI in various departments such as Finance, Human Resources, Building Department and Planning, Research and Development Department.

OPIOID Funding – Community Action Plan

Mr. Davis highlighted the City of Florence Opioid Settlement Community Action Plan that was presented at the December Council meeting by the Steadman Group. Council will discuss how they would like to implement this plan moving forward.

Mayor Barnes thanked city staff for all of their hard work and dedication.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Barnes said Council will be entering into Executive Session for a personnel matter.

Pro tem Jebaily made a motion to enter into Executive Session and Councilman McCall seconded the motion. Council voted unanimously (6-0) to enter into Executive Session at 2:38pm.

Councilman McCall made a motion to resume open session and Pro tem Jebaily seconded the motion. The motion carried. Council resumed open session at 2:52pm. Mayor Barnes said no action was taken while in Executive Session.



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ADJOURN

Without objection, the January 9, 2026 Retreat Work Session of City Council was adjourned at 2:52p.m.

Dated this 9th day of March 2026.

Casey C. Moore, Municipal Clerk

Lethonia Barnes, Mayor



**REGULAR MEETING OF FLORENCE CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2026 – 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 Chaquez T. McCall, Councilman Bryan A. Braddock, Councilman J. Lawrence Smith, II and Councilman Zach McKay

MEMBERS ABSENT

Councilwoman LaShonda NeSmith-Jackson

ALSO PRESENT

Mr. Scotty Davis, City Manager; Mr. Ronald Scott, City Attorney; Mrs. Casey Moore, Municipal Clerk; Ms. Patrice Rankin, Assistant City Clerk; Mr. Clint Moore, Assistant City Manager of Development; Chief Shannon Tanner, 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. Amanda Pope, Director of Marketing/Communications and Municipal; Mr. Adam Swindler, Director of Public Works; 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

Deirdre Weaver-Currin with the Post and Courier and Jenna Guzman with WMBF News were 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 February 9, 2026 Regular meeting of Florence City Council to order at 1:01pm.

INVOCATION

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



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ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Pro tem Jebaily made a motion to move Resolution No. 2026-07 to Executive Session to seek legal advice. Councilman McKay said he thinks it would be best if this Resolution was discussed in open session. Pro tem Jebaily said discussion could take place once Council receives legal advice regarding the Resolution.

Councilman McCall made a motion to adopt the agenda for the February 9, 2026 Regular meeting and Pro tem Jebaily seconded the motion.

Council voted 4-1 to adopt the agenda, with Councilman McKay voting against the motion.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman McCall made a motion to adopt the minutes of the January 12, 2026 Regular Meeting and Councilman Braddock seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously (5-0) adopted.

SERVICE RECOGNITIONS

Mr. Scotty Davis, City Manager, recognized Amanda Pope for 30 years of service with the City of Florence.

APPEARANCES BEFORE COUNCIL

Carol Dion, President, Blue Star Mothers of Coastal Carolina

Mrs. Carol Dion, President of Blue Star Mothers of Coastal Carolina appeared before Council to speak on Wreaths Across America at the Florence National Cemetery. Mrs. Dion shared that Blue Star Mothers of Coastal Carolina serves as the area sponsorship group and was ranked the top wreath sponsorship group in South Carolina and ninth nationally last year. She explained that the group previously faced challenges disposing of cardboard on Wreaths Day and removing wreaths on Retirement Day, requiring funds intended for wreath purchases to be used for dumpsters. After being connected to Adam Swindler, Public Works Director, the Public Works Department assisted with this year's removal, which she described as the easiest and cleanest in 15 years. Mrs. Dion expressed her appreciation by presenting Mr. Swindler and the Public Works staff with a certificate of appreciation and a Challenge Coin in recognition of their support.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

Bill No. 2026-01 – First Reading

An Ordinance to annex and zone RU the property located at 2916 West Palmetto Street, identified as Florence County Tax Map Number 00100-01-031.

Pro tem Jebaily made a motion to pass Bill No. 2026-01 on first reading and Councilman McKay seconded the motion.

Mr. Jerry Dudley, Director of Planning, explained that the property, located just past Celebration Boulevard, is a large parcel where the developer is proposing to construct townhomes. The recommended zoning designation is Residential Urban (RU), which allows for higher-density residential uses such as



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townhomes and multifamily housing. City staff believes this designation is consistent with the character of the surrounding area, which includes commercial uses as well as nearby higher-density development. Planning Commission voted unanimously (7-0) to recommend both the annexation and the proposed zoning designation. There is currently a single-family home on the property that will be demolished as part of the development. Mr. Dudley also noted that Planning Commission approved the sketch plan concurrently with the zoning request.

Pro tem Jebaily asked for clarification on whether the property is adjacent to Celebration Boulevard. Mr. Dudley confirmed that it is located directly behind the commercial properties along Celebration Boulevard

Council voted unanimously (5-0) in favor of the motion. Bill No. 2026-01 was passed on first reading.

Bill No. 2026-02 – First Reading

An Ordinance to amend the Planned Development District for New Ebenezer Baptist Church at 312 South Ravenel Street, identified as Florence County Tax Map Number 90103-03-001.

Councilman McCall made a motion to pass Bill No. 2026-02 on first reading and Pro tem Jebaily seconded the motion.

Mr. Jerry Dudley, Director of Planning, said this ordinance affects the New Ebenezer Baptist Church campus, which is currently zoned Planned Development (PDD). The PDD allows the church to create its own zoning rules through a Council-adopted ordinance. The original ordinance, adopted in 2008, was site-specific. It was later amended in the early 2010s to include the Strive Hard Educational, Recreational and Enrichment Center (SHEREC). The church now seeks to add a new sign for the property. The current ordinance only addresses the existing church sign. Mr. Dudley noted that the proposed sign would be approximately 10 feet tall, include a digital component for changeable messaging along Palmetto Street, and is consistent with the character of the Palmetto Street corridor and typical campus signage. City staff is proposing to incorporate the Activity Center zoning standards into the Planned Development District. This would provide guidelines for future signage or changes. Activity Center zoning allows signs up to 80 square feet and 24 feet in height; the proposed sign is well below these limits and aligns with the corridor's character.

Council voted unanimously (5-0) in favor of the motion. Bill No. 2026-02 was passed on first reading.

Bill No. 2026-03 – First Reading

An Ordinance to amend the City of Florence *Unified Development Ordinance* regarding itinerant vendor sales, mobile services, and temporary use permits.

Councilman McKay made a motion to pass Bill No. 2026-03 on first reading and Pro tem Jebaily seconded the motion.

Mr. Jerry Dudley, Director of Planning, said this ordinance is a “clean-up” of the current code regarding itinerant vendor sales and mobile services. The current ordinance includes definitions and guidelines for itinerant vendors but does not clearly permit them in the use table, requiring Planning Commission approval for public-facing operations, a process not typically followed but required by the Code of Ordinances.

Mr. Dudley explained that itinerant vendor sales include any person, business, or establishment setting up temporarily (no more than 10 days in a 30-day period), such as outdoor sales booths, truckload sales,



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vehicle-based sales, or outdoor displays. Mobile services refer to onsite provision of commercial or community services, such as dog grooming, vehicle cleaning, or pressure washing. The amendment adds these uses to the Commercial Use table: itinerant vendor sales would be allowed in all districts with conditional requirements, while mobile services would be permitted in all districts. Administrative approvals are recommended to streamline permitting, eliminating the 45–60 day Planning Commission process. Planning Commission voted unanimously (7–0) to recommend the proposed text amendment.

Councilman Braddock asked if a decal or some type of identification could be given to the vendors to show they have been permitted. Mr. Dudley said city staff could look into providing a decal or alternate identification to vendors. The vendor would be issued a paper or electronic copy of a permit that they could keep on hand and produce if needed. Mr. Dudley did note a decal would make it a lot easier for enforcement measures.

Council voted unanimously (5-0) in favor of the motion. Bill No. 2026-03 was passed on first reading.

Bill No. 2026-04 – First Reading

An Ordinance to amend the City of Florence *Unified Development Ordinance* regarding in-home childcare facilities.

Councilman Braddock made a motion to pass Bill No. 2026-04 on first reading and Councilman McCall seconded the motion.

Mr. Jerry Dudley, Director of Planning, explained that the proposed amendment represents another “cleanup” of the City’s current code related to in-home childcare facilities. Traditionally, in-home childcare facilities have been defined as those serving six or more children, with larger facilities required to meet special conditions and obtain approval from the Board of Zoning Appeals. However, staff discovered that some facilities were being permitted under the City’s small in-home childcare provisions, but when they sought state approval, the state fire code limited occupancy to no more than five children, creating a conflict.

Mr. Dudley said that the amendment would align the City’s code with state fire regulations by defining small in-home childcare facilities as serving up to five children, while large in-home childcare facilities would include six to twelve children. Larger facilities would still require Board of Zoning Appeals approval because of the potential for greater neighborhood impacts at that scale. He also noted that larger facilities must meet more stringent residential fire code standards, which could include the installation of sprinkler systems and other safety measures. Overall, the intent is to bring the City’s regulations into alignment with applicable state codes.

Councilman McCall asked whether Section C was a new addition, and Mr. Dudley confirmed that it was. He clarified that while the City previously had conditions for large in-home childcare facilities, the term itself had not been clearly defined in the code.

Councilman Braddock asked whether the regulations would apply to all homes or only certain types, such as single-family residences. Mr. Dudley responded that small in-home childcare has historically been permitted in any home regardless of zoning, including under the previous zoning code. Large in-home childcare has also been permitted, but special exception requirements were added with the adoption of the Unified Development Ordinance in 2018.

Councilman Braddock asked whether the use could be limited to certain districts, such as commercial reuse areas, and expressed concern that square footage and other standards were not clearly defined. He



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also asked whether six to twelve children could potentially be accommodated in a townhouse. Mr. Dudley responded that it could be possible, but the Department of Public Health would be responsible for inspecting the home to ensure compliance with state regulations, as the City does not conduct that level of inspection. Councilman Braddock then asked whether the Department of Public Health regulates the number of children per square footage. Mr. Dudley reviewed the state regulations and clarified that large in-home childcare facilities are limited to single-family detached dwellings. Additional requirements include compliance with all Department of Public Health standards, separation from other childcare facilities by at least 1,000 feet, limited signage, employees residing in the dwelling, and ensuring the use does not create traffic or noise burdens on neighboring properties. Adequate temporary parking and drop-off areas must also be provided, and the property owner must approve the use.

Councilman Braddock referenced a prior situation that raised safety concerns and asked whether the definitions and regulations could be further clarified. Mr. Dudley responded that staff could review the conditions to determine whether additional specificity is needed. He also noted that since the current code provisions were adopted, only two cases have come before the Board of Zoning Appeals, and both were denied due to safety and noise concerns.

Councilman McCall sought clarification that the amendment's primary purpose was to comply with state regulations by changing the threshold from six children to five and by formally defining small and large categories. Mr. Dudley reiterated that both small and large in-home childcare facilities are already allowed under the City's code; the amendment simply provides clearer definitions. Councilman McCall expressed concern that increasing government regulations contributes to rising childcare costs, stating that while some regulation is necessary, additional requirements can create financial burdens.

Councilman Braddock agreed with Councilman McCall and shared similar concerns about the amendment. Mr. Clint Moore, Assistant City Manager of Development, explained that the state permits facilities serving up to twelve children but distinguishes between small and large operations at the six-child threshold. Once a facility reaches six children, additional staffing, fire suppression systems, and other requirements are triggered. Mr. Moore emphasized that clearly distinguishing between small and large categories is important because state law allows municipalities to regulate or restrict those uses if deemed appropriate.

Mayor Barnes made a motion to discuss Bill No. 2026-04 in Executive Session to receive legal advice and Councilman McCall seconded the motion.

Council voted (5-0) in favor of the motion. Bill No. 2026-04 will be discussed in Executive Session.

Bill No. 2026-05 – First Reading

An Ordinance authorizing the conveyance of property located at 804 Waverly Avenue, identified as Florence County Tax Map Number 90061-11-015, to facilitate the construction of a home which will be marketed for sale at prices based on fair market value as part of the neighborhood redevelopment efforts within the City of Florence.

Councilman McCall made a motion to pass Bill No. 2026-05 on first reading and Pro tem Jebaily seconded the motion.

Mr. Jerry Dudley, Director of Planning, said this property is located in the Community Development Block Grant district. A developer agreement will be coming before Council potentially next month regarding this property at second reading.



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Council voted unanimously (5-0) in favor of the motion. Bill No. 2026-05 was passed on first reading.

Bill No. 2026-06 – First Reading

An Ordinance to amend the budget for Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026.

Councilman McCall made a motion to pass Bill No. 2026-06 on first reading and Pro tem Jebaily seconded the motion.

Mr. Glenn Bodenheimer, Interim Finance Director, said the objective for this ordinance is to amend the General Fund budget for Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026 in order to appropriate funding for early purchases. This is an annual ordinance that is done after the audit is completed. Mr. Bodenheimer also noted this ordinance was discussed at the budget work session in January. These purchases are one-time, non-recurring expenditures and they are capital in nature, meaning they're multiple years of usage. These purchases will be funded using excess unassigned fund balance remaining from Fiscal Year 2024-25. This is important because it's using savings that the city has rather than future tax revenues or recurring revenue streams. Mr. Bodenheimer highlighted some of the projects and purchases in the ordinance including facility improvements at the City Center Farmers Market, replacement of patrol vehicles, the purchase of fire safety equipment such as breathing apparatuses to stay in compliance with Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards, the purchase of a new tree truck for Beautification and Facilities, and the purchase of a mobile jumbotron screen for Carolina Bank Field, a requirement for the Coastal Plain League.

Pro tem Jebaily asked for clarification if these purchases were presented at the Budget Work Session in January. Mr. Scotty Davis, City Manager, confirmed and noted it was also presented to the Finance, Audit and Budget Committee, and the Committee voted to recommend the approval of this ordinance.

Council voted unanimously (5-0) in favor of the motion. Bill No. 2026-06 was passed on first reading.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 2026-05

A Resolution to proclaim February 22-28, 2026 as Montessori Education Week in the City of Florence.

Councilman McCall made a motion to pass Resolution No. 2026-05 and Councilman McKay seconded the motion.

Mayor Barnes presented the Resolution to Ms. Elizabeth Kahn, Director of the Montessori School of Florence. Ms. Kahn thanked Council for the recognition.

Council voted unanimously (5-0) in favor of the motion. Resolution No. 2026-05 was passed.

Resolution No. 2026-06

A Resolution to recognize March as Women's History Month in the City of Florence.

Pro tem Jebaily made a motion to pass Resolution No. 2026-06 and Councilman Braddock seconded the motion.



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Mayor Barnes presented the Resolution to Women in Philanthropy. Women in Philanthropy thanked Council for the recognition.

Council voted unanimously (5-0) in favor of the motion. Resolution No. 2026-06 was passed.

Resolution No. 2026-07

A Resolution authorizing the City Manager to return funding associated with sanitation pickup to the City of Lake City, South Carolina.

Council voted 4-1 to move this item to Executive Session. This item will be discussed in Executive Session.

Resolution No. 2026-08

A Resolution and Conditional Grant and Development Agreement to provide an incentive for the development of new housing within East Florence as part of the ongoing Neighborhood Redevelopment Project.

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

Resolution No. 2026-09

A Resolution and Conditional Grant and Development Agreement to provide an incentive for the development of new housing within East Florence as part of the ongoing Neighborhood Redevelopment Project.

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

REPORT TO COUNCIL

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.

Mauldin and Jenkins, CPAs and Advisors

Mr. Glenn Bodenheimer, Interim Finance Director, introduced Mr. Grant Davis of Mauldin & Jenkins CPAs and Advisors. Mr. Davis presented the city's annual comprehensive financial report for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 to Council. He explained that two documents were issued: the annual comprehensive financial report with the auditor's opinions and the auditor's discussion and analysis. Three reports were issued within the annual comprehensive financial report. The first report is the independent auditor's report, which confirmed the City received an unmodified (clean) opinion. The management discussion analysis provides discussion and analysis as to why revenues increased, why assets increased, et cetera.

The second report is on internal controls, compliance with laws and regulations and adherence to grant agreements. This report does not provide an opinion, but it offers negative assurance. The auditing firm conducts the audit according to government auditing standards, and if any instances of non-compliance or internal control issues arise, they are required to report those findings. There were no instances of



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noncompliance found. Mr. Davis did note one internal control deficiency, which is reported in the document itself, but the city still received a clean report in this area.

The third and final report is the federal single audit report, triggered when a city spends over \$750,000 in federal funds in a given fiscal year. The firm audited expenditures related to the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program and the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Program. The result was another clean opinion on compliance with federal expenditure guidelines.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Scotty Davis, City Manager, reported that Florence County Legislative Day is scheduled for February 10 at the Columbia Museum of Art. He also noted that the South Carolina Ethics Report is due March 29th by noon. Mr. Davis shared that the City recently received a Tree Canopy Mapping grant from the Green Infrastructure Center, which will allow staff to map the city's urban forest and enhance its Geographic Information System (GIS). He commended Mr. Swindler and the Public Works Department for their work in securing and implementing the grant.

Mr. Davis also highlighted last week's winter weather event, reporting five fires in the area and very few vehicle accidents. However, several commercial sprinkler systems failed due to the cold, causing issues at multiple properties. Using the City's ability to monitor water usage, city staff identified approximately 700 customers with continuous water flow, indicating broken service lines. City staff were able to notify affected users and shut off water to prevent further damage. While there was a slight decrease in water pressure during the event, only one City-owned line broke, an 8-inch main located in a wooded area at the Country Club of South Carolina, which staff successfully located using a drone. No trees were reported down, and overall, the City experienced minimal impacts from the storm.

Pro tem Jebaily commended city staff for their work during the winter weather event.

MAYORAL REPORT

Mayor Barnes said the issue was discussed during the January Budget Work Session to keep the community informed about the City's infrastructure and ongoing projects. She referenced the water event that occurred in 2024, noting that problems with the City's water system date back decades, as far as the 1990s. She commended City staff for their hard work and dedication in addressing water quality issues and advancing the City's progress. Mayor Barnes emphasized that while the issues will not be resolved overnight, the City has made significant improvements from where it once stood.

Mayor Barnes also shared that the City is in the process of acquiring the property located at the corner of Oakland Avenue and Lucas Street. She noted that progress should be visible soon and expressed her excitement about the opportunity to beautify this gateway into the city.

Mr. Davis noted that the property will be cleaned up, but it will be utilized for additional fuel tanks.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Business Development Committee, Chaired by Pro tem Jebaily

Pro Tem Jebaily reported that the committee received an update on Project Urban Square. He also discussed several city infrastructure projects, expressing his excitement about the progress being made. He concluded by thanking city staff and Council for their continued support and dedication.



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[Councilman Smith arrived at 2:11pm.]

Community Development Committee, Chaired by Mayor Barnes

Appointments to Building Florence Together

Mayor Barnes made a motion to appoint Kakela Robinson to the Building Florence Together Board of Directors and Councilman McCall seconded the motion. Kakela Robinson was appointed to the Building Florence Together Board of Directors for a term to begin immediately and expire in November 2026.

Finance, Audit and Budget Committee, Chaired by Councilman McCall

Councilman McCall reported that the committee received a presentation from Mauldin & Jenkins, CPAs and Advisors regarding the city's annual financial audit. The committee also reviewed the early purchase ordinance and received an update on the city's towing ordinance. Finally, the committee discussed opioid funding and recommended that Council establish a committee to review future allocations. This ordinance will be brought before Council at next month's meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Barnes said Council will be entering into Executive Session for a discussion regarding a development project as referenced in Resolution No. 2026-08, for a discussion regarding a development project as referenced in Resolution No. 2026-09, for a discussion regarding appointments to city Boards and Commissions, for a discussion of a proposed economic development project located in the downtown redevelopment district, for a discussion and receipt of legal advice regarding proposed contractual arrangements involving the creation of an intergovernmental public body, for a discussion regarding a matter involving the employment of an employee, to receive legal advice for Bill No. 2026-04, and to receive legal advice pursuant to Resolution No. 2026-07.

Pro tem Jebaily made a motion to enter into Executive Session and Councilman Smith seconded the motion. Council voted unanimously (6-0) to enter into Executive Session at 2:21pm.

Councilman Braddock made a motion to resume open session and Councilman Smith seconded the motion. The motion carried. Council resumed open session at 4:24pm and took action on the following items:

Bill No. 2026-04 – First Reading

An Ordinance to amend the City of Florence *Unified Development Ordinance* regarding in-home childcare facilities.

Pro tem Jebaily made a motion to defer Bill No. 2026-04 and Councilman Smith seconded the motion.

Council voted unanimously (6-0) in favor of the motion. Bill No. 2026-04 was deferred.

Resolution No. 2026-07

A Resolution authorizing the City Manager to return funding associated with sanitation pickup to the City of Lake City, South Carolina.

Due to a lack of motion, Resolution No. 2026-07 was not passed.



Resolution No. 2026-08

A Resolution and Conditional Grant and Development Agreement to provide an incentive for the development of new housing within East Florence as part of the ongoing Neighborhood Redevelopment Project.

Councilman McCall made a motion to pass Resolution No. 2026-08 and Councilman Smith seconded the motion.

Council voted unanimously (6-0) in favor of the motion. Resolution No. 2026-08 was passed.

Resolution No. 2026-09

A Resolution and Conditional Grant and Development Agreement to provide an incentive for the development of new housing within East Florence as part of the ongoing Neighborhood Redevelopment Project.

Councilman McCall made a motion to pass Resolution No. 2026-09 and Councilman Smith seconded the motion.

Council voted unanimously (6-0) in favor of the motion. Resolution No. 2026-09 was passed.

Appointments to Boards and Commissions

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

Design Review Board

Councilman McCall deferred his nomination to the Board.

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

Councilman Braddock deferred his nomination to the Board.

Board of Zoning Appeals

Mayor Barnes made a motion to appoint Oforiwa Gregg to the Board of Zoning Appeals. Oforiwa Gregg was appointed to the Board of Zoning Appeals for a term to begin immediately and expire on June 30, 2026.



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Veterans Park Committee

Councilman Smith made a motion to appoint Martin Quick to the Veterans Park Committee. Martin Quick was appointed to the Veterans Park Committee for a term to begin immediately and expire on June 30, 2030.

ADJOURN

Without objection, the February 9, 2026 Regular meeting of City Council was adjourned at 4:28pm.

Dated this 9th day of March 2026.

Casey C. Moore, Municipal Clerk

Lethonia Barnes, Mayor

FLORENCE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

DATE: February 9, 2026

AGENDA ITEM: An Ordinance to annex and zone Urban Residential (RU) the parcel located 2916 West Palmetto Street, TMN 00100-01-031.

DEPARTMENT/DIVISION: Department of Planning, Research & Development

I. ISSUE UNDER CONSIDERATION:

Request to annex one parcel located at 2916 West Palmetto Street with Tax Map Number 00100-01-031 into the City of Florence and assign it the zoning designation of Urban Residential (RU). The request is being made by the property owner.

II. CURRENT STATUS/PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

On January 13, 2026, the City of Florence Planning Commission held a public hearing on this matter and voted unanimously, 7-0, to recommend the annexation and zoning designation of RU.

III. POINTS TO CONSIDER:

- (1) City water and sewer services are currently available, with no cost to extend utilities.
- (2) A Public Hearing for zoning was held at the January 13, 2026 Planning Commission meeting.
- (3) The property owner intends to construct townhouses on this site.
- (4) City staff recommends annexation and concurs with Planning Commission's recommendation to approve the request to zone the property Urban Residential (RU).

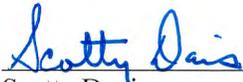
IV. PERSONAL NOTES:

V. ATTACHMENTS:

- (1) Ordinance
- (2) Vicinity Map
- (3) Annexation Petition



Jerry B. Dudley
Planning Director



Scotty Davis
City Manager

ORDINANCE NO. 2026 - _____

AN ORDINANCE TO ANNEX AND ZONE URBAN RESIDENTIAL (RU)
THE PARCEL LOCATED AT 2916 WEST PALMETTO STREET, TMN 00100-01-031.

WHEREAS, a Public Hearing was held in the Council Chambers on January 13, 2026 at 6:00 P.M. before the City of Florence Planning Commission, and notice of said hearing was duly given;

WHEREAS, application by Global Investors, LLC, owner of TMN 00100-01-031, was presented requesting an amendment to the City of Florence Zoning Atlas that the aforesaid property be incorporated into the City limits of the City of Florence under the provisions of Section 5-3-150(3) of the 1976 Code of Laws of South Carolina and given the zoning district classification of RU:

The property requesting annexation is shown more specifically on Florence County Tax Map 00100 block 01, parcel 031 (11.67 acres).

Any portions of public rights-of-way abutting the property described above will be included in the annexation.

WHEREAS, Florence City Council concurs in the aforesaid application, findings, and recommendations:

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FLORENCE IN MEETING DULY ASSEMBLED AND BY THE AUTHORITY THEREOF:

1. That an Ordinance is hereby adopted annexing into the City Limits of the City of Florence the aforesaid property and amending the Zoning Atlas to the aforesaid zoning classifications.
2. That this Ordinance shall become effective in seven days upon its approval and adoption by the City Council of the City of Florence and posting of this amendment in the official Zoning Atlas.

ADOPTED THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2026

Approved as to form:

City Attorney

Lethonia Barnes,
Mayor

Attest:

Casey C. Moore,
Municipal Clerk

PC 2026-02
Location Map - 2916 W. Palmetto St.



Legend

-  City Limits
-  Parcels
-  Proposed Parcel



DISCLAIMER:
 The City of Florence Department of Planning, Research, and Development data represented on this map is the product of compilation, as produced by others. It is provided for informational purposes only and the City of Florence makes no representation as to its accuracy. Its use without field verification is at the sole risk of the user.



Date: 12/19/2025

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)

PETITION FOR ANNEXATION

COUNTY OF FLORENCE)

Petition requesting Florence City Council to enact an Ordinance annexing the area described below, that area being the same property as shown by the map prepared by the City of Florence Planning, Research, and Development Department, attached and incorporated by reference herein:

The undersigned freeholder property owner(s) hereby respectfully certifies, petitions, and requests of the City Council of Florence as follows:

1. The petitioners are the sole owner(s) of real estate in the County of Florence, State of South Carolina which property lies adjacent and contiguous to the corporate limits of the City of Florence.

2. That the petitioner(s) desires to annex the property more particularly described below:

Florence County Tax Map Number: 00100-01-031

3. Annexation is being sought for the following purposes:

TOWN HOMES DEVELOPMENT

4. That the petitioner(s) request that the City Council of Florence annex the above described property in accordance with subsection 31 of 5-3-150(3) of the Code of Laws of South Carolina for 1976, such section allowing the annexation of an area without the necessity of an election and referendum.

To the Petitioner: The following information needs to be completed for submittal to the City of Florence and other government agencies for records prior to and after annexation.

Total Residents
Total 18 and Over

X

Race
Total Registered to Vote

X

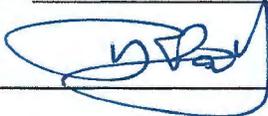
APPLICANT (S) (Please print or type):

Name(s): Patel Nitinkumur / Global Investors, LLC

Address: 3352 Thornblade Dr., Florence SC 29501

Telephone Numbers: (843) 206-2865 [work] [home]

Email Address: neil29501@gmail.com

Signature  Date 12/12/2025

Certification as to ownership on the date of petition:	FOR OFFICAL USE ONLY
Date 12/12/25	

FLORENCE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

DATE: February 9, 2026

AGENDA ITEM: Ordinance to amend the New Ebenezer Baptist Church Planned Development District

DEPARTMENT: Department of Planning, Research & Development

I. ISSUE UNDER CONSIDERATION:

An Ordinance to amend the Planned Development District standards for New Ebenezer Baptist Church, located at 307 South Ravenel Drive and affecting Tax Map Numbers 90103-02-001, -002, -003, -005, -006, -007, -008, -010, -011, -013, 014, -015, -016, -019, and 90103-03-001.

II. CURRENT STATUS/PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

On January 13, 2026, the City of Florence Planning Commission voted unanimously, 7-0, to recommend the proposed PDD amendment.

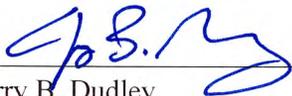
III. POINTS TO CONSIDER:

- (1) The original development was zoned as a Planned Development District in 2008 (Ordinance 2008-02). It was approved under the 1999 *Florence County Consolidated Zoning Ordinance* which was in effect at the time of adoption. The request is to amend the Signs condition outlined in the PDD to allow Activity Center standards for signage.
- (2) The PDD as originally adopted established specific conditions for signage rather than planning for future signage. It is proposed that the PDD be amended to incorporate the UDO standards for signage in the Activity Center zoning district, which allows for larger signage more in character with the site.
- (3) The applicant is proposing to install a free standing sign on the East Palmetto Street frontage that would be allowed under the AC signage regulations.
- (4) At Planning Commission, City staff recommended that the New Ebenezer Baptist Church PDD be amended to allow the Activity Center design standards for signage. Planning Commission concurred, voting 7 to 0 to approve the amendment.

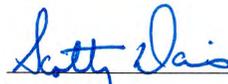
IV. PERSONAL NOTES:

V. ATTACHMENTS:

- (1) Ordinance
- (2) New Ebenezer Baptist Church PDD Ordinance 2008-02
- (3) Vicinity Map



Jerry B. Dudley
Planning Director



Scotty Davis
City Manager

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-_____

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE SIGNAGE REQUIREMENTS OF THE
NEW EBENEZER BAPTIST CHURCH PLANNED DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT ORDINANCE**

WHEREAS, a Public Hearing was held in City Council Chambers on January 13, 2026 at 6:00 P.M. before the City of Florence Planning Commission and notice of said hearing was duly given;

WHEREAS, Section 1-1.3.6 “Existing Planned Development Approvals” in the *Unified Development Ordinance* adopted January 15, 2018, provides a procedure for amendment.

WHEREAS, application by New Ebenezer Baptist Church, owner of TMNs 90103-02-001, -002, -003, -005, -006, -007, -008, -010, -011, -013, 014, -015, -016, -019, and 90103-03-001, was presented requesting to amend the New Ebenezer Baptist Church Planned Development District Ordinance to change the signage conditions to AC design standards;

The property affected by the amendment is shown more specifically on Florence County Tax Map 90103, block 02, parcels 001, 002, 003, 005, 006, 007, 008, 010, 011, 013, 014, 015, 016, 019, and Florence County Tax Map 90103, block 03, parcel 001 (4.648 acres).

WHEREAS, Florence City Council concurs in the aforesaid application, findings, and recommendations:

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FLORENCE IN MEETING DULY ASSEMBLED AND BY THE AUTHORITY THEREOF:

1. That an Ordinance is hereby adopted amending the New Ebenezer Baptist Church Planned Development District Ordinance to change the signage conditions to AC zoning district design standards.

I. The property owned by New Ebenezer Baptist Church, zoned PD, and identified by the following tax map numbers:

90103-02-001, 90103-02-002, 90103-02-003, 90103-02-005, 90103-02-006, 90103-02-007, 90103-02-008, 90103-02-010, 90103-02-011, 90103-02-013, 90103-02-014, 90103-02-015, 90103-02-016, 90103-02-019, and 90103-03-001

II. The Planned Development shall have the following conditions:

Allowed Uses (NAICS)

Church (813110)

Day Care (624410)

Setback Requirements

Existing Structures:

1 foot Front Setback

0 foot Side Setback
42 foot Rear Setback

All New Structures

Minimum 5 feet Front Setback
Minimum 15 feet Site Setback
Minimum 30 feet Rear Setback

Signs

All signage to comply with the regulations set out in Tables 5-17.2.1 A and B of the 2018 *Unified Development Ordinance* for the AC zoning district

2. **That this Ordinance shall become effective seven days upon its approval and adoption by the City Council of the City of Florence and posting of this amendment in the official Zoning Atlas.**

ADOPTED THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2026

Approved as to form:

City Attorney

Lethonia Barnes
Mayor

Attest:

Casey C. Moore
Municipal Clerk

ORDINANCE NO. ~~2008-02~~

AN ORDINANCE TO REZONE 4.53 +/- ACRES OF PROPERTY OWNED BY NEW EBENEZER BAPTIST CHURCH LOCATED BETWEEN PINE STREET AND PALMETTO STREET TO PD, PLANNED DEVELOPMENT BY AMENDING THE ZONING ATLAS OF THE CITY OF FLORENCE.

WHEREAS, a Public Hearing was held in Room 803 of the City-County Complex on November 27, 2007 at 6:30 P.M. before the Florence County/Municipal Planning Commission and notice of said hearing was duly given; and

WHEREAS, Article IX, Section 9.5, entitled "Administrative Procedures, Actions" of the Consolidated Zoning Ordinance for the City of Florence adopted April 19, 1999, provides a procedure for amending the Official Zoning Map of the City of Florence; and

WHEREAS, an application by Tim Waters, Trustee on behalf of New Ebenezer Baptist Church for property located between Pine Street and Palmetto Street, Florence County was presented requesting an amendment to the City of Florence Zoning Atlas that the aforesaid property be changed from B-3 General Business and R-4 Multi-family residential to PD, Planned Development District and described as follows:

Shown on Florence County Tax Map No. 90103, Block 02, Parcel 001, 002, 003, 005, 006, 007, 008, 010, 011, 013, 014, 015, 016, 019 and Tax Map No. 90103, Block 03 Parcel 001, 002, 005, 006, 007, 008, 009, 010, 012, 013, 014, 015, 016 consisting of twenty seven parcels approximately 4.53 +/- acres.

WHEREAS, the Florence County/Municipal Planning Commission and Florence City Council concur in the aforesaid application, findings and recommendations:

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FLORENCE IN MEETING DULY ASSEMBLED AND BY THE AUTHORITY THEREOF:

1. That an Ordinance is hereby adopted by amending the Zoning Atlas of the City of Florence and re-zoning the aforesaid properties to PD, Planned Development
1. The property located between Pine Street, Church Street, Palmetto Street, and Brown Street and owned by New Ebenezer Baptist Church is hereby zoned to PD, in accordance with the attached development plan and identified by the following tax map block and parcel numbers:

90103-02-001, 90103-02-002, 90103-02-003, 90103-02-005, 90103-02-006, 90103-02-007, 90103-02-008, 90103-02-010, 90103-02-011, 90103-02-013, 90103-02-014, 90103-02-015, 90103-02-016, 90103-02-019, **90103-03-001**, 90103-03-002, 90103-03-005, 90103-03-006,

90103-03-007, 90103-03-008, 90103-03-009, 90103-03-010, 90103-03-012, 90103-03-013,
90103-03-014, 90103-03-015, 90103-03-016

II. The Planned Development rezoning shall be with the following conditions:

Allowed Uses (NAICS):

Church (813110)
Day Care (624410)

Setback Requirements:

Existing Structure:

1 foot Front Setback
0 foot Side Setback
42 foot Rear Setback

All New Structures:

Minimum 5 Feet Front Setback
Minimum 15 feet Side Setback
Minimum 30 feet Rear Setback

Signs

Site entrance: 5 feet tall by 8 feet wide with a display surface area of 8 feet by 3 feet or 24 feet square.

Building ID: 6 feet 8 inches tall by 2 feet 4 inches wide with a display surface area of 4 feet 8 inches by 2 feet 4 inches or 9 feet 8 inches square.

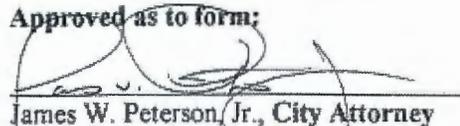
Directional: 3 feet tall by 3 feet wide with a display surface area of 4 feet 6 inches square.

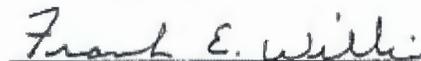
III. Said property being officially rezoned to the classification Planned Development (PD), the official zoning map of the City of Florence is so amended to reflect said change.

2. That this Ordinance shall become effective upon its approval and adoption this 14th day of January, 2008 by the City Council of the City of Florence and posting of this amendment in the official Zoning Atlas.

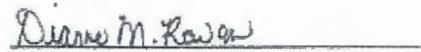
ADOPTED THIS 14th DAY OF January, 2008

Approved as to form:


James W. Peterson, Jr., City Attorney

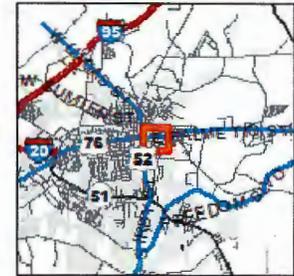
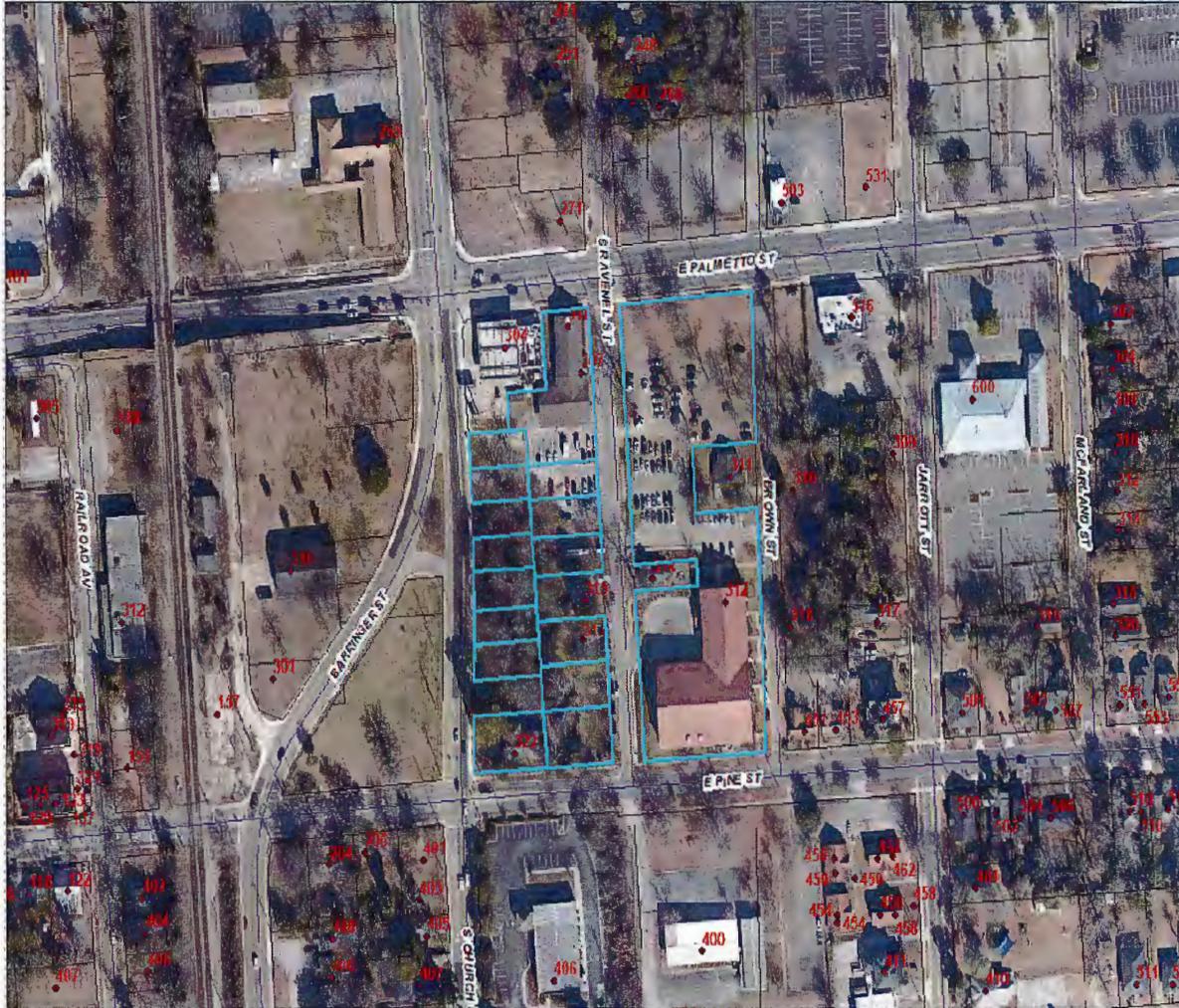

Frank E. Willis, Mayor

Attest:


Dianne Rowan, Municipal Clerk

ADOPTED ON FIRST READING AT A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FLORENCE, S. C.
ON <u>12-10-07</u>
2ND <u>1-14-08</u>
3RD _____
COPY MAILED TO <u>P. McDaniel, A. Thomas</u>
ON _____

PC 2026-01
Vicinity Map - 312 S. Ravenel St.



Legend

- Parcels
- Proposed Parcel



DISCLAIMER:
 The City of Florence Department of Planning, Research, and Development data represented on this map is the product of compilation, as produced by others. It is provided for informational purposes only and the City of Florence makes no representation as to its accuracy. Its use without field verification is at the sole risk of the user.



Date: 12/29/2025

FLORENCE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

DATE: February 9, 2026

AGENDA ITEM: Ordinance to amend the *Unified Development Ordinance* regarding itinerant vendor sales, mobile services, and temporary use permits.

DEPARTMENT: Department of Planning, Research & Development

I. ISSUE UNDER CONSIDERATION:

An ordinance to amend the *Unified Development Ordinance* to address itinerant vendor sales, mobile services, and temporary use permits.

II. CURRENT STATUS/PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

On January 13, 2026 the City of Florence Planning Commission voted unanimously, 7-0, to recommend the proposed UDO amendments.

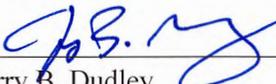
III. POINTS TO CONSIDER:

- (1) According to Section 6-21.4.1 E of the *Unified Development Ordinance*, petitions for amendments to the text may be made by or to the Planning Director.
- (2) Itinerant Vendor Sales are referenced in the definitions but permitting guidelines are not provided in the text.
- (3) Mobile Service providers are not referenced in the *Unified Development Ordinance*, but guidance is needed for their regulation.
- (4) Temporary sales, events, and construction uses are currently required to be approved by Planning Commission prior to their establishment.
- (5) Table 1-2.7.4 “Commercial Uses”, Section 1-2.8.4 “Commercial Use Standards”, and Division 7-25.2 “Definitions” of the City of Florence *Unified Development Ordinance* require amendments to include Itinerant Vendor Sales And Mobile Services.
- (6) Table 6-21.1.3 “Public Meeting Approvals” requires that certain Temporary Special Events, Temporary Commercial Sales Uses, and Temporary Construction Uses and Buildings obtain approval from the Planning Commission for each occurrence.
- (7) An administrative permit is more appropriate for these temporary uses than requiring Planning Commission review each time.

IV. PERSONAL NOTES:

V. ATTACHMENTS:

- (1) Ordinance



Jerry B. Dudley
Planning Director



Scotty Davis
City Manager

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-_____

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE REGARDING ITINERANT VENDOR SALES, MOBILE SERVICES, AND TEMPORARY USE PERMITS

WHEREAS, a Public Hearing was held in City Council Chambers on January 13, 2026 at 6:00 P.M. before the City of Florence Planning Commission and notice of said hearing was duly given;

WHEREAS, application by the Planning Director was presented requesting to amend Tables 1-2.7.4, 6-21.1.2, 6-21.1.3, Sections 1-2.8.4N, 1-2.9.1, 6-21.7.1, and Division 7-25.2 of the *Unified Development Ordinance*;

WHEREAS, the City of Florence Planning Commission and City Staff recommend the proposed text amendments as they will guide development in a manner consistent with the stated purpose of the *Unified Development Ordinance*;

WHEREAS, Florence City Council concurs in the aforesaid application, findings, and recommendations:

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FLORENCE IN MEETING DULY ASSEMBLED AND BY THE AUTHORITY THEREOF:

1. That the provisions of the Unified Development Ordinance applicable to the City of Florence be, and the same are hereby amended, which will read in whole as follows:

Deletions are crossed out in red; additions are highlighted.

Attachment A: Table 1-2.7.4 “Commercial Uses” and Table 1-2.9.3 “Standards for Temporary Commercial Sales Events”

Table 1-2.7.4 Commercial Uses																
Land Use	Zoning Districts															
	Residential					Business & Commercial			Mixed-Use			Industrial		Agricultural & Open Space		
	RE	RS	RG	RU	NC	CR	CA	CG	CBD	AC	DS	IL	IH	OSR	AR	
Commercial Uses																
Mobile Food Vendor	-	-	-	-	-	-	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	-	
Itinerant Vendor Sales	-	-	-	-	-	C	C	C	C	C	-	-	-	-	-	
Mobile Services	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	

RE (Estate Residential), RS (Suburban Residential), RG (General Residential), RU (Urban Residential), NC (Neighborhood Conservation), CR (Commercial Re-use), CA (Campus), CG (Commercial General), CBD (Central Business District), AC (Activity Center), DS (Destination / Select Use), IL (Light Industrial), IH (Heavy Industrial), OSR (Open Space & Recreation), AR (Agriculture / Rural), P (Permitted), C (Conditional), SE (Permitted Special Exception Use), - (Prohibited Use), B (subscript, Special site and Building Development Standards)

Attachment B: Section 1-2.8.4 “Commercial Use Standards”

Amend Sec. 1-2.8.4 Commercial Use Standards to add Itinerant Vendor Sales:

Itinerant Vendor Sales are permitted to operate as temporary sales uses within the CR, CA, CG, CBD, AC, CA, and DS zoning districts if it is demonstrated that:

1. The standards for Class A Temporary Commercial Sales Events in Table 1-2.9.3 are observed.
2. A zoning compliance certificate is required prior to attaining the business license.
3. The itinerant vendor shall have the written approval of the property owner or authorized leaseholder of the property.
4. The itinerant vendor shall not locate on a property with a residential use.
5. Itinerant vendor sales may not operate after dark.
6. No signage shall be allowed other than signs permanently attached to the motor vehicle or cart and a portable sign no more than six (6) square feet in a display area on the ground in the customer area. Animated or scrolling signs shall not be allowed. Illuminated signs are not permitted.
7. The itinerant vendor will be operated in accordance with all other applicable provisions of this Unified Development Ordinance, the City's Code of Ordinances, the City's Fire Code and Policies, as well as applicable Federal and State requirements.

Attachment C: Table 6-21.1.2 “Administrative Permits”, Table 6-21.1.3 “Public Meeting Approvals” and Section 6-21.7.1 “Temporary Use Permit”

Table 6-21.1.2 Administrative Permits					
Permit	Required For	Timing	Exceptions	Issued By	Standards ¹
Temporary Use Permit	<p>Required for small Class “A” and Class “B: Temporary Special Events, Class “B” Temporary Commercial Sales Uses, and Class “B” Temporary Construction Uses and Buildings as set out in Division 1-2.9, Temporary Uses.</p> <p>Required for all Temporary Special Events, Temporary Commercial Sales Uses, and Temporary Construction Uses and Buildings as set out in Division 1-2.9, Temporary Uses.</p>	Prior to installation of temporary buildings or structures or establishment of a temporary use or event, whichever comes first.	None	Director	See Division 1-2.9, Temporary Uses; Section 6-21.3.1, Submittal Requirements; and Section 6-21.6.3, Temporary Use Permit.

Remove "Temporary Use Permit" from Table 6-21.1.3 and delete Section 6-21.7.1.

Table 6-21.1.3 Public Meeting Approvals					
Permit	Required For	Timing	Exceptions	Issued By	Standards ¹
NO PUBLIC HEARING REQUIRED					
Use Permits					
Temporary Use Permit	Required for Large Class "A" Temporary Special Events, Class "A" Temporary Commercial Sales Uses, and Class "A" Temporary Construction Uses and Buildings as set out in Division 1-2.9, Temporary Uses.	Prior to installation of temporary buildings or structures or establishment of a temporary use or event, whichever comes first.	None	Planning Commission	See Division 1-2.9, Temporary Uses; Section 6-21.4.1, Submittal Requirements; and Section 6-21.7.1, Temporary Use Permit.

Sec. 6-21.7.1 Temporary Use Permit

- ~~A. **Generally.** Large Class "A" Temporary Special Events, Class "A" Temporary Commercial Sales Uses, and Class "A" Temporary Construction Uses and Buildings require public meeting approval as a precondition to establishment of temporary events, uses, and buildings as set out in Division 1-2.9, Temporary Uses.~~
- ~~B. **Procedure.** Applications for temporary use permits requiring public meeting approval are processed according to the sequential steps set out in Section 6-21.5.2, Pre-Application Conference, through Section 6-21.5.10, Public Meetings and Hearings, and shall be referred to for the recommendation of other departments and agencies, as applicable, and then decided by the board, commission, or council as set out in Division 6-21.1, Determinations, Approvals, and Permits.~~
- ~~C. **Decision.** The Planning Commission shall approve, approve with conditions, or deny the application.~~

Attachment D: Division 7-25.2 "Definitions"

Amend definition to coordinate with Table 1-2.9.3 regarding Class A Temporary Commercial Sales Events:

Itinerant Vendor Sales means any person or business entity establishing a temporary place of business in the City for a time period of ~~30 calendar days or less~~ not more than 10 days in any 30 day period. Businesses

established for a time period exceeding ~~30 days~~ 10 days in any 30 day period are not ~~included and are permanent~~ permitted. The phrase shall include, but is not limited to:

- A. Outdoor sales booths;
- B. Truckload sales;
- C. Sales from other vehicles; and
- D. Outdoor display.

Sales of items include the following durable goods but are not limited to:

- A. Rugs;
- B. Paintings/posters;
- C. Toys;
- D. Used or new household items; and
- E. Sunglasses and other apparel.

Add definition:

Mobile Services means the on-site provision of commercial or community services to residents or employees of the site. Provision of services to drive-up customers or customers from other locations is explicitly prohibited. The phrase shall include, but is not limited to:

- A. Dog grooming;
- B. Vehicle cleaning;
- C. Building pressure washing;
- D. Health/dental exams;
- E. Library services;
- F. Video game trucks;
- G. Windshield replacement.

ADOPTED THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2026

Approved as to form:

City Attorney

Lethonia Barnes
Mayor

Attest:

Casey C. Moore
Municipal Clerk

FLORENCE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

DATE: February 9, 2026

AGENDA ITEM: An ordinance to authorize the conveyance of 804 Waverly Avenue, TMP 90061-11-015, to facilitate the construction of a home to help revitalize areas within the city.

DEPARTMENT/DIVISION: Community Services

I. ISSUE UNDER CONSIDERATION:

An ordinance authorizing the conveyance of the property known as 804 Waverly Avenue, tax parcel 90061-11-015, said property being acquired by the city as part of the Neighborhood Redevelopment efforts to be utilized by facilitating the construction/rehabilitation of homes which will be marketed for sale at prices based on fair market value in order to help revitalize neighborhood areas within the city.

II. CURRENT STATUS/PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

It has not been considered, nor has any previous action been taken, by Florence City Council

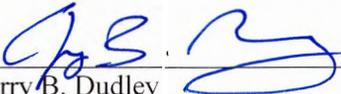
III. POINTS TO CONSIDER:

- (1) The City acquired this property for the purpose of facilitating the construction/rehabilitation of homes to assist the revitalization of blighted neighborhoods.
- (2) The conveyance of this property to a homeowner or a private developer with support goals established in the Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy such as to stabilize area neighborhoods, increase opportunities for affordable housing and homeownership, and to leverage city resources through partnerships with the private sector.
- (3) Compensation for the properties will be determined at the time of sale and based on fair market value or through a development agreement as approved by City Council.

IV. PERSONAL NOTES:

V. ATTACHMENTS:

- (1) Ordinance
- (2) Exhibit A: Property Description



Jerry B. Dudley
Planning Director



Scotty Davis
City Manager

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-_____

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CONVEYANCE OF THE PROPERTY KNOWN AS 804 WAVERLY AVENUE, TAX PARCEL 90061-11-015 DESCRIBED MORE FULLY ON EXHIBIT "A " ATTACHED TO THE ORDINANCE, SAID PROPERTY BEING ACQUIRED BY THE CITY AS PART OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD REDEVELOPMENT EFFORTS TO BE UTILIZED BY FACILITATING THE CONSTRUCTION/REHABILITATION OF HOMES WHICH WILL BE MARKETED FOR SALE AT PRICES BASED ON FAIR MARKET VALUE IN ORDER TO HELP REVITALIZE NEIGHBORHOOD AREAS WITHIN THE CITY.

WHEREAS, after due consideration, the City has concluded that the property described on Exhibit "A" attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference was acquired for the purpose of facilitating the construction/rehabilitation of homes to be sold in order to assist in the revitalization of blighted neighborhoods;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it ordained by the City Council of the City of Florence in meeting duly assembled and by the authority thereof:

1. That, in accordance with and in furtherance of the goals of the City's Neighborhood Redevelopment Programs, pursuant to §5-7-260(6) of the South Carolina Code of Laws, as amended, and §2-26(8) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Florence, the City Manager of the City of Florence or his designee is hereby authorized to execute the necessary deeds and other documentation in order to sell the property described on Exhibit "A" to qualified buyers for prices based on fair market value determinations made by City Staff and participating lenders. Any prior sale of the lot referenced herein is hereby specifically ratified.

2. This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon its approval and adoption on second reading by the City Council of the City of Florence, South Carolina.

ADOPTED THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2026.

Approved as to form:

City Attorney

Lethonia Barnes
Mayor

Attest:

Casey C. Moore
Municipal Clerk

Exhibit A

Property Description

All that certain piece, parcel or lot of land lying, situate and being in the City of Florence, County of Florence, State of South Carolina, know and designated as Lot No. 9, as show on a map of Hector McSween Estate by David C. Jones, dated January 24, 1912, whereon it fronts on Waverly Avenue, formerly McSween Street, for a distance of 50 feet and extending back in depth a distance of 150 feet; being bounded North by Waverly Avenue, formerly McSween Street; East by lots 6,7, and 8; South by Lot No. 3; and West by lot No. 10. See also plat prepared by Lind, Hicks and Assoc. Surveyors, Inc., dated March 20, 1997 and recorded in Plat Book 63 at Page 464 on the Office of the Clerk of Court for Florence County.

FLORENCE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

DATE: February 9, 2026
AGENDA ITEM: An ordinance amending the FY 2025-26 budget
DEPARTMENT/DIVISION: Finance

I. ISSUE UNDER CONSIDERATION

For City Council consideration is an ordinance to amend the FY 2025-26 City of Florence Budget.

II. CURRENT STATUS/PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN

This proposed ordinance was presented to the Finance Committee on January 28, 2026. The proposed ordinance was also discussed at the Council Budget work session on January 8th and 9th, 2026.

III. POINTS TO CONSIDER

1. The objective of the proposed ordinance is to amend the General Fund budget for FY 2025-26 to appropriate funding for the purchases designated by the City Manager in FY 2025-26 as early purchases to be funded in the FY 2025-26 budget from excess of the FY 2024-25 fund balance.

IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

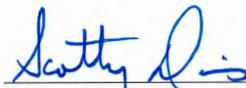
Approve and adopt the proposed ordinance.

V. ATTACHMENTS

A copy of the proposed ordinance is attached.



Glenn Bodenheimer
Interim Finance Director



Scotty Davis
City Manager

ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF FLORENCE, SOUTH CAROLINA, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2025 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2026

BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Florence, South Carolina, in a meeting duly assembled, that the budget for the City of Florence, South Carolina, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026, is hereby amended as follows:

Section 1. That the budgeted revenues of the General Fund are hereby amended by the following additional appropriations:

100375-435010 From Unappropriated Reserve is increased in the amount of \$2,245,000 from unassigned fund balance for projects and purchases not currently included in FY 2025-26 budget.

Section 2. That the budgeted expenditures of the General Fund are hereby amended by the following additional appropriations:

10041300-531000 Professional Services (City Manager's Office) is funded in the amount of \$150,000 for the development and implementation of new city-wide branding initiative.

10041300-531000 Professional Services (City Manager's Office) is funded in the amount of \$35,000 to support a study, conducted in partnership with the Aspen Group, to evaluate and identify the root causes of crime within the City.

10041300-580050 Facility Improvements (City Manager's Office) is funded in the amount of \$100,000 for renovation and repairs needed at the Farmer's Market facility.

10042100-580040 Auto Equipment (Police) is funded in the amount of \$400,000 for the purchase and replacement of five (5) new patrol vehicles.

10042100-580060 Other Equipment (Police) is funded in the amount of \$100,000 for replacement and modernization of essential law enforcement equipment.

10042200-580060 Office Furniture (Fire) is funded in the amount of \$420,000 for the purchase and replacement of self-contained breathing apparatus equipment in accordance with OSHA, NFPA, and Department of Transportation requirements.

10043020-580040 Auto Equipment (Beautification & Facilities) is funded in the amount of \$250,000 for the purchase one (1) replacement tree truck.

10043020-580060 Other Equipment (Beautification & Facilities) is funded in the amount of \$200,000 for the purchase of new illuminated holiday decorations for the I-20/David McLeod Boulevard corridor.

10043500-580040 Auto Equipment (Parks, Recreation & Sports Tourism) is funded in the amount of \$150,000 for the purchase of a new recreation bus.

FY 2024-2025 Budget Amendment Ordinance (continued)

- 10043500-580050 Facility Improvements (Parks, Recreation & Sports Tourism) is funded in the amount of \$250,000 for wayfinding signage and rail trail improvements.

- 10043500-580060 Other Equipment (Parks, Recreation & Sports Tourism) is funded in the amount of \$190,000 for the purchase of a jumbotron video screen at the Carolina Bank Field to meet the Coastal Plain League Facility Standards and Compliance Procedures.

This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon its approval and adoption of City Council of the City of Florence.

ADOPTED THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2026.

Approved as to form:

Benjamin T. Zeigler
City Attorney

Lethonia Barnes
Mayor

Attest:

Casey C. Moore
Municipal Clerk

FLORENCE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

DATE: February 9, 2026

AGENDA ITEM: Ordinance to amend the *Unified Development Ordinance* regarding in-home childcare facilities.

DEPARTMENT: Department of Planning, Research & Development

I. ISSUE UNDER CONSIDERATION:

An ordinance to amend the *Unified Development Ordinance* to address in-home childcare facilities.

II. CURRENT STATUS/PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

On January 13, 2026 the City of Florence Planning Commission voted unanimously, 7-0, to recommend the proposed UDO amendments.

III. POINTS TO CONSIDER:

- (1) According to Section 6-21.4.1 E of the *Unified Development Ordinance*, petitions for amendments to the text may be made by or to the Planning Director.
- (2) In-home childcare facilities are currently permitted in the *Unified Development Ordinance* as a home occupation for six or fewer children.
- (3) Large in-home childcare facilities with up to twelve children are currently permitted as a home occupation with a Special Exception Use Permit issued by the Board of Zoning Appeals.
- (4) The South Carolina 2021 *International Fire Code* only permits up to 5 children in an in-home childcare facility before specific fire protection measures must be taken.
- (5) Section 1-2.10.1 “Residential Accessory Uses”, and Division 7-25.2 “Definitions” of the City of Florence *Unified Development Ordinance* require amendments to correct the number of children that may be cared for in a home occupation facility in order to comply with the 2021 *International Fire Code*.
- (6) The definition in Division 7-25.2 needs to be corrected to comply with the 2021 *International Fire Code*.

IV. PERSONAL NOTES:

V. ATTACHMENTS:

- (1) Ordinance



Jerry B. Dudley
Planning Director



Scotty Davis
City Manager

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-_____

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE REGARDING
IN-HOME CHILDCARE FACILITIES

WHEREAS, a Public Hearing was held in City Council Chambers on January 13, 2026 at 6:00 P.M. before the City of Florence Planning Commission and notice of said hearing was duly given;

WHEREAS, application by the Planning Director was presented requesting to amend Section 1-2.10.1 and Division 7-25.2 of the *Unified Development Ordinance*;

WHEREAS, the City of Florence Planning Commission and City Staff recommend the proposed text amendments as they will guide development in a manner consistent with the stated purpose of the *Unified Development Ordinance*;

WHEREAS, Florence City Council concurs in the aforesaid application, findings, and recommendations:

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FLORENCE IN MEETING DULY ASSEMBLED AND BY THE AUTHORITY THEREOF:

1. That the provisions of the Unified Development Ordinance applicable to the City of Florence be, and the same are hereby amended, which will read in whole as follows:

Deletions are crossed out in red; additions are highlighted.

Section 1-2.10.1 “Residential Accessory Uses”

A. Home Occupations.

20. In-Home Child Care.

- a. Small in-home childcare facilities are a permitted home occupation, provided that they are duly ~~licensed~~ registered by the State of South Carolina, and provided that they meet all of the standards of this Subsection.
- b. Large in-home childcare facilities may be permitted pursuant to a Permitted Special Exception Use Permit, provided that they are duly licensed by the State of South Carolina and provided that they meet all standards of this Subsection and any special conditions as applied by the Board of Zoning Appeals.

Division 7-25.2 Definitions

(C) **Child Care, In-Home, Small** means a home in which care is given as a home occupation by a resident and no others during the day only for up to and including no more than ~~six~~ five children, including the residents’ own children.

(C) Child Care, In-Home, Large means a home in which care is given as a home occupation by a resident and no others during the day only for 6 to 12 children, including the residents' own children.

ADOPTED THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2026

Approved as to form:

City Attorney

Lethonia Barnes
Mayor

Attest:

Casey C. Moore
Municipal Clerk

FLORENCE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

DATE: March 9, 2026

AGENDA ITEM: An Ordinance to annex and zone Neighborhood Conservation-15 (NC-15) the parcel located at 2511 Ascot Drive, TMN 01221-01-191.

DEPARTMENT/DIVISION: Department of Planning, Research & Development

I. ISSUE UNDER CONSIDERATION:

Request to annex the parcel located at 2511 Ascot Drive, with Tax Map Number 01221-01-191, into the City of Florence and assign it the zoning designation of Neighborhood Conservation-15 (NC-15). The request is being made by the property owner.

II. CURRENT STATUS/PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

On February 10, 2026, the City of Florence Planning Commission held a public hearing on this matter, and voted unanimously, 8-0, to recommend the zoning designation of Neighborhood Conservation-15 (NC-15).

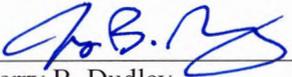
III. POINTS TO CONSIDER:

- (1) City water and sewer services are currently available, with no cost to extend utilities.
- (2) A Public Hearing for zoning was held at the February 10, 2026 Planning Commission meeting.
- (3) City staff recommends annexation and concurs with Planning Commission's recommendation to approve the request to zone the property Neighborhood Conservation-15 (NC-15).

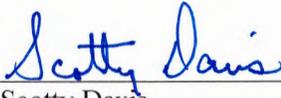
IV. PERSONAL NOTES:

V. ATTACHMENTS:

- (1) Ordinance
- (2) Vicinity Map
- (3) Annexation Petition

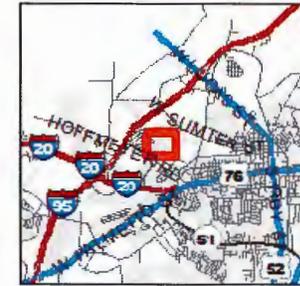


Jerry B. Dudley
Planning Director



Scotty Davis
City Manager

PC 2026-06
Vicinity Map - 2511 Ascot Drive

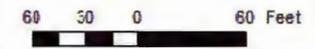


Legend

-  City Limits
-  Parcels
-  Proposed Parcel



DISCLAIMER:
 The City of Florence Department of Planning, Research, and Development data represented on this map is the product of compilation, as produced by others. It is provided for informational purposes only and the City of Florence makes no representation as to its accuracy. Its use without next verification is at the sole risk of the user.



Date: 1/15/2024

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)

PETITION FOR ANNEXATION

COUNTY OF FLORENCE)

Petition requesting Florence City Council to enact an Ordinance annexing the area described below, that area being the same property as shown by the map prepared by the City of Florence Planning, Research, and Development Department, attached and incorporated by reference herein:

The undersigned freeholder property owner(s) hereby respectfully certifies, petitions, and requests of the City Council of Florence as follows:

- 1. The petitioners are the sole owner(s) of real estate in the County of Florence, State of South Carolina which property lies adjacent and contiguous to the corporate limits of the City of Florence.
- 2. That the petitioner(s) desires to annex the property more particularly described below:

Florence County Tax Map Number: 01221-01-191

- 3. Annexation is being sought for the following purposes:

City services

- 4. That the petitioner(s) request that the City Council of Florence annex the above described property in accordance with subsection 31 of 5-3-150(3) of the Code of Laws of South Carolina for 1976, such section allowing the annexation of an area without the necessity of an election and referendum.

To the Petitioner: The following information needs to be completed for submittal to the City of Florence and other government agencies for records prior to and after annexation.

Total Residents	<u>5</u>	Race	<u>Asian</u>
Total 18 and Over	<u>2</u>	Total Registered to Vote	<u> </u>

APPLICANT (S) (Please print or type):

Name(s): Xiaoying Xie Chen Zhang

Address: 2511 Ascot Drive, Florence, SC, 29501

Telephone Numbers: 843-616-2816 [work] 843-496-6973 [home]

Email Address: xiaoyingxie.zhang@gmail.com

Signature Date Jan-13-2026

Certification as to ownership on the date of petition:	FOR OFFICAL USE ONLY
Date <u>1/15/26</u>	<u></u>

FLORENCE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

DATE: March 9, 2026

AGENDA ITEM: An Ordinance to annex and zone Neighborhood Conservation-15 (NC-15) the parcel located at 2710 Trotter Road, TMN 00984-01-007.

DEPARTMENT/DIVISION: Department of Planning, Research & Development

I. ISSUE UNDER CONSIDERATION:

Request to annex the parcel located at 2710 Trotter Road, with Tax Map Number 00984-01-007, into the City of Florence and assign it the zoning designation of Neighborhood Conservation-15 (NC-15). The request is being made by the property owner.

II. CURRENT STATUS/PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

On February 10, 2026, the City of Florence Planning Commission held a public hearing on this matter, and voted unanimously, 8-0, to recommend the zoning designation of Neighborhood Conservation-15 (NC-15).

III. POINTS TO CONSIDER:

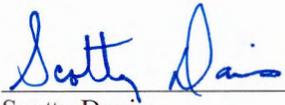
- (1) City water and sewer services are currently available, with no cost to extend utilities.
- (2) A Public Hearing for zoning was held at the February 10, 2026 Planning Commission meeting.
- (3) City staff recommends annexation and concurs with Planning Commission's recommendation to approve the request to zone the property Neighborhood Conservation-15 (NC-15).

IV. PERSONAL NOTES:

V. ATTACHMENTS:

- (1) Ordinance
- (2) Vicinity Map
- (3) Annexation Petition


Jerry B. Dudley
Planning Director


Scotty Davis
City Manager

ORDINANCE NO. 2026 - _____

**AN ORDINANCE TO ANNEX AND ZONE NEIGHBORHOOD CONSERVATION-15 (NC-15)
THE LOT AT 2710 TROTTER ROAD, TMN 00984-01-007.**

WHEREAS, a Public Hearing was held in the Council Chambers on February 10, 2026 at 6:00 P.M. before the City of Florence Planning Commission, and notice of said hearing was duly given;

WHEREAS, application by Roy Davidson Jones Jr., owner of TMN 00984-01-007, was presented requesting an amendment to the City of Florence Zoning Atlas that the aforesaid property be incorporated into the City limits of the City of Florence under the provisions of Section 5-3-150(3) of the 1976 Code of Laws of South Carolina and given the zoning district classification of NC-15:

The property requesting annexation is shown more specifically on Florence County Tax Map 00984, block 01, parcel 007 (0.624473 acre).

Any portions of public rights-of-way abutting the property described above will be included in the annexation.

WHEREAS, Florence City Council concurs in the aforesaid application, findings, and recommendations:

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FLORENCE IN MEETING DULY ASSEMBLED AND BY THE AUTHORITY THEREOF:

1. That an Ordinance is hereby adopted annexing into the City Limits of the City of Florence the aforesaid property and amending the Zoning Atlas to the aforesaid zoning classifications.
2. That this Ordinance shall become effective in seven days upon its approval and adoption by the City Council of the City of Florence and posting of this amendment in the official Zoning Atlas.

ADOPTED THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2026

Approved as to form:

City Attorney

Lethonia Barnes,
Mayor

Attest:

Casey C. Moore,
Municipal Clerk

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
COUNTY OF FLORENCE)

PETITION FOR ANNEXATION

Petition requesting Florence City Council to enact an Ordinance annexing the area described below, that area being the same property as shown by the map prepared by the City of Florence Planning, Research, and Development Department, attached and incorporated by reference herein:

The undersigned freeholder property owner(s) hereby respectfully certifies, petitions, and requests of the City Council of Florence as follows:

1. The petitioners are the sole owner(s) of real estate in the County of Florence, State of South Carolina which property lies adjacent and contiguous to the corporate limits of the City of Florence.
2. That the petitioner(s) desires to annex the property more particularly described below:
Florence County Tax Map Number: 00984-01-007
3. Annexation is being sought for the following purposes: City services
4. That the petitioner(s) request that the City Council of Florence annex the above described property in accordance with subsection 31 of 5-3-150(3) of the Code of Laws of South Carolina for 1976, such section allowing the annexation of an area without the necessity of an election and referendum.

To the Petitioner: The following information needs to be completed for submittal to the City of Florence and other government agencies for records prior to and after annexation.

Total Residents 4 Race W
Total 18 and Over 4 Total Registered to Vote 4

APPLICANT (S) (Please print or type):

Name(s): Roy Davidson Jones Jr
Address: 2710 Trotter Rd Florence SC 29501
Telephone Numbers: 843 624 6033 [work] 843 624 6033 [home]
Email Address: streetdoc65@gmail.com

Signature [Signature] Date 1-20-2026

Certification as to ownership on the date of petition:	FOR OFFICAL USE ONLY
Date <u>1/20/26</u>	<u>AJ</u>

PC 2026-07
Vicinity Map - 2710 Trotter Road



Legend

-  City Limits
-  Parcels
-  Proposed Parcel



DISCLAIMER:
 The City of Florence Department of Planning, Research, and Development data represented on this map is the product of compilation, as produced by others. It is provided for informational purposes only and the City of Florence makes no representation as to its accuracy. Its use without field verification is at the sole risk of the user.



Date: 1/29/2026

FLORENCE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

DATE: March 9, 2026

AGENDA ITEM: Ordinance to amend the *Unified Development Ordinance* regarding window signs.

DEPARTMENT: Department of Planning, Research & Development

I. ISSUE UNDER CONSIDERATION:

An ordinance to amend the *Unified Development Ordinance* to address window signage.

II. CURRENT STATUS/PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

On February 10, 2026 the City of Florence Planning Commission voted unanimously, 8-0, to recommend the proposed UDO amendments.

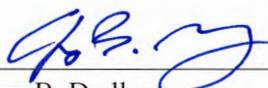
III. POINTS TO CONSIDER:

- (1) According to Section 6-21.4.1 E of the *Unified Development Ordinance*, petitions for amendments to the text may be made by or to the Planning Director.
- (2) Window signs are currently allowed without a permit in any commercial zoning district.
- (3) Division 7-25.2 defines a Wall Sign to mean “a sign that is applied or attached to the exterior or interior of a window or located in such manner within a building that it can be seen from the exterior of the structure through a window.”
- (4) Most districts limit wall signage to 25% or less of the front façade of a structure.
- (5) Table 5-17.2.1B does not provide any directives for window signage.
- (6) Staff recommends making window signs permitted rather than allowed signs so that a zoning permit is required along with renderings to show the size and location of the signs (Attachment A).
- (7) Staff recommends limiting the area of the total window signage to 25% of the window area (Attachment B).
- (8) Planning Commission recommended a 90 day grace period after adoption of the window signage restrictions to enable staff to educate the public and allow existing sign orders to be completed.

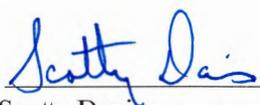
IV. PERSONAL NOTES:

V. ATTACHMENTS:

- (1) Ordinance



Jerry B. Dudley
Planning Director



Scotty Davis
City Manager

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-_____

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE REGARDING
IN-HOME CHILDCARE FACILITIES**

WHEREAS, a Public Hearing was held in City Council Chambers on January 13, 2026 at 6:00 P.M. before the City of Florence Planning Commission and notice of said hearing was duly given;

WHEREAS, application by the Planning Director was presented requesting to amend Section 1-2.10.1 and Division 7-25.2 of the *Unified Development Ordinance*;

WHEREAS, the City of Florence Planning Commission and City Staff recommend the proposed text amendments as they will guide development in a manner consistent with the stated purpose of the *Unified Development Ordinance*;

WHEREAS, Florence City Council concurs in the aforesaid application, findings, and recommendations:

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FLORENCE IN MEETING DULY ASSEMBLED AND BY THE AUTHORITY THEREOF:

- 1. That the provisions of the Unified Development Ordinance applicable to the City of Florence be, and the same are hereby amended, which will read in whole as follows:**

Deletions are crossed out in **red**; additions are **highlighted**.

Attachment A: Table 5-17.2.1A “Number, Dimension, and Location of Permitted Signs, by Zoning District”

Table 5-17.2.1A Number, Dimension, and Location of Permitted Signs, By Zoning District									
Sign Type	All Residential Zones	INS (1)	CR	CA/DS	CG	CBD/AC	IL/HI	AR	OSR
PERMANENT									
Free-standing									
Billboards (2)	N	N	N	N	P	N	P	P	N
Other	P (3)	P	P (3)	P	P	P	P	P	P (3)
Directional (4)	N	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Authorized Flags (5)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Building									
Canopy	N	N	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Identification	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Directional	N	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Gas Station Service Signs (6)	N	N	N	N	A	N(CBD)/A(A)	A	N	N
Marquee	N	N	N	P	P	P	P	P	N
Projecting	N	N	N	P	P	P	P	P	N
Roof	N	N	N	P	P	P	P	P	N
Roof, Integral	N	P	N	P	P	P	P	P	N
Wall	N	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Window	N	A-P	A-P	A-P	A-P	A-P	A-P	A-P	A-P

Attachment B: Table 5-17.2.1B, "Regulation of Signs by Type, Characteristics, and Zoning Districts"

Table 5-17.2.1B Regulation of Signs By Type, Characteristics, and Zoning Districts										
Sign Characteristic By Type	All Residential Zones	INS (1)	CR	CA/DS	CG	CBD/AC	IL/HI	AR	OSR	
FREE-STANDING SIGNS										
Number Permitted Per lot (E)										
Billboards	N	N	N	N	NA	N	NA	NA	N	
Other (I)	1(A)	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1 (A)	
Per Feet of St. Frontage										
Billboards	N	N	N	N	1:1,200	N	1:1,200	1:1,200	N	
Other	NA	(K)	NA	NA	(D)	NA	(D)	(D)	NA	
Maximum Sign Area (s.f.)										
Billboards	NA	NA	NA	NA	(F)	NA	(F)	(F)	NA	
Other	20	(L)	20	32	3 sf. per each ft. st. frontage (G)	80	80	32	20	
Minimum Setback from Property Line										
Billboards	NA	NA	NA	NA	10'	NA	10'	10'	NA	
Other	5'	5'	5'	5'	5'	0'	5'	5'	5'	
Maximum Height	12'	12'	12'	24'	(H)	24'	(H)	(H)	12'	
BUILDING SIGNS										
Number Permitted (J)										
Billboards	1	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	1	
Maximum Sign Area (s.f.)										
Billboards	4	90 (L)	12	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	12	
Maximum Wall Area (J)										
Billboards	NA	20%	NA	25%	25%	25%	15%	25%	NA	
WINDOW SIGNS										
Maximum Window Area (M)										
Billboards	NA	25%	25%	25%	25%	25%	25%	25%	25%	
TEMPORARY SIGNS										
See 5-18.1.3, Temporary Signs										

TABLE NOTES: (NA = Not Applicable; N= Not Allowed; sf = Square Feet)

- A. Two-use identification signs, not exceeding 20 sf each, are permitted for each entrance of a subdivision, residential project, or agricultural operation.
- B. This column does not represent a zoning district. It applies to institutional and other non-residential uses permitted under the Unified Development Ordinance in residential zoning district, i.e. churches, schools, parks, etc.
- C. Minimum distances required by this section shall be measured between billboards located on either side of the street along the centerline of the street from which the billboard is viewed.
- D. One per lot or one for each 300 linear feet of street frontage, whichever is less.
- E. Lots fronting on two or more streets are allowed one additional sign for each street frontage, but signage cannot be accumulated and used on one street in excess of that allowed for lots with only one street frontage.
- F. 378 sf except where located within 600 feet of an Interstate Highway ROW, where maximum shall be 672 square feet. Interstate highway ROW does not include I-20 Spur or McLeod Blvd. From W. Evans to I-95.
- G. Not to exceed 160 square feet.
- H. Maximum height of billboards shall not exceed 100 feet where located within 600 feet of Interstate Highway as defined above (measured from the average roadway grade level) maximum height of other signs and billboards not on Interstate ROW shall not exceed forty (40) feet. **
- I. Directional signs shall meet the following conditional criteria:
 - a. The display surface area of directional signs shall not exceed 2 square feet per sign.
 - b. A limit of three signs stacked may be utilized and shall not exceed five feet in height measured from the ground up.
 - c. The height of a directional sign shall not exceed five feet in height measured from the ground up.
 - d. Sign cannot intrude into the required sight triangle.
 - e. Company colors and/or logo may be used but no commercial message may be displayed
- J. One projection or wall sign may be allowed per tenant wall, not above the roof line, meeting the following size requirement and not to exceed 4 tenant walls; Front and rear walls=20% of wall area not to exceed 200 square feet; side walls=20% of wall areas not to exceed 100 square feet. This provision shall apply to structures within line of sight of interstate highways and major thoroughfares.
- K. One Additional freestanding sign may be permitted per lot meeting a separation of 300 linear feet per sign.
- L. Permitted up to a 20 square foot minimum and a maximum of 1 square foot for each 2 feet of street frontage up to 90 square feet for building signs and 60 square feet for free standing signs.
- M. Window signage shall not exceed more than 25% of the window on which it is placed.

ADOPTED THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2026

Approved as to form:

City Attorney

Lethonia Barnes
Mayor

Attest:

Casey C. Moore
Municipal Clerk

FLORENCE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

DATE: March 9, 2026

AGENDA ITEM: Ordinance

DEPARTMENT/DIVISION: City Manager

I. ISSUE UNDER CONSIDERATION:

An ordinance that addresses the creation, organization and operation of the Florence City-County Convention and Visitors Commission, establishing a joint City-County body to manage and operate the Florence Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB), including governance structure, funding mechanisms, powers, and related procedures.

II. CURRENT STATUS/PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

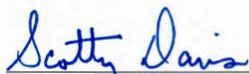
There is currently no Commission in place to manage and operate the CVB. The entity under which the CVB currently operates will cease to house and operate its services and functions at the end of the current fiscal year.

III. POINTS TO CONSIDER:

1. The Commission will consist of seven voting members (3 appointed by the County and 4 appointed by the City) and one non-voting, ex officio member, the executive director.
2. The Commission will have broad powers, including the ability to adopt bylaws, hire and compensate staff, adopt policies and procedures, make contracts, manage real estate, seek and expend public and private funds, and provide an annual budget.
3. Funding for the Commission will be at the sole discretion of the City Council and County Council, originating primarily from accommodations tax revenue, but may include other sources as determined.
4. Initial appointments shall be made for staggered terms. Thereafter, all appointees shall serve a three-year term and until such time as a successor is appointed.
5. Members will serve without compensation but may be reimbursed for actual expenses.
6. The creation of the Commission shall become effective on May 1, 2026.

IV. ATTACHMENTS:

1. Ordinance



Scotty Davis
City Manager

ORDINANCE NO. 2026 - _____

AN ORDINANCE TO CREATE THE FLORENCE CITY-COUNTY CONVENTION AND VISITORS COMMISSION, TO PROVIDE FOR THE OPERATION OF THE FLORENCE CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU TO INCLUDE PROVISIONS FOR THE COMMISSION'S ORGANIZATION AND FUNDING, AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO.

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, the City of Florence (the “City”) and Florence County (the “County”) have, and continue to provide funding, through accommodations tax revenue, to the Florence Conventions and Visitors Bureau (“CVB”) to create, assist, advertise, promote, and market projects that increase visitors and tourism to the City and County (collectively, the “Activity”), to include conventions, festivals, sporting events, and other tourism projects; and,

WHEREAS, the City and the County now desire to better structure and organize the CVB, to include the formation of the Florence City-County Convention and Visitors Commission (the “Commission”) to provide for a joint commission to organize and operate the CVB to better the Activity in both the City and County.

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

1. There is hereby created the Florence City-County Convention and Visitors Commission which shall be responsible for the management and operation of the CVB and the Activity that promotes visitors and tourists to the City and enhances the betterment of the citizens of the City and promotes economic development. The Commission shall operate on a fiscal year consistent with that of the City. The City shall, in the sole discretion of the City Council, provide funding to the Commission for the operation of the CVB, such funding to be provided from the accommodations tax revenue of the City and/or from such other revenue sources as may be determined by the City Council from time-to-time. The County shall, in the sole discretion of the County Council, provide funding to the Commission for the operation of the CVB, such funding to be provided from the accommodations tax revenue of the County and/or from such other revenue sources as may be determined by the County from time-to-time.
2. The Commission shall consist of seven (7) members and its executive director as an ex officio, non-voting member. Three (3) of the voting members shall be appointed by the County Council and four (4) of the voting members shall be appointed by the City Council. Two (2) of the City appointees and two (2) of the County appointees must be employed by or engaged in the hospitality industry, such as hotels, restaurants, and other tourism businesses. It shall be in the sole discretion of the City or County as to whether their respective appointees qualify as provided herein.
3. The initial appointments of the City and County shall be staggered terms such that one (1) City and one (1) County appointee serve a one-year term, one (1) County and one (1) City appointee serves a two-year term, and one (1) County and two (2) City appointee serves a three-year term. Thereafter, all appointees by the City and the County shall serve a three-year term and until such time as a successor is appointed. Members shall be eligible to serve on the Commission for three (3) consecutive terms, but such consecutive terms do not include the initial term of appointment. The members of the Commission shall not receive compensation for their services, but may be reimbursed for actual expenses

incurred as members of the Commission from any funds appropriated for that purpose. Expenses for travel to and from meetings of the Commission shall not be reimbursed.

4. The Commission shall perform the functions of organizing and operating the CVB to cause the CVB to engage in Activity. To this end, the Commission shall:
 - a. Have perpetual succession.
 - b. Adopt, use and amend a corporate seal, make bylaws for the conducting Commission business, to include a definition of a quorum for its meetings.
 - c. Promulgate such reasonable policies, procedures, rules, and regulations as may from time to time enhance the mission of the CVB. Such policies, procedures, rules, and regulations shall in no manner conflict with the ordinances of the County or the laws of this state.
 - d. Appoint officers, employees and agents, including a qualified Executive Director, and prescribe the duties of each, fix their compensation and determine if and to what extent they shall be bonded for the faithful performance of their duties.
 - e. With the consent of the City and County, sell, lease, or rent real estate necessary to conduct the business of the CVB.
 - f. Employ accountants, attorneys, and such other professional or technical services as may be necessary or desired to conduct business of the Commission and CVB.
 - g. Make and enter such contracts as are necessary to the Activity of the CVB.
 - h. Apply for, accept receipt for, disburse and expend federal and state funds and such funds as may be appropriated by the City or County, and other funds, public or private, made available by grant or loan or both to accomplish in whole or in part, any of the purposes charged to the Commission.
 - i. Provide to the City and the County an annual budget for the next fiscal year.
5. The provisions of this Ordinance are hereby declared to be separable and if any section, phrase or provisions shall for any reason be declared by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or unenforceable, such declaration shall not affect the validity of the remainder of the sections, phrases and provisions hereunder.
6. All ordinances, resolutions, and parts thereof in conflict herewith are, to the extent of such conflict, hereby repealed.

7. This Ordinance is hereby enacted and the Commission shall become effective on May 1, 2026, upon its approval and adoption by the City Council of the City and the County Council of the County.

ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2026.

Approved as to form:

RONALD T. SCOTT
CITY ATTORNEY

LETHONIA BARNES
MAYOR

ATTEST:

CASEY MOORE
CITY CLERK

FLORENCE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

DATE: March 9, 2026
AGENDA ITEM: Resolution
DEPARTMENT/DIVISION: City Council
Sponsored by Councilwoman LaShonda NeSmith-Jackson

I. ISSUE UNDER CONSIDERATION:

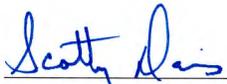
A Resolution of Recognition for United '74 Inc. for its contributions to the community.

II. POINTS TO CONSIDER:

1. United '74 Inc., formed in 2009 by graduates of Florence School District One high schools, Class of 1974, is dedicated to serving the community under its motto, "Divided by Boundaries, United by Purpose."
2. The organization provides scholarships, computers, and resources to graduating students, supports families with school-age children, assists senior citizens, and delivers meals and clothing to those in need.
3. United '74 Inc. has had a lasting impact on the Florence community through its service, generosity, and collective efforts, exemplifying the philosophy, "Not One of Us Can Do What All of Us Can!"

III. ATTACHMENTS:

1. Proposed Resolution



Scotty Davis
City Manager

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-10

A RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION FOR UNITED '74 INC. FOR ITS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COMMUNITY.

WHEREAS, United '74 Inc. is a community-based organization comprised of like-minded graduates of Florence School District One high schools, Class of 1974; and

WHEREAS, the organization's membership reflects broad geographical diversity, yet remains steadfastly connected through its motto, "*Divided by Boundaries, United by Purpose*," and united in its mission "*to be of service to the community*"; and

WHEREAS, United '74 Inc. was first formed in 2009 by Sharron Lynn Mitchell Scott and Myra Lane Isaac, bringing together graduates from the four Florence high schools that existed prior to 1975, Wilson High School, South Side High School, McClenaghan High School, and West Florence High School, for their thirty-fifth class reunion; and

WHEREAS, since its incorporation, United '74 Inc. has provided scholarship assistance, computers, and printers to fifty-seven graduating students from Florence School District One and four students from Florence School District Three, with approximately eighty-five percent of scholarship recipients completing college, vocational, or technical training; and

WHEREAS, the organization also supports families with school-age children, provides assistance to senior citizens in nursing homes and shelters, and delivers hot meals and clothing to displaced individuals during the winter months; and

WHEREAS, through fundraising and collective service, United '74 Inc. embodies its philosophy, "*Not One of Us Can Do What All of Us Can!*" and continues to make a meaningful impact in the Florence community;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Florence, South Carolina hereby recognizes and commends United '74 Inc. for its dedicated service, generosity, and lasting contributions to the citizens of Florence.

RESOLVED THIS 9TH DAY OF MARCH 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: March 9, 2026
AGENDA ITEM: Resolution
DEPARTMENT/DIVISION: City Council
Sponsored by Councilwoman LaShonda NeSmith-Jackson

I. ISSUE UNDER CONSIDERATION:

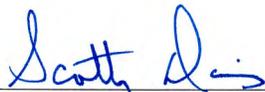
A Resolution of Recognition for Justin Purvis for his outstanding community service and contributions to the community.

II. POINTS TO CONSIDER:

1. Justin Purvis is a longtime Florence resident and South Florence High School graduate whose roots in the Pee Dee region have guided his commitment to community service.
2. He founded and operates Kosmic Sole, contributing to the local economy while demonstrating values of community, consistency, and purpose.
3. Mr. Purvis has supported numerous local organizations, schools, and youth programs, and has served as the primary sponsor of the Sneaks 4 Purpose Sneaker Drive, providing essential resources to children and families in need.
4. Through his business leadership, philanthropy, and personal dedication, Justin Purvis exemplifies community engagement and has made a lasting impact on the City of Florence.

III. ATTACHMENTS:

1. Proposed Resolution



Scotty Davis
City Manager

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-11

A RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION FOR JUSTIN PURVIS FOR HIS OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COMMUNITY.

WHEREAS, Justin Purvis is originally from Darlington, South Carolina, and is a longtime resident of the City of Florence who attended South Florence High School; and

WHEREAS, he has maintained strong and meaningful ties to the Florence community throughout his life, and his roots in the Pee Dee region continue to shape his commitment to service and civic engagement; and

WHEREAS, in 2014, Justin Purvis founded Kosmic Sole, a locally owned business that he has successfully led for more than a decade, contributing to the local economy while establishing himself as a positive and influential presence within the City of Florence, and through his entrepreneurship, has demonstrated values of community, consistency, and purpose; and

WHEREAS, Justin Purvis has been a generous and consistent partner to numerous community organizations and programs benefiting youth, schools, law enforcement, and local families, including Passion Driven Sports, the South Florence High School Cheerleaders, the Wilson High School Basketball Team, the Florence Police Department, and many other local organizations; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Purvis has served as the primary sponsor of the Sneaks 4 Purpose Sneaker Drive for the past five years, an initiative that has provided sneakers and essential resources to children and local families in need throughout the Florence community; and

WHEREAS, Justin Purvis's personal journey reflects resilience and perseverance, having overcome early life challenges and committing himself to personal growth, accountability, and positive change; and

WHEREAS, through his philanthropy, business leadership, and service, Justin Purvis exemplifies the power of second chances and the importance of giving back to the community;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Florence, South Carolina hereby recognizes and honors Justin Purvis for his outstanding service, generosity, and lasting impact on the City of Florence and its citizens.

RESOLVED THIS 9TH DAY OF MARCH 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: March 9, 2026
AGENDA ITEM: Resolution
DEPARTMENT/DIVISION: City Council
Sponsored by Councilman Bryan Braddock

I. ISSUE UNDER CONSIDERATION:

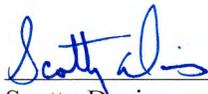
A Resolution of Recognition for the Florence Christian High School Girls Basketball Team for winning the 2026 South Carolina Independent School Association State Championship.

II. POINTS TO CONSIDER:

1. The Florence Christian High School Girls Basketball Team of Florence Christian School won the 2026 South Carolina Independent School Association State Championship, marking the first girls basketball state title in program history.
2. The Lady Eagles secured the championship with a 42–35 victory over Orangeburg Preparatory Schools at the Sumter County Civic Center, finishing the season with an impressive 24–2 record and a 17-game winning streak.
3. Under the leadership of Head Coach Neil Minton, the team demonstrated perseverance, teamwork, and sportsmanship throughout the season, proudly representing their school and the Florence community.

III. ATTACHMENTS:

1. Proposed Resolution



Scotty Davis
City Manager

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-12

A RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION FOR THE FLORENCE CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2026 SOUTH CAROLINA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL ASSOCIATION STATE CHAMPIONSHIP.

WHEREAS, the Florence Christian High School Girls Basketball Team of Florence Christian School achieved a historic milestone by winning the 2026 South Carolina Independent School Association State Championship, marking the first girls basketball state title in program history; and

WHEREAS, the Lady Eagles secured the championship with a 42-35 victory over Orangeburg Preparatory Schools at the Sumter County Civic Center, finishing the season with an outstanding 24-2 record and an impressive 17-game winning streak; and

WHEREAS, under the leadership of Head Coach Neil Minton, the team demonstrated perseverance, discipline, and unwavering faith throughout the season, earning Coach Minton his third state championship at Florence Christian School; and

WHEREAS, after suffering an earlier season loss to Orangeburg Prep, the Lady Eagles responded with resilience and determination, overcoming adversity and entering the championship game with confidence and momentum; 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 hereby commends this athletic accomplishment and congratulates the Florence Christian High School Girls Basketball Team for winning the 2026 State Championship.

RESOLVED THIS 9TH DAY OF MARCH 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: March 9, 2026
AGENDA ITEM: Resolution
DEPARTMENT/DIVISION: City Council
Sponsored by Mayor Lethonia Barnes
and Councilwoman LaShonda NeSmith-Jackson

I. ISSUE UNDER CONSIDERATION:

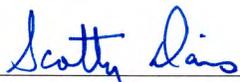
A Resolution of Recognition honoring the Mayor's Women's Ambassadors for their contributions to the community.

II. POINTS TO CONSIDER:

1. Mayor Lethonia Barnes appointed a group of women leaders to serve as Ambassadors in support of a mayoral initiative recognizing and uplifting women throughout the community.
2. The initiative celebrates women of influence across the City of Florence for the lives they touch rather than the positions they hold, highlighting those who serve, lead, inspire, and quietly make the community better.
3. Through their leadership, collaboration, and outreach efforts, the Ambassadors have helped foster community involvement, civic pride, and positive engagement throughout Florence.

III. ATTACHMENTS:

1. Proposed Resolution



Scotty Davis
City Manager

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-13

**A RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION HONORING THE MAYOR’S WOMEN’S
AMBASSADORS FOR THEIR SERVICE AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COMMUNITY.**

WHEREAS, the Mayor of the City of Florence appointed a group of women leaders to serve as Ambassadors in support of a Mayoral initiative recognizing and uplifting women throughout the community; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of this initiative is to celebrate and uplift women of influence across the City of Florence for the lives they touch rather than the positions they hold, highlighting those who serve, lead, inspire, and quietly make our community better—our unsung heroes; and

WHEREAS, these Ambassadors have demonstrated leadership, dedication, and a commitment to public service through their collaboration and engagement efforts; and

WHEREAS, through their time, energy, and shared vision, the Ambassadors have helped foster community involvement, civic pride, and positive outreach within the City of Florence; and

WHEREAS, their service reflects the strength, talent, and leadership of women throughout the Florence community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Florence, South Carolina hereby recognizes and commends the Mayor’s Women’s Ambassadors for their meaningful contributions and dedicated service to the community.

RESOLVED THIS 9TH DAY OF MARCH 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: March 9, 2026

AGENDA ITEM: Report to Council – Establishment of the City of Florence Opioid Response Commission

DEPARTMENT/DIVISION: Finance

I. ISSUE UNDER CONSIDERATION

For City Council consideration is the establishment of The Opioid Response Commission, a standing commission to support oversight and recommendation of annual distributions of South Carolina Opioid Recovery Funding received by the City of Florence. The Commission will review funding applications and make annual recommendations to the Finance Committee to ensure allocations align with the City's Opioid Settlement Community Action Plan.

II. CURRENT STATUS/PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN

The City was presented with the Opioid Settlement Community Action Plan on December 8, 2025, which established priorities for prevention, treatment, and recovery using South Carolina opioid settlement funds. To ensure consistent and transparent funding decisions in alignment with the Plan, the Finance Committee is proposing the creation of a formal commission to review applications and provide recommendations.

Under this proposal:

- The Opioid Response Commission shall be composed of five (5) members.
- Members shall be recommended and appointed by the Finance Committee.
- The City will open the application process once each fiscal year to receive requests for opioid settlement funding.
- The Commission will meet annually, or as needed, to review applications and forward funding recommendations to the Finance Committee.

This recommendation was presented and recommended to the Finance Committee on February 25, 2026.

III. POINTS TO CONSIDER

1. The Opioid Response Commission will serve in an advisory capacity to:
 - Review and evaluate funding applications submitted during the annual application cycle.
 - Confirm that proposed uses of funds are eligible and consistent with the City's Opioid Settlement Community Action Plan.
 - Recommend annual funding distributions to the Finance and Audit Committee for consideration and approval.
 -
2. Alignment with the Community Action Plan
 - Applications will be evaluated based on alignment with the following plan strategies:
 - o Strategy 1 – Prevention, Community Awareness, and Harm Reduction
 - o Strategy 2 – Treatment Access and Navigation
 - o Strategy 3 – Strengthening Housing, Peer Support, and Long-Term Recovery Pathways

FY 2025-2026 Report to Council (continued)

3. Governance and Transparency

- Establishing a dedicated commission provides:
 - o A consistent and structured review process
 - o Increased transparency in funding recommendations
 - o Clear alignment between settlement expenditures and adopted community priorities
 - o Support to the Finance Committee by knowledgeable members that have specific knowledge of the Opioid crisis in Florence, SC.

IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that City Council approve the establishment of The Opioid Response Commission as described, with five members appointed by the Finance Committee, and authorize the annual application and review process for South Carolina Opioid Recovery Funding in alignment with the City’s Opioid Settlement Community Action Plan.

V. ATTACHMENTS

None.

Glenn Bodenheimer
Finance Director



Scotty Davis
City Manager