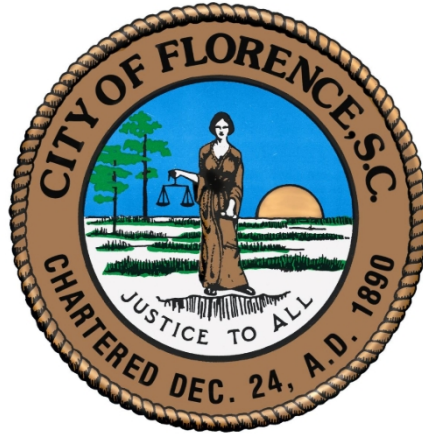
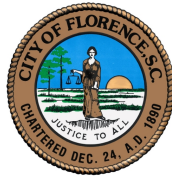


**REGULAR MEETING
OF
FLORENCE CITY COUNCIL**



City Council Chambers
324 W Evans St
Florence, SC

Monday, April 13, 2026
1:00 PM



**REGULAR MEETING OF FLORENCE CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, APRIL 13, 2026 - 1:00 PM
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
324 W EVANS ST
FLORENCE, SC**

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. INVOCATION

Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag

III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

March 9, 2026 – Regular Meeting

V. HONORS AND RECOGNITIONS

Anson Shells – 25 years – Police Department
Jennifer Krawiec – 15 years – Human Resources
Phillip Roth – 10 years – Wastewater Maintenance
Jeremy Miller – 10 years – Fire Department

VI. APPEARANCES BEFORE COUNCIL

- a. **Don Strickland – Executive Director, Pee Dee Regional Transportation Authority (PDRTA)**
To provide a transit update and 2026-27 funding summary.

VII. ORDINANCES IN POSITION

- a. **Bill No. 2026-07 – Second 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.
- b. **Bill No. 2026-08 – Second 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.
- c. **Bill No. 2026-10 – Second 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.

VIII. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

- a. **Bill No. 2026-09 – First Reading**
An Ordinance to amend the City of Florence Unified Development Ordinance regarding window signs.
- b. **Bill No. 2026-11 – First Reading**
An ordinance to annex and zone RG-3 the property located at 115 East Red Bud Lane, identified as Florence County Tax Map Number 00152-01-112.
- c. **Bill No. 2026-12 – First Reading**
An ordinance to annex and zone RG-2 the property located at 875 Stratton Drive, identified as Florence County Tax Map Number 00751-01-113.
- d. **Bill No. 2026-13 - First Reading**
An ordinance to establish an Opioid Response Commission for the review and recommendation of opioid settlement funding distributions.
- e. **Bill No. 2026-14 - First Reading**
An ordinance to amend the declining rate schedule for business licenses effective January 1, 2027.
- f. **Bill No. 2026-15 - First Reading**
An Ordinance to amend the budget for the City of Florence, SC for Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026.
- g. **Bill No. 2026-16 - First Reading**
An Ordinance to amend the budget for the City of Florence, SC for Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026.
- h. **Bill No. 2026-17 – First Reading**
An ordinance authorizing the execution of an amendment to extend the Lease Agreement between the City of Florence and Pee Dee Healthy Start, Inc.
(Note: This item may be discussed in Executive Session.)

IX. INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

- a. **Resolution No. 2026-15**
A Resolution to proclaim April as Fair Housing Month in the City of Florence.
- b. **Resolution No. 2026-16**
A Resolution of Recognition honoring Donnie Carter for his years of service on the Florence Veterans Park Committee.
- c. **Resolution No. 2026-17**
A Resolution of Recognition for The Kings Academy for winning the 2025 SCISA 2A Golf Championship.
- d. **Resolution No. 2026-18**
A Resolution of Recognition for The Kings Academy for winning the 2025 SCISA 2A Volleyball Championship.
- e. **Resolution No. 2026-19**

A Resolution of Recognition for the City of Florence Gymnastics State Champions.

f. Resolution No. 2026-20

A Resolution of Recognition for FLO-TOWN United Classy Queens for their contributions to the community.

g. Resolution No. 2026-21

A Resolution to proclaim May as Small Business Month in the City of Florence.

h. Resolution No. 2026-22

A Resolution authorizing and approving the acceptance of loan assistance monies from the State Revolving Fund Drinking Water Project to fund a PFAS study, and other matters related thereto.

i. Resolution No. 2026-23

A Resolution authorizing and approving the acceptance of loan assistance monies from the State Revolving Fund Clean Water Project to fund the Jeffries Creek Sewer Phase I project, and other matters related thereto.

j. Resolution No. 2026-24

A resolution authorizing the execution of an intergovernmental agreement between the City of Florence, South Carolina and School District No. 1 of Florence County, South Carolina for the governance of the Aquatics Center.
(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. Utilities Update

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 a proposed contractual arrangement for the lease of property as referenced in Bill No. 2026-17 [30-4-70(a)(2)].

b. Discussion and receipt of legal advice regarding proposed contractual arrangements between the City of Florence and Florence School District One, as referenced in Resolution No. 2026-24 [30-4-70(a)(2)].

- c. For a discussion regarding appointments to city Boards and Commissions [30-4- 70(a)(1)].
- d. Discussion and receipt of legal advice regarding proposed contractual arrangements for the acquisition of property [30-4-70(a)(2)].
- e. 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



**REGULAR MEETING OF FLORENCE CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, MARCH 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, Councilwoman LaShonda NeSmith-Jackson, Councilman Bryan A. Braddock, Councilman J. Lawrence Smith, II and Councilman Zach McKay

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. Victoria Nash, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Sports Tourism; Mr. Glenn Bodenheimer, Finance Director and Mr. Joshua Whittington, Director of Utilities

MEDIA PRESENT

Deirdre Weaver-Currin with the Post and Courier and Eric Cooper with WBTW News 13 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 March 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

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Councilman McKay made a motion to permanently add monthly updates from city staff or AECOM regarding the city's water, wastewater and stormwater systems to the agenda and Councilman Braddock seconded the motion.



FLORENCE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING – MARCH 9, 2026

Council voted unanimously (7-0) to adopt the agenda for the March 9, 2026 Regular meeting. The meeting agenda was adopted.

Pro tem Jebaily shared that copies of the city's Water Quality Improvement Plan are available for anyone who would like a copy. The plan will also be shared on the city's website.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson made a motion to adopt the minutes of the January 8-9, 2026 Work Session and Councilman Smith seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously (7-0) adopted.

Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson made a motion to adopt the minutes of the February 9, 2026 Regular Meeting and Councilman Smith seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously (7-0) adopted.

SERVICE RECOGNITIONS

Mr. Adam Swindler, Director of Public Works, recognized Almario Preacher for 25 years of service with the City of Florence.

Mr. Adam Swindler, Director of Public Works, recognized Isaiah Harley for 20 years of service with the City of Florence.

GRANT PRESENTATION

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

Mrs. Mindy Taylor, Director of Government and Community Relations, presented the City of Florence with a \$10,000 grant from The Foundation. She explained that last year, The Duke Energy Foundation awarded the City \$5,000 and partnered on a tree giveaway event. Although the event was expected to last about three hours, most of the trees were distributed within the first hour, demonstrating strong community interest and making the effort a clear success. Because of that success, The Duke Energy Foundation committed to partner with the City again this year, doubling its support to \$10,000. The new grant will fund two tree giveaway events: one scheduled for late April and another in the fall.

APPEARANCES BEFORE COUNCIL

Robert McCready

Mr. Robert McCready appeared before Council to speak about removing fluoride from the city's drinking water. He distinguished between naturally occurring fluoride and the chemical additive used in water treatment. He cited research linking fluoride exposure to calcification of the pineal gland in adults and raised concerns about related health effects, including reduced melatonin production and earlier puberty in children. He stated the city could save about \$10,000 by eliminating fluoride and referenced pending state legislation (House Bill 4258) to ban it. He argued many municipalities have already rejected fluoridation, that most people filter their water anyway, and that fluoride in water is not at a sufficient level to prevent tooth decay. He suggested fluoride can instead be obtained through toothpaste.



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Councilman Braddock asked about potential links between fluoride and autism. Mr. McCready said there are links being studied, noting ongoing research by the NIH and reiterating concerns about pineal gland calcification and related health impacts.

Councilman McCall asked how Mr. McCready responds to CDC statements that fluoridation benefits low-income families who may lack access to regular dental care. He also emphasized concern about affordability for families. Mr. McCready said agencies like the CDC and ADA support fluoridation, while others such as the NIH and Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) do not want to keep fluoride in the water. He maintained that fluoride levels in water are ineffective for preventing tooth decay and therefore not worth the cost. Councilman McCall emphasized the importance of affordability, saying he would not support anything that increases costs for families.

Councilman Smith questioned how low-income residents without access to water filtration would be affected if fluoride were removed. Mr. McCready said such residents have limited options but could obtain fluoride through toothpaste. He reiterated that fluoride levels in water are not sufficient to significantly impact dental health..

Mayor Barnes thanked Mr. McCready and said the City will conduct further research on the issue..

ORDINANCES IN POSITION

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.

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

Council voted unanimously (7-0) in favor of the motion. Bill No. 2026-01 was adopted.

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.

Councilman Smith made a motion to adopt Bill No. 2026-02 on second reading and Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson seconded the motion.

Council voted unanimously (7-0) in favor of the motion. Bill No. 2026-02 was adopted.

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.

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

Council voted unanimously (7-0) in favor of the motion. Bill No. 2026-03 was adopted.



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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.

Pro tem Jebaily made a motion to adopt Bill No. 2026-05 on second reading and Councilman Smith seconded the motion.

Council voted unanimously (7-0) in favor of the motion. Bill No. 2026-05 was adopted.

Bill No. 2026-06 – Second 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 adopt Bill No. 2026-06 on second reading and Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson seconded the motion.

Mayor Barnes inquired on how many readings there would be for the budget. Mr. Scotty Davis, City Manager, clarified that this is an amendment to the budget for the 30% early purchases.

Council voted unanimously (7-0) in favor of the motion. Bill No. 2026-06 was adopted.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

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 pass Bill No. 2026-04 on first reading and Councilman McKay seconded the motion.

Mr. Jerry Dudley, Director of Planning, explained that the proposed ordinance would amend the City's code to align with the International Fire Code by limiting residential childcare facilities to five children instead of six, eliminating ongoing inconsistency with fire code requirements.

Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson asked whether the Department of Social Services (DSS) plans to update its guidelines. Mr. Dudley said DSS has not yet done so but may at the state level. Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson expressed concern that adopting the ordinance now could create challenges for providers allowed and reimbursed for six children under DSS but limited to five under fire code.

Pro tem Jebaily asked whether there was urgency to adopt the ordinance. Mr. Dudley said the City could continue operating under the current code, though staff must explain the discrepancy to applicants. He also confirmed that existing facilities permitted for six children would be grandfathered in, based on guidance from the State Fire Marshal, though state-level enforcement could not be guaranteed. Pro tem Jebaily added that the intent of the amendment is to align with state regulations and reduce confusion.

Councilman McCall expressed opposition, citing concerns about increased regulations, added costs for childcare providers, and economic strain. He supported tabling the item and said he would not support the amendment.



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Councilman Braddock noted confusion between City approval for six children and state enforcement limiting facilities to five. Mr. Dudley agreed this has been the City's understanding based on discussions with state officials. Councilman Braddock also raised concerns about regulatory costs and confusion, and cautioned against delaying action.

Councilman McKay asked whether a grandfathered facility serving six children could return to that number if enrollment drops. Mr. Dudley said the City would not regulate that once a permit is issued and, if adopted, oversight would fall more to DSS. He added that if state regulations change, the City could update its code accordingly. Councilman McKay also asked about mirroring state regulations, and Mr. Dudley said staff could revise the ordinance language to reference state standards instead of a fixed number.

Pro tem Jebaily asked whether Bill No. 2026-04 could be deferred for another month to allow staff time to revisit and potentially revise the language. Mayor Barnes then asked Mr. Ron Scott, City Attorney, whether a vote was required to defer the item. Mr. Scott confirmed that a vote would be needed and that any motion to defer should specify a timeframe.

Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson noted that she had earlier requested to table the matter, prompting Mayor Barnes to ask Mr. Scott to clarify the difference between tabling and deferring. Mr. Scott explained that tabling removes an item from the agenda until it is brought back by Council, often causing it to lapse if not revisited, while deferring places the item back on a future agenda at a specified time.

Councilman Braddock expressed concern that tabling the amendment would create additional confusion for those entering the childcare business and delay addressing inconsistencies with state standards.

Councilman McCall maintained that the amendment was an unnecessary regulation, noting it had already been deferred once. He supported tabling the item and stated he would not support it regardless of further consideration. Pro tem Jebaily emphasized that the regulation originates at the state level and that the City's intent is to align with those standards to avoid misleading applicants, not to impose new requirements. Mr. Scott added that tabling is typically reserved for more urgent situations and suggested deferral or other procedural options, such as voting the item down or advancing it with revisions, would be more appropriate.

Councilman McCall further noted that the amendment includes additional changes beyond the childcare capacity limit that had not been fully discussed.

Mayor Barnes asked whether a letter could be sent to the Department of Social Services requesting updates to its guidelines, and Mr. Dudley confirmed that it could.

Councilman Braddock then requested clarification on the other proposed changes, which Mr. Dudley provided.

Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson made a motion to defer Bill No. 2026-04 until the Department of Social Services has taken action to update their regulations and Pro tem Jebaily seconded the motion.

Council voted (6-1) in favor of the motion, with Councilman McCall voting against the motion. Bill No. 2026-04 was deferred.



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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.

Councilman McKay made a motion to pass Bill No. 2026-07 on first reading and Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson seconded the motion.

Mr. Jerry Dudley, Director of Planning, said this property is located in Windsor Forest and is the site of a single family detached home. Planning Commission voted unanimously (8-0) to recommend both the annexation and the proposed zoning designation of Neighborhood Conservation 15 (NC-15).

Council voted unanimously (7-0) in favor of the motion. Bill No. 2026-07 was passed on first reading.

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.

Councilman Braddock made a motion to pass Bill No. 2026-08 on first reading and Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson seconded the motion.

Mr. Jerry Dudley, Director of Planning, said this property is located in the Grove Park subdivision. There is a single-family detached home on this lot. The proposed zoning designation is Neighborhood Conservation 15 (NC-15), which was unanimously (8-0) recommended by Planning Commission.

Councilman Braddock asked whether the City was taking any steps to encourage an increase in annexations, expressed support for annexation efforts, and inquired whether the current activity reflects a typical trend. Mr. Dudley responded that this is a normal pattern, noting that while staff are occasionally invited by community members to discuss annexation, no such outreach has taken place in the past year, and the current requests reflect usual activity.

Council voted unanimously (7-0) in favor of the motion. Bill No. 2026-08 was passed on first reading.

Bill No. 2026-09 – First Reading

An Ordinance to amend the City of Florence *Unified Development Ordinance* regarding window signage.

Pro tem Jebaily made a motion to pass Bill No. 2026-09 on first reading and Councilman McKay seconded the motion.

Mr. Jerry Dudley, Director of Planning, presented a proposed amendment to the City's sign code regarding window signage. He explained that window signage is currently an allowed use without a permit, and some businesses cover up to 100% of their windows. Because façade signage is typically limited to 25%, this can result in window signage exceeding what is otherwise permitted. The proposed amendment would change window signage from an allowed use to a permitted use and limit coverage to no more than 25% of the window in all commercial zoning districts.

Pro tem Jebaily stated that excessive window signage has become a significant issue, raising concerns about both safety, due to limited visibility into buildings, and the negative impact on community beautification efforts. He requested visual examples comparing current allowances with the proposed



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changes. He also asked for clarification, noting that if a business had 20 windows currently covered at 100%, the amendment would limit coverage to only 25%, or about five windows. Mr. Dudley confirmed. Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson expressed that window signage serves as an important advertising tool and suggested the limitation apply to 25% of all windows collectively, rather than each individual window. Mr. Dudley responded that staff would not oppose that approach.

Councilman Smith asked for clarification that the amendment applies only to signage and not window tint. Mr. Dudley confirmed that tinting would not be regulated under this amendment. Councilman Smith raised concerns about adding additional regulations on businesses and noted that window signage is an important form of advertising, particularly for small businesses.

Councilman Braddock acknowledged Pro tem Jebaily's concerns but emphasized the importance of maintaining visibility and ensuring customers can easily identify businesses. He stated he would like to better understand the potential impact on businesses before making a decision.

Mayor Barnes asked Interim Police Chief Stephen Starling to address safety concerns. Interim Chief Starling agreed that blocked visibility can pose safety risks for law enforcement when responding to calls, but noted that similar concerns would remain since window tinting is not addressed in the ordinance. Councilman McCall asked for clarification that the amendment applies to windows, including glass doors, and not to small informational signage such as business hours. Mr. Dudley confirmed that the ordinance targets larger advertising signage and would not apply to typical informational signs. Councilman McCall also noted that businesses could remove signage and still apply tint under the proposed rules, which Mr. Dudley confirmed.

Mr. Ron Scott, City Attorney, noted that a motion for first reading approval had already been made by Pro tem Jebaily and seconded by Councilman McKay.

Mr. Scotty Davis, City Manager, clarified that the proposed amendment would apply to new businesses and not existing ones.

Mayor Barnes reiterated that while large window signage would be limited, tinting would still be allowed. Mr. Dudley confirmed that the amendment does not regulate tint.

Pro tem Jebaily asked that, if the ordinance is deferred, will staff also consider addressing window tinting to better resolve safety concerns. Interim Chief Starling advised that while it could be reviewed, it may introduce additional complexities and should be carefully considered.

Councilman Braddock made a motion to defer Bill No. 2026-09 until Council is provided with visual examples and additional information. Councilman Smith seconded the motion.

Council voted (6-1) in favor of the motion, with Councilman McCall voting against the motion. Bill No. 2026-09 was deferred.

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.

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



INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 2026-10

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

Councilman McCall made a motion to pass Resolution No. 2026-10 and Pro tem Jebaily seconded the motion.

Mayor Barnes and Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson presented the Resolution to the United '74 Class. United '74 Class thanked Council for the recognition.

Council voted unanimously (7-0) in favor of the motion. Resolution No. 2026-10 was passed.

Resolution No. 2026-11

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

Councilman Braddock made a motion to pass Resolution No. 2026-11 and Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson seconded the motion.

Mayor Barnes and Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson presented the Resolution to Justin Purvis. Mr. Purvis thanked Council for the recognition.

Council voted unanimously (7-0) in favor of the motion. Resolution No. 2026-11 was passed.

Resolution No. 2026-12

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

Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson made a motion to pass Resolution No. 2026-12 and Pro tem Jebaily seconded the motion.

Mayor Barnes and Councilman Braddock presented the Resolution to the Florence Christian School Girls Basketball Team.

Council voted unanimously (7-0) in favor of the motion. Resolution No. 2026-12 was passed.

Resolution No. 2026-13

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

Pro tem Jebaily made a motion to pass Resolution No. 2026-13 and Councilman Smith seconded the motion.

Mayor Barnes and Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson presented the Resolution to the Mayor's Women's Ambassadors. Mrs. Jean Leatherman, Co-Chair of the Mayor's Women's Ambassadors, thanked Council for the recognition.

Council voted unanimously (7-0) in favor of the motion. Resolution No. 2026-13 was passed.



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.

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.

Parks and Beautification Commission

Mrs. Victoria Nash, Director of Parks, Recreation and Sports Tourism, introduced Mr. Walter Sallenger and Mr. Darryl Mitchell to Council to present the Parks and Beautification Commission Annual Plan.

Mr. Sallenger informed Council that Mr. Mitchell has been named the new Chairman of the Parks and Beautification Commission. Mr. Mitchell thanked Council for the opportunity to serve and said he is committed to enhancing city parks and ensuring community safety.

Mr. Sallenger highlighted the Commission's accomplishments over the past five years, including improvements across multiple facilities and the recent rail trail extension at the soccer complex. He expressed appreciation to Council and staff for their support and shared several recommendations from the one-year plan, such as improved wayfinding at trails, park enhancements, facility repairs, and expanded programming. He also noted ongoing goals outlined in the Commission's five-year plan.

Councilman McCall thanked Mr. Sallenger for his service and referenced community interest in expanded aquatics programs. He asked how the City might address this need. Mr. Sallenger responded that aquatics projects are costly and present staffing challenges, such as hiring lifeguards, though some communities partner with school districts. He noted that while aquatics has been discussed for some time, it would require significant funding.

Glenn Bodenheimer, Finance Director

Mr. Glenn Bodenheimer, Finance Director, provided an update on opioid funding and the Opioid Community Action Plan. He outlined a proposal to create an Opioid Response Commission, with an ordinance to be presented next month. The five-member commission, appointed by the Finance, Audit and Budget Committee, would review funding applications annually and recommend allocations based on alignment with the City's action plan, with final approval by Council.

Mr. Jon Weiss, Chief Executive Officer, House of Hope of the Pee Dee, appeared before Council to share an overview of the organization's mission, facilities, and services. He noted they house 118–140 individuals nightly, serve over 300 meals daily, and have helped many transition to work or school.



FLORENCE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING – MARCH 9, 2026

Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson asked about current capacity. Mr. Weiss said they are currently 95% full each night. Mr. Weiss reported facilities are about 95% full, with limited vacancies and several pending applications.

Councilman Braddock asked Mr. Weiss to share how the opioid funding would be used. Mr. Weiss said funding would support staffing, training, and expanding facility capacity, including adding 18–24 beds at the Courtney McGinnis Graham Community Shelter.

Pro tem Jebaily and Mr. Weiss expressed appreciation to Councilman Braddock for his service supporting the organization.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Scotty Davis, City Manager, addressed concerns about odors near David McLeod Boulevard and Woody Jones, noting that staff has been actively working in the area. He explained that multiple large sewer lines (21-inch and 24-inch) currently feed into smaller 18-inch lines, creating bottlenecks and contributing to sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs). The long-term solution is part of a \$50 million infrastructure project, funded through \$25 million in bonds and \$25 million in grants, which includes installing a 30-inch pipe. The first phase is expected to be completed by late 2028. In the short term, the City has allocated \$1 million to repair and upsize several manholes, particularly in areas experiencing overflows. Some manholes are difficult to access due to their location in swampy areas. These improvements are intended to provide temporary relief by increasing capacity and reducing the frequency and severity of SSOs, with construction expected to begin soon and take approximately three months.

Pro tem Jebaily thanked staff for the update and asked for clarification on short- and long-term solutions. Mr. Davis explained that the highlighted “problem areas” are locations where SSOs have occurred and that short-term fixes will focus on improving manholes, while the long-term fix involves increasing pipe capacity. He also noted that all wastewater must flow through the City to the treatment facility, as a proposed second plant in Timmons ville was not approved. He asked to be kept informed about a nearby development with unusually high water usage, which Mr. Davis said may be due to a leak identified through smart meters.

Councilman McKay expressed frustration that the issue has persisted for months and questioned how it was not identified sooner. Mr. Davis acknowledged the concern, explaining that overflows can be intermittent and difficult to pinpoint, but said improved asset management and the use of smart monitoring tools will help staff better track and address issues moving forward.

Councilman McCall asked about the timeline for short-term fixes and whether they would resolve the odor. Mr. Davis said the short-term work should take about three months and will help reduce odors, but the long-term project is the permanent solution.

Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson, noting she lives near the area, shared that she has received numerous complaints and confirmed that the short-term fixes are expected to minimize the odor. Mr. Davis added that bids for the work were due in late March.

Councilman Braddock asked about using lime to control odors in the interim. Mr. Davis said lime has been used before but can be washed away during overflows; however, he agreed it could be applied more regularly to help mitigate the smell.



FLORENCE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING – MARCH 9, 2026

Councilman McKay also raised concerns about water discoloration and system losses. Mr. Davis explained that smart meters have already helped identify leaks and continuous flow issues affecting hundreds of customers. He noted that SCADA systems will assist in monitoring water quality, including iron levels that can cause discoloration. Of the City's \$138 million bond, \$30 million is allocated for water quality improvements, and Council will receive monthly updates.

Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson asked about smart monitoring devices. Mr. Josh Whittington, Director of Utilities, explained that "smart covers," which cost about \$7,000 each, are used to monitor sewer levels and are currently deployed as mobile units to maximize effectiveness, with plans for broader use in the future.

Mayor Barnes emphasized that the primary issue is aging infrastructure, not water quality, noting the City maintains over 700 miles of pipes. She said disruptions in older lines can cause temporary discoloration and stressed that while improvements are underway, progress will take time.

Mr. Michael Hemingway, Director of Utility Planning and Economic Development, added that infrastructure upgrades are complex and costly, with pipe replacements ranging from \$1–2 million per mile depending on conditions and regulatory requirements.

Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson agreed with Mayor Barnes, noting the current Council inherited these challenges but remains committed to resolving them.

Mayor Barnes further stated that major industry investments in Florence reflect confidence in the City's water quality and reiterated the need for patience as improvements continue.

Councilman McKay supported providing monthly updates to keep the public informed and emphasized the importance of maintaining progress and transparency.

Pro tem Jebaily noted that the City's Water Quality Improvement Plan will be discussed further during the Business Development Committee report.

Interim Police Chief Stephen Starling informed Council that the Florence Police Department has been officially recognized for its recertification and accreditation. As a result, the department has been reaccredited by the state of South Carolina for another three years.

MAYORAL REPORT

Mayor Barnes asked Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson to highlight the Black History Parade held on February 28th.

Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson explained that the parade was originally scheduled for February 21st but was postponed due to rain. She reported that the rescheduled event was a success, with approximately 50 participants. She expressed appreciation to everyone involved and shared her hope that the parade will continue to grow and improve each year.



COMMITTEE REPORTS

Business Development Committee, Chaired by Pro tem Jebaily

Pro tem Jebaily reported that the committee received an update from AECOM regarding the city's utility system communications. He explained how receiving information is important from the community regarding water quality issues. The committee also received the city's Water Quality Improvement Plan. Pro tem Jebaily acknowledged copies of the plan were available and encouraged everyone to take a copy. He explained that approximately half of the city's water is produced through groundwater and the discoloration is a result of high iron content. The other half of the city's water is produced through surface water and there are no discoloration issues that come from surface water. The city's system is comprised of 33 wells and 14 groundwater plants. He also highlighted the SCADA system that is used to track and monitor the city's plants. Pro tem Jebaily said he is pleased that Council will be receiving monthly updates regarding the city's utility systems and acknowledged that Council has already adopted a number of master plans to include: Water Distribution Master Plan, Sewer Collection System Master Plan and a Stormwater Master Plan. The committee also received updates on Project Urban Square and ongoing city projects, as well as a report from Don Strickland, Executive Director of Pee Dee Regional Transport Authority (PDRTA).

Councilman McKay said he requested digital copies of the presentations from the meeting since he had to attend virtually and that he could share with the public and has yet to receive them. Mr. Michael Hemingway, Director of Utility Planning and Economic Development, said that the presentations were sent out to the committee via email after the meeting and would confirm what date they were sent out. Pro tem Jebaily asked if a link could be shared that could be shared with the public. Mr. Hemingway said the presentations haven't been completed online yet. They were sent to all of Council after the meeting and city staff is working with AECOM to finalize and make some corrections before releasing to the public.

Councilman Braddock requested a timeline of all the ordinances, resolutions, approval of budgets, studies, et cetera of the last five years that Council has passed regarding the city's utility system. He expressed the lack of communication to the community regarding action Council has taken to address the city's utility system. Mr. Hemingway acknowledged city staff is in the process of pulling this information together. Councilman Braddock said everyone should be on the same page when sharing information to the community to show where things were, where they are now and where they're going.

Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson concurred with Councilman Braddock and said everyone saying the same message would be helpful because these things do take a lot of planning.

Pro tem Jebaily referenced the Stormwater Plan and noted that \$7 million was raised from the initial \$0.50 stormwater increase and the City received \$14 million from state grants, totaling \$21 million. This is the action of things from several years ago and said this is the work of Council and staff actively engaging and making sure things happen. He commended city staff for their hard work and dedication.

Community Development Committee, Chaired by Mayor Barnes

Mayor Barnes said Council and staff is willing to come out to community meetings to answer questions and provide updates regarding the city. She spoke of the growth of the City and said working together is vital.

Councilman Smith spoke on a initiative regarding a special needs occupancy sticker. This sticker will help first responders respond better to residents who have an issue with sensitivity, cognitive and



FLORENCE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING – MARCH 9, 2026

developmental disabilities. It would be a voluntary program where you place a sticker on your door visible for a first responder to see, or on your car, so if there is an emergency, they would be informed and know how they can help that resident. He said this would help first responders respond to those with disabilities in a different and effective manner. Councilman Smith acknowledged support for the initiative from Interim Chief Starling, the Community Development Committee and all of Council as well. He reiterated that this program would help first responders better serve the community and protect them in a special way.

Mayor Barnes spoke on the ongoing Neighborhood Revitalization public meetings and spoke of the success and large turnouts for the meetings.

Appointments to Building Florence Together

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

Mayor Barnes made a motion to reappoint Terrence Thomas to the Building Florence Together Board of Directors and Councilman McCall seconded the motion. Terrence Thomas 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 discussed structuring the opioid funding committee.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Barnes said Council will be entering into Executive Session for 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, for a discussion regarding a development project as referenced in Resolution No. 2026-14, for a discussion regarding appointments to city Boards and Commissions, for a discussion regarding an Economic Development project located within the Downtown Central, for a discussion and receipt of legal advice regarding proposed contractual arrangements involving Florence School District One and for a personnel matter regarding the reappointment of judges.

Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson made a motion to enter into Executive Session and Councilman McCall seconded the motion. Council voted unanimously (7-0) to enter into Executive Session at 3:23pm.

Councilman McCall made a motion to resume open session and Councilman Braddock seconded the motion. The motion carried. Council resumed open session at 4:33 pm and took action on the following items:

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.

Councilman McCall made a motion to pass Bill No. 2026-10 on first reading and Pro tem Jebaily seconded the motion.



**FLORENCE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING – MARCH 9, 2026**

Council voted unanimously (7-0) in favor of the motion. Bill No. 2026-10 was passed on first reading.

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.

Councilman McCall made a motion to pass Resolution No. 2026-14 and Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson seconded the motion.

Council voted unanimously (7-0) in favor of the motion. Resolution No. 2026-14 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 made a motion to appoint John Rosado to the Public Safety Citizen's Review Board and the motion carried unanimously. John Rosado was appointed to the Public Safety Citizen's Review Board for a term to begin immediately and expire on June 30, 2027.

Florence City-County Agricultural Commission

Pro tem Jebaily made a motion to appoint Melissa Lee to the Florence City-County Agricultural Commission and the motion carried unanimously. Melissa Lee was appointed to the Florence City-County Agricultural Commission for a term to begin immediately and expire on June 30, 2028.

Contractual Agreement with Florence School District One

Councilman Smith made a motion that City Council grant the City Manager the authority to initiate a negotiation with Florence School District One concerning an intergovernmental agreement for the provision of specific recreational facilities with the understanding that such an agreement will require the subsequent final approval of City Council and Pro tem Jebaily seconded the motion.



**FLORENCE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING – MARCH 9, 2026**

Council voted (5-2) with Mayor Barnes, Pro tem Jebaily, Councilman McCall, Councilman Braddock and Councilman Smith voting in favor of the motion and Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson and Councilman McKay voting against the motion. The motion was passed.

ADJOURN

Without objection, the March 9, 2026 Regular meeting of City Council was adjourned at 4:40pm.

Dated this 13th day of April 2026.

Casey C. Moore, Municipal Clerk

Lethonia Barnes, Mayor



STAFF REPORT
Florence City Council
April 13, 2026

Agenda Item:
VII.a.

Ordinance 2nd Reading

Department: Planning, Research & Development

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.

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).

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 Plannign 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).

Attachments:

1. Bill No. 2026-07

ORDINANCE NO. 2026 - _____

**AN ORDINANCE TO ANNEX AND ZONE NEIGHBORHOOD CONSERVATION-15 (NC-15)
THE LOT AT 2511 ASCOT DRIVE, TMN 01221-01-191.**

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 Xiaoying Xie and Chen Zhang, owners of TMN 01221-01-191, 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 01221, block 01, parcel 191 (0.559746 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:

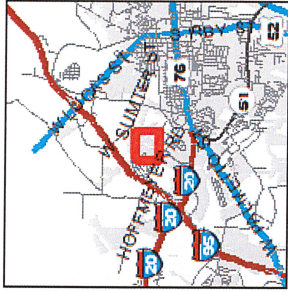
City Attorney

**Lethonia Barnes,
Mayor**

Attest:

**Casey C. Moore,
Municipal Clerk**

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 their verification is at the sole risk of the user.



Date: 11/5/2026

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 5 Race Asian
Total 18 and Over 2 Total Registered to Vote _____

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 [Signature] Date Jan-13-2026

Certification as to ownership on the date of petition: FOR OFFICAL USE ONLY
Date 1/15/26 [Signature]



STAFF REPORT
Florence City Council
April 13, 2026

Agenda Item:
VII.b.

Ordinance 2nd Reading

Department: Planning, Research & Development

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.

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).

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).

Attachments:

1. Bill No. 2026-08

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)

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: 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	<u>4</u>	Race	<u>W</u>
Total 18 and Over	<u>4</u>	Total Registered to Vote	<u>4</u>

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]

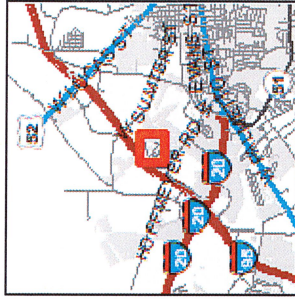
Email Address: streetdoc65@gmail.com

Signature [Signature] Date 1-20-2026

Certification as to ownership on the date of petition:	FOR OFFICIAL 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 certifies that the information on this map is the product of compilation, as provided 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: 1/23/2025



STAFF REPORT
Florence City Council
April 13, 2026

Agenda Item:
VII.c.

Ordinance 2nd Reading

Department: City Manager's Office

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.

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.

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.

Attachments:

1. Bill No. 2026-10

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



STAFF REPORT
Florence City Council
April 13, 2026

Agenda Item:
VIII.a.

Ordinance 1st Reading

Department: Planning, Research & Development

Issue Under Consideration:

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

Current Status/Previous Action Taken:

1. On February 10, 2026 the City of Florence Planning Commission voted unanimously, 8-0, to recommend the proposed UDO amendments.
2. This item was deferred at the March 9, 2026 City Council meeting in order for staff to provide additional information.

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 facade 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.

Attachments:

1. Bill No. 2026-09 - UDO Amendment Ordinance
2. Window Coverage Report

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)	1	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	1
Maximum Sign Area (s.f.)	4	90 (L)	12	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	12
Maximum Wall Area (J)	NA	20%	NA	25%	25%	25%	15%	25%	NA
WINDOW SIGNS									
Maximum Window Area (M)	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**

Window Coverage Report

As requested by City Council at the March 9, 2026 meeting, here are examples of window sign coverage with edits to show what meeting the proposed 25% limit would look like.

100% coverage seen from parking lot.



Edited to 25%.



Window Coverage Report

As requested by City Council at the March 9, 2026 meeting, here are examples of window sign coverage with edits to show what meeting the proposed 25% limit would look like.

100% coverage seen from adjacent sidewalk.



Edited to 25%

Window Coverage Report

As requested by City Council at the March 9, 2026 meeting, here are examples of window sign coverage with edits to show what meeting the proposed 25% limit would look like.



100% coverage seen from adjacent sidewalk.



Edited to 25%

Window Coverage Report

As requested by City Council at the March 9, 2026 meeting, here are examples of window sign coverage with edits to show what meeting the proposed 25% limit would look like.



66% coverage seen from the street.

The ordinance suggests limiting signage to 25% of the individual window surface, but it could be amended to be 25% of the total glazed area. The impact of the amount is also affected by the individual location, architecture, and overall scale and character of the building.



STAFF REPORT
Florence City Council
April 13, 2026

Agenda Item:
VIII.b.

Ordinance 1st Reading

Department: Planning, Research & Development

Issue Under Consideration:

Request to annex the parcel located at 115 East Red Bud Lane, with Tax Map Number 00152-01-112, into the City of Florence and assign it the zoning designation of Residential General-3 (RG-3). The request is being made by the property owner.

Current Status/Previous Action Taken:

On March 10, 2026, the City of Florence Planning Commission held a public hearing on this matter, and voted unanimously, 6-0, to recommend the zoning designation of Residential General-3 (RG-3).

Points to Consider:

- (1) The lot is owned by the City of Florence and is the location of a water production facility that provides water to the City of Florence water distribution system.
- (2) A Public Hearing for zoning was held at the March 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 Residential General-3 (RG-3).

Attachments:

1. Bill No. 2026-11 Ordinance
2. 115 E Red Bud Ln Vicinity Map
3. 115 E Red Bud Ln Annexation Petition

ORDINANCE NO. 2026 - _____

**AN ORDINANCE TO ANNEX AND ZONE RESIDENTIAL GENERAL-3 (RG-3) THE LOT AT
115 EAST RED BUD LANE, TMN 00152-01-112.**

WHEREAS, a Public Hearing was held in the Council Chambers on March 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 the City of Florence, owner of TMN 00152-01-112, 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 RG-3:

The property requesting annexation is shown more specifically on Florence County Tax Map 00152, block 01, parcel 112 (2.266093 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:

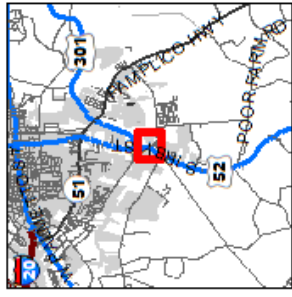
City Attorney

Lethonia Barnes,
Mayor

Attest:

Casey C. Moore,
Municipal Clerk

**PC 2026-09
Vicinity Map - 115 E. Red Bud Ln.**



Legend

- City Limits
- Parcels
- Proposed Parcel

FULL LIFE, FULL FORWARD
FLORENCE
SOUTH CAROLINA

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.

300 150 0 300 Feet

Date: 1/29/2026

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

00152-01-112

115 E. Red Bud Ln.

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

Continuity- City property

- 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
 Race
 Total 18 and Over
 Total Registered to Vote

~~_____~~
~~_____~~
~~_____~~
~~_____~~

Date 1/29/26

Sally Di
Petitioner

Date _____

Petitioner

Certification as to ownership on the date of petition:	FOR OFFICAL USE ONLY
Date <u>1-28-26</u>	<u>AZ</u>



STAFF REPORT
Florence City Council
April 13, 2026

Agenda Item:
VIII.c.

Ordinance 1st Reading

Department: Planning, Research & Development

Issue Under Consideration:

Request to annex the parcel located at 875 Stratton Drive, with Tax Map Number 00751-01-113, into the City of Florence and assign it the zoning designation of Residential General-2 (RG-2). The request is being made by the property owner.

Current Status/Previous Action Taken:

On March 10, 2026, the City of Florence Planning Commission held a public hearing on this matter, and voted unanimously, 6-0, to recommend the zoning designation of Residential General-2 (RG-2).

Points to Consider:

- (1) The lot is owned by the City of Florence and is the location of a water production facility that provides water to the City of Florence water distribution system.
- (2) A Public Hearing for zoning was held at the March 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 Residential General-2 (RG-2).

Attachments:

1. Bill No. 2026-12 Ordinance
2. 875 Stratton Dr Vicinity Map
3. 875 Stratton Dr Annexation Petition

ORDINANCE NO. 2026 - _____

**AN ORDINANCE TO ANNEX AND ZONE RESIDENTIAL GENERAL-2 (RG-2) THE LOT AT
875 STRATTON DRIVE, TMN 00751-01-113.**

WHEREAS, a Public Hearing was held in the Council Chambers on March 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 the City of Florence, owner of TMN 00751-01-113, 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 RG-2:

The property requesting annexation is shown more specifically on Florence County Tax Map 00751, block 01, parcel 113 (0.561012 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:

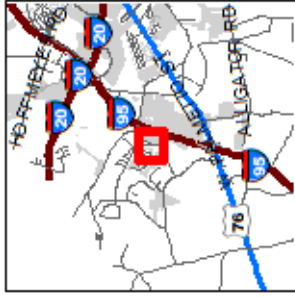
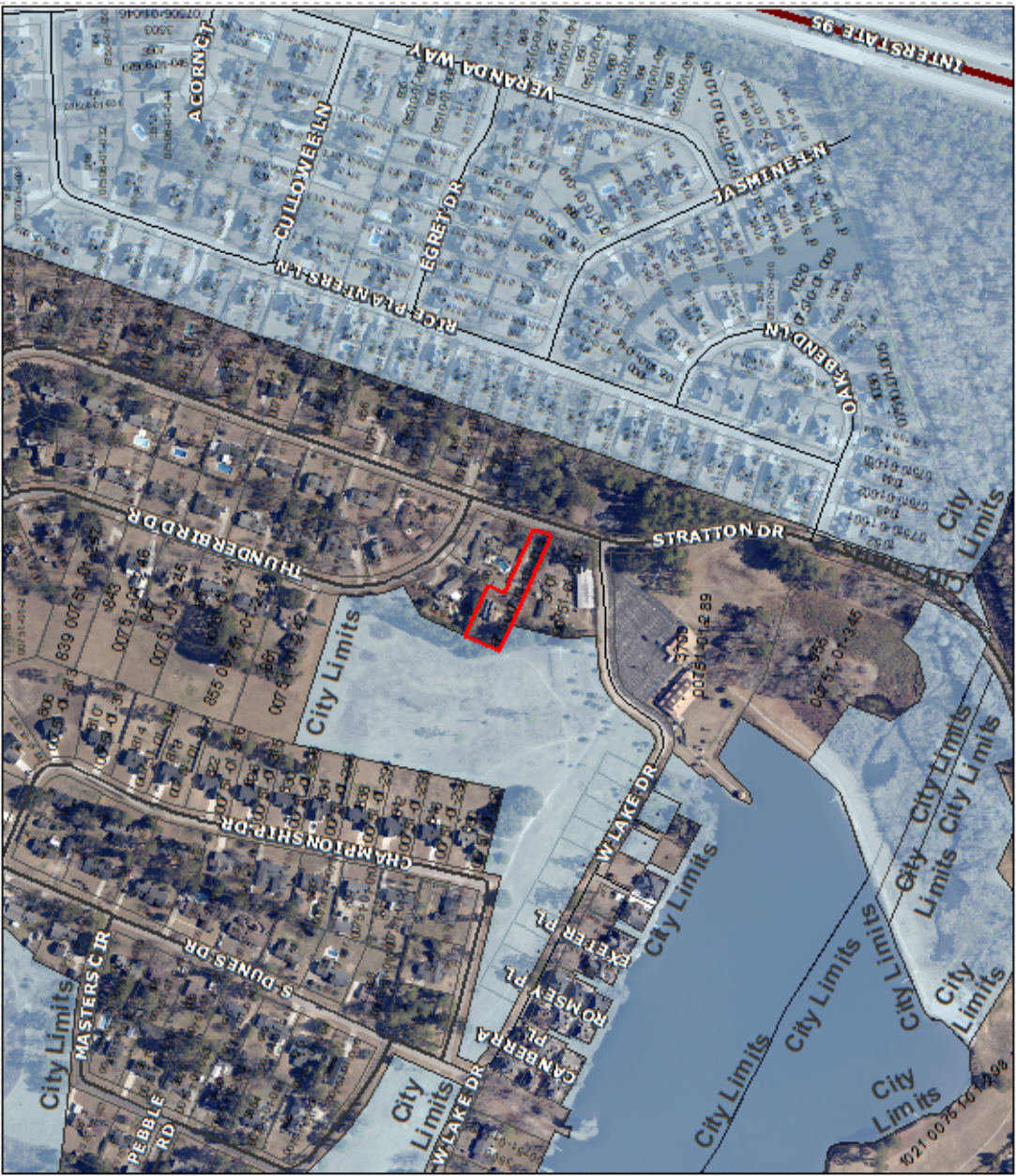
City Attorney

**Lethonia Barnes,
Mayor**

Attest:

**Casey C. Moore,
Municipal Clerk**

PC 2026-10
Vicinity Map - 875 Stratton Dr.



- 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: 1/29/2025

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

00751-01-113

875 Stratton Dr.

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

Continuity - City property

- 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 _____
 Race _____
 Total 18 and Over _____
 Total Registered to Vote _____

~~_____~~

Date 1/29/26 _____

Set D.
Petitioner

Date _____

Petitioner

Certification as to ownership on the date of petition:	FOR OFFICAL USE ONLY
Date 1/28/26 _____	<u>AZ</u>



STAFF REPORT
Florence City Council
April 13, 2026

Agenda Item:
VIII.d.

Ordinance 1st Reading

Department: Finance Department

Issue Under Consideration:

An ordinance establishing an Opioid Response Commission to review applications and make recommendations regarding the distribution of South Carolina opioid settlement funding in a manner consistent with the City of Florence, South Carolina (the “City”) Opioid Settlement Community Action Plan (the “*Action Plan*”).

Current Status/Previous Action Taken:

City Council received and reviewed the Action Plan prepared by The Steadman Group on December 8, 2025. The City’s Finance, Audit and Budget Committee discussed governance and oversight of opioid settlement funding at the City’s Finance, Audit and Budget Committee meeting on February 25, 2026 and recommended the establishment of an advisory commission. The plan to establish the Opioid Response Commission was presented to City Council at the City Council meeting on March 9, 2026. No formal ordinance establishing such a commission has been previously adopted. This proposed ordinance was presented to the City’s Finance, Audit and Budget Committee on March 25, 2026.

Points to Consider:

1. The City receives funding through statewide opioid litigation settlements intended to address the impacts of opioid misuse, prevention, treatment access, and recovery support.
2. The Action Plan identifies strategic priorities and recommends the establishment of a formal governance structure to ensure transparency, accountability, and alignment in funding decisions.
3. The Opioid Response Commission will serve in an advisory capacity to the City’s Finance, Audit and Budget Committee and City Council by reviewing funding applications, confirming eligibility, and recommending annual distributions.
4. The Commission shall consist of five (5) members recommended by the City’s Finance, Audit and Budget Committee. In making appointments, the City’s Finance, Audit and Budget Committee shall seek individuals with experience or expertise in areas including public health, substance use treatment, law enforcement, emergency medical services, behavioral health, and community advocacy.
5. The establishment of a formal review body promotes consistency, transparency, and strategic alignment with adopted priorities while maintaining City Council’s authority over final funding decisions.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION - Approval and adoption of the attached ordinance to establish the Opioid Response Commission and provide a structured, transparent process for the evaluation and recommendation of opioid settlement funding.

Attachments:

1. FY25-26 Opioid Reponse Commission Ordinance

ORDINANCE NO. 2026 - _____

AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT THE OPIOID SETTLEMENT COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN AND TO ESTABLISH AN OPIOID RESPONSE COMMISSION TO REVIEW APPLICATIONS AND PROVIDE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE SOUTH CAROLINA OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDS DISBURSED TO THE CITY OF FLORENCE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE OPIOID SETTLEMENT COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO.

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, the City of Florence, South Carolina (the “*City*”) receives funds pursuant to certain statewide opioid-related litigation settlements; and

WHEREAS, such settlement funds are intended to support treatment of opioid use disorder and any co-occurring substance use disorder or mental health conditions through evidence-based or evidence-informed programs or strategies; and

WHEREAS, a community stakeholder group presented to the City on December 8, 2025, a proposed Opioid Settlement Community Action Plan (the “*Action Plan*”) outlining recommended strategies and priorities for the use of such settlement funds; and

WHEREAS, the City has reviewed and considered the Action Plan, finds that it provides a framework for addressing opioid-related harms within the community, and desires to formally adopt the strategic priorities of the Action Plan as a guiding framework for the expenditure of opioid settlement funds; and

WHEREAS, the City’s Finance, Audit and Budget Committee has reviewed the proposed approach to allocating opioid settlement funds and has recommended the creation of a commission to evaluate funding requests and ensure consistency with the Action Plan; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City finds that establishing an Opioid Response Commission to review applications and make funding recommendations will promote transparency, accountability and the effective use of opioid settlement funds.

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

- a. The City hereby adopts the strategic priorities of the Opioid Settlement Community Action Plan, attached hereto as Exhibit A and incorporated herein by reference, as the guiding framework for the allocation and expenditure of opioid settlement funds.
- b. There is hereby created the Opioid Response Commission (the “*Commission*”) for the purpose of reviewing applications for opioid settlement funding and making recommendations to City Council regarding the allocation of such funds.
- c. The provisions governing its composition, duties, and procedures are set forth in Exhibit B, attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.
- d. This Ordinance shall become effective upon its approval and adoption by the City Council of the City.

ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2026.

Approved as to form:

RONALD T. SCOTT
CITY ATTORNEY

LETHONIA BARNES
MAYOR

ATTEST:

CASEY MOORE
CITY CLERK

EXHIBIT A

Opioid Settlement Community Action Plan

Mission

The mission is to reduce opioid addiction and its impact by building a recovery-driven community rooted in compassion, prevention, and long-term support. Strive to restore families, strengthen neighborhoods, and promote lasting wellness.

1. Strategy 1: Prevention, Community Awareness & Harm Reduction

- a. **Goal:** Reduce opioid misuse, overdose, and stigma by expanding prevention, early intervention, naloxone access, and harm reduction education across Florence.
- b. **Activity: Community Prevention & Awareness Campaign**
 - i. Description: Citywide messaging that addiction is treatable and help is available. Outreach via buses, billboards, social media, city channels, faith communities, and neighborhood organizations
- c. **Activity: Youth & Family Prevention Workshops**
 - i. Description: Workshops on mental health first aid/literacy, safe medication use, and early help-seeking to be delivered in schools, youth centers, and faith settings
- d. **Activity: Naloxone Training & Distribution Network**
 - i. Description: Training for staff and community members at libraries, shelters, churches, rec centers, and nonprofits. Coordination of naloxone distribution points (with County/State funding for the medication itself)
- e. **Activity: Harm Reduction Community Education**
 - i. Description: Community education on overdose risk, recognizing overdose, rescue steps, and pathways to recovery. Integration of harm-reduction messaging into existing events and outreach campaigns

2. Strategy 2: Treatment Access & Navigation

- a. **Goal:** Improve timely, equitable access to evidence-based treatment for all Florence residents, particularly those who are uninsured or underinsured.
- b. **Activity: Care Navigation Program**
 - i. Description: Fund 1–2 [current/new] peer or professional navigators to help individuals, e.g., find an appropriate level of care, enroll in Medicaid/insurance where possible, connect to withdrawal management and follow-up care. Prioritized for uninsured, underinsured, and high-risk individuals
- c. **Activity: Behavioral Health & Recovery Resource Directory**

- i. Description: Regularly updated print + online directory of detox/WM options, MAT providers, counseling, recovery housing, peer support, and naloxone sites to be distributed through City, County, schools, courts, law enforcement, and faith partners

d. Activity: Withdrawal Management Expansion

- i. Description: Increase access to withdrawal management services to individuals of all insurance statuses

3. Strategy 3: Recovery Ecosystem

- a. **Goal:** Strengthen a coordinated recovery ecosystem that connects housing, peer support, faith-based recovery organizations, and employment pathways to support long-term recovery.

b. Activity: Recovery Housing Mini-Grants

- i. Description: Small grants to recovery residences and related programs to support case management and recovery planning, transportation to treatment and work, and essential needs that stabilize people in early recovery.

c. Activity: Peer Support Expansion

- i. Description: Peer support presence in high-impact settings (e.g., emergency departments, municipal court, community centers) with a focus on engagement, support, and warm handoffs into treatment and recovery services.

d. Activity: Recovery-Friendly Workplaces Initiative (RFWI)

- i. Description: Establish a new County-wide RFWI that helps employers adopt policies and practices that support hiring, retaining, and supporting individuals in recovery. It promotes a healthier workforce and increases employment opportunities for people working to rebuild their lives.

EXHIBIT B

Section 1. Establishment.

There is hereby created the Opioid Response Commission (the “Commission”) for the purpose of reviewing applications for opioid settlement funding and making recommendations to City Council regarding the allocation of such funds.

Section 2. Purpose and Duties.

The Commission shall:

1. Review all applications submitted for funding from opioid settlement proceeds received by the City;
2. Evaluate such applications for consistency with the City’s Opioid Settlement Community Action Plan and applicable settlement agreements and state guidance;
3. Prioritize funding requests based on demonstrated community need, evidence-based practices, and anticipated impact;
4. Make written recommendations to City Council regarding the approval, denial, or modification of funding requests; and
5. Perform such other advisory functions as may be assigned by City Council related to opioid abatement efforts.

Section 3. Membership.

The Commission shall consist of five (5) members recommended by the City’s Finance, Audit and Budget Committee. In making appointments, the City’s Finance, Audit and Budget Committee shall seek individuals with experience or expertise in areas including public health, substance use treatment, law enforcement, emergency medical services, behavioral health, and community advocacy.

The Commission shall elect a Chairman from among its members at such intervals as the Commission deems appropriate. The Chairman shall preside over meetings and perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the Commission. The Commission may also designate other officers as deemed necessary.

Members shall serve without compensation.

Section 4. Removal of Members.

Any member of the Commission may be removed at the sole discretion of City Council.

Section 5. Meetings.

The Commission shall meet at least annually and may meet more frequently as necessary to carry out its duties and responsibilities.

Meetings of the Commission may be called by the Chairman and all meetings of the Commission shall be conducted in accordance with the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act, as amended, and all other applicable provisions of state law.

Section 6. Authority to Establish Procedures.

The Commission shall have the authority to adopt written rules, policies, and procedures governing its organization and operations, including, but not limited to, procedures for the submission, review and evaluation of funding applications, meeting conduct, and the making of recommendations to City Council and the City's Finance, Audit and Budget Committee.

All such rules, policies, and procedures shall be consistent with this Ordinance, the City's Opioid Settlement Community Action Plan, and applicable state law, including the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act, and may be subject to review and approval by City Council.

Section 7. Evaluation Criteria.

Applications reviewed by the Commission shall be evaluated for consistency with and alignment to the strategic priorities set forth in the City's Opioid Settlement Community Action Plan, including, but not limited to, the following:

Strategy 1 – Prevention, Community Awareness, and Harm Reduction

- a. Prevention and public awareness campaigns;
- b. Youth and family education programs;
- c. Naloxone training and distribution;
- d. Community-based harm reduction education initiatives;

Section 2 – Treatment Access and Navigation

- a. Care navigation and case management programs;
- b. Development of resource directories and coordination of treatment and recovery services;

Section 3 – Strengthening Housing, Peer Support, and Long-Term Recovery Pathways

- a. Recovery housing initiatives;
- b. Expansion of peer support services;

In addition to the foregoing, the Commission may consider other relevant factors, including demonstrated community need, anticipated outcomes, organizational capacity, and cost effectiveness, in making its recommendations.



STAFF REPORT
Florence City Council
April 13, 2026

Agenda Item:
VIII.e.

Ordinance 1st Reading

Department: Finance Department

Issue Under Consideration:

For City Council's consideration is an ordinance to amend the declining rate schedule contained within the City's current Business License Ordinance, effective January 1, 2027. The amendment modifies the gross income brackets and percentage charges applicable to all business classifications while maintaining compliance with the South Carolina Business License Tax Standardization Act.

Current Status/Previous Action Taken:

1. The declining rate structure was discussed at the December 3, 2025, Finance, Audit, and Budget Committee meeting.
2. The declining rate structure was further reviewed during the January 8, 2026, budget work sessions with City Council and staff.
3. The ordinance was formally presented to the Finance, Audit, and Budget Committee on March 25, 2026, for consideration and recommendation.

Points to Consider:

1. Protects Small and Local Businesses — Approximately 85% of licensed businesses will see no change under the proposed schedule. The amendment primarily impacts only the highest grossing businesses, ensuring that small and mid-sized local businesses are not carrying a disproportionate share of the burden.
2. Creates a Fairer and More Balanced Structure — Florence's current declining rate drops to one of the lowest levels in the state at the highest tiers. The proposed update keeps declining rates in place but makes the structure more gradual and consistent with similarly sized South Carolina municipalities.
3. Align with Peer Cities — Florence's existing wide brackets allow large businesses to remain in deeply discounted tiers longer than in most other cities. The revised schedule modernizes the structure and brings it more in line with common statewide practices.
4. Maintains a Competitive Business Environment — Florence will continue to offer declining rates and remain business-friendly. Key drivers of economic development, workforce availability, infrastructure, education partnerships, and quality of life, remain the primary factors influencing location decisions.

Staff Recommendation — Approval and adoption of the attached ordinance to update the City's declining rate

structure, promote fairness among business tiers, and better align Florence's rate schedule with comparable South Carolina municipalities while maintaining a competitive and small business-friendly environment.

Attachments:

1. FY2025-2026 Amendment #4 - Declining Rates

**AN ORDINANCE
AMENDING THE BUSINESS LICENSE ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF FLORENCE TO
UPDATE THE DECLINING RATE SCHEDULE EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2027**

WHEREAS, the City of Florence (the “Municipality”) is authorized by S.C. Code Section 5-7-30 and Title 6, Chapter 1, Article 3 to impose a business license tax on gross income;

WHEREAS, by Act No. 176 of 2020, known as the South Carolina Business License Tax Standardization Act and codified at S.C. Code Sections 6-1-400 to -420 (the “Standardization Act”), the South Carolina General Assembly imposed additional requirements and conditions on the administration of business license taxes;

WHEREAS, the Standardization Act permits municipalities to adopt a declining rate schedule applicable to gross income within each class, provided such schedule is applied uniformly;

WHEREAS, the City Council of the Municipality (the “Council”) now wishes to amend the Current Business License Ordinance to amend the declining rate schedule applicable to business license taxes in order to modify the brackets and percentage charges, effective January 1, 2027.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Council of the City of Florence, as follows:

SECTION 1. Amendments to Declining Rate Schedule. The declining rate schedule contained in the Current Business License Ordinance is hereby amended and restated in its entirety as follows, effective for the license year beginning January 1, 2027:

% Charge	Bracket
100%	\$0–\$1M
90%	\$1M–\$3M
80%	\$3M–\$5M
70%	\$5M–\$7M
60%	\$7M+

SECTION 2. No Other Changes. Appendix B, the Business License Class Schedule, and all other provisions of the Current Business License Ordinance shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 2. Repealer, Effective Date. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with this ordinance are hereby repealed. This ordinance shall be effective with respect to the business license year beginning January 1, 2027.

ENACTED IN REGULAR MEETING, this ___ day of _____, 20__.

Mayor

ATTEST:

Clerk



STAFF REPORT
Florence City Council
April 13, 2026

Agenda Item:
VIII.f.

Ordinance 1st Reading

Department: Finance Department

Issue Under Consideration:

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

Current Status/Previous Action Taken:

This proposed ordinance was presented to the Finance Committee on March 25, 2026, and recommended for approval.

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. Staff recommends approving and adopting the proposed ordinance.

Attachments:

1. FY2025-26 Amendment #5 - Budget Amendment - Diesel Fuel Tanks

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 \$300,000 from unassigned fund balance for projects 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:

10043020-580050 Facility Improvements (Beautification & Facilities) is funded in the amount of \$300,000 for the installation of above ground fuel tanks, including diesel, for City use at 250 E. Marion Street.

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:

Haynsworth Sinkler Boyd, P.A.
City Attorney

Lethonia Barnes
Mayor

Attest:

Casey C. Moore
Municipal Clerk



STAFF REPORT
Florence City Council
April 13, 2026

Agenda Item:
VIII.g.

Ordinance 1st Reading

Department: Finance Department

Issue Under Consideration:

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

Current Status/Previous Action Taken:

This proposed ordinance was presented to the Finance Committee on March 25, 2026 and recommended for approval.

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.

Attachments:

1. FY2025-26 Amendment #6 - Budget Amendment - Aquatics Center

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 \$500,000 from unassigned fund balance for projects 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:

10049300-594125 Economic Development (Non-Departmental) is funded in the amount of \$500,000 to fulfill the first installment of the City's \$1,000,000 commitment, funded over two fiscal years, in partnership to support the construction of an Aquatics Center in the City of Florence.

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



STAFF REPORT
Florence City Council
April 13, 2026

Agenda Item:
IX.a.

Resolution

Department: Community Services Department

Issue Under Consideration:

A Resolution to proclaim the month of April as Fair Housing Month in the City of Florence.

Current Status/Previous Action Taken:

1. The Fair Housing Act was enacted as Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, and codified at 42 U.S.C. 3601-3619, with penalties for violation at 42 U.S.C. 3631. It is enforced by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Points to Consider:

1. The Fair Housing Act is intended to protect the buyer or renter of a dwelling from seller or landlord discrimination. Its primary prohibition makes it unlawful to refuse to sell, rent to, or negotiate with any person because of that person's inclusion in a protected class. The goal is a unitary housing market in which a person's background – as opposed to financial resources – does not arbitrarily restrict access.
2. The legislation was the culmination of a civil rights campaign against housing discrimination in the United States and was approved by President Lyndon B. Johnson.
3. The Fair Housing Act has been strengthened since its adoption in 1968, but enforcement continues to be a concern among housing advocates.

Attachments:

1. Fair Housing Month Resolution

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

RESOLUTION 2026-15

A RESOLUTION TO PROCLAIM APRIL AS FAIR HOUSING MONTH IN THE CITY OF FLORENCE.

WHEREAS, Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, prohibits discrimination in housing and declares it a national policy to provide for fair housing in the United States; and

WHEREAS, The principle of Fair Housing is not only national law and national policy, but a fundamental human concept and right for all Americans; and

WHEREAS, National Fair Housing Law, during the month of April, provides an opportunity for all Americans to recognize that the issue of fair housing continues to be a problem for many families of all races and that complete success can only be accomplished with the help and cooperation of all Americans; and

WHEREAS, The City of Florence in its commitment to Fair Housing, proclaim the Month of April as Fair Housing Month, and urge all of our citizens to join in this effort to reaffirm our individual commitment to support the practice and the spirit of the Fair Housing Law.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the City Council of the City of Florence, South Carolina does hereby proclaim the month of April as

“Fair Housing Month”

RESOLVED THIS 13TH DAY OF APRIL 2026.

Approved as to form:

HAYNSWORTH SINKLER BOYD, P.A.
CITY ATTORNEY

LETHONIA BARNES
MAYOR

ATTEST:

CASEY C. MOORE
MUNICIPAL CLERK



STAFF REPORT
Florence City Council
April 13, 2026

Agenda Item:
IX.b.

Resolution

Department: City Manager's Office

Issue Under Consideration:

A Resolution of Recognition honoring Donnie Carter for his years of service on the Florence Veterans Park Committee.

Current Status/Previous Action Taken:

This Resolution is sponsored by Councilman Bryan A. Braddock.

Points to Consider:

1. Since the early planning stages in 2006, Donnie Carter has been actively involved in the vision and development of the Florence Veterans Park. The park, completed in 2008, serves as a lasting tribute to the men and women who have served in the United States Armed Forces.
2. Over the years, the park has expanded to include monuments representing major conflicts, the Wall of Honor recognizing individual veterans, and a Gold Star Monument. The park also serves as an educational resource for students and visitors and hosts an annual Veterans Day ceremony each year on November 11.
3. Mr. Carter's dedication and service have contributed significantly to the success and continued prominence of the Florence Veterans Park as a valued community asset and place of remembrance.

Attachments:

1. Resolution of Recognition

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-16

A RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION HONORING DONNIE CARTER FOR HIS YEARS OF SERVICE ON THE FLORENCE VETERANS PARK COMMITTEE.

WHEREAS, Donnie Carter, a United States Army Vietnam veteran, has been actively involved in the vision, development, and ongoing success of the Florence Veterans Park since its earliest planning discussions in 2006; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Carter played an important role in the initial efforts to establish a Veterans Park in Florence, South Carolina, contributing to the realization of a meaningful space dedicated to honoring the service and sacrifice of the nation’s veterans; and

WHEREAS, through the collaborative efforts of committed community leaders and visionaries, the Florence Veterans Park was completed in 2008 as a lasting tribute to the men and women who have served in the United States Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Carter had the distinct honor of raising the first American flag at the Florence Veterans Park during its dedication on Veterans Day in 2008; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure, Mr. Carter contributed to the continued growth and enhancement of the park, including the expansion of monuments representing major conflicts such as World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and Desert Storm, as well as the addition of the Wall of Honor and Gold Star Monument; and

WHEREAS, the Florence Veterans Park has become a cherished community asset, welcoming thousands of visitors and serving as the site of annual Veterans Day ceremonies held each year on November 11; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Carter’s commitment, leadership, and passion have made a lasting impact on the City of Florence and its recognition of veterans;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Florence, South Carolina hereby recognizes and expresses their sincere appreciation to Donnie Carter for his many years of dedicated service to the Florence Veterans Park Committee and the citizens of Florence.

RESOLVED THIS 13TH DAY OF APRIL 2026.

Approved as to form:

HAYNSWORTH SINKLER BOYD, P.A.
CITY ATTORNEY

LETHONIA BARNES
MAYOR

ATTEST:

CASEY C. MOORE
MUNICIPAL CLERK



STAFF REPORT
Florence City Council
April 13, 2026

Agenda Item:
IX.c.

Resolution

Department: City Council

Issue Under Consideration:

A Resolution of Recognition for The Kings Academy for winning the 2025 SCISA 2A Golf Championship.

Current Status/Previous Action Taken:

This Resolution is co-sponsored by Councilman Bryan A. Braddock and Councilman Zach McKay.

Points to Consider:

1. The King's Academy Golf Team earned the 2025 SCISA 2A State Championship at the Hackler Course at Coastal Carolina University. The team finished with an impressive score of 650, securing the title by a 13-stroke margin over Carolina Academy.
2. This achievement follows a strong runner-up finish the previous year and reflects the team's continued growth and commitment to excellence. The team demonstrated focus and resilience throughout the tournament, particularly in the final round.

Attachments:

1. Resolution of Recognition

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-17

A RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION FOR THE KING’S ACADEMY GOLF TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2025 SCISA 2A STATE CHAMPIONSHIP.

WHEREAS, The King’s Academy volleyball team achieved an outstanding accomplishment by winning the 2025 South Carolina Independent School Association (SCISA) 2A State Golf Championship at the Hackler Course at Coastal Carolina University; and

WHEREAS, the Lions secured the state title with an impressive team score of 650, finishing 13 strokes ahead of the runner-up, Carolina Academy; and

WHEREAS, this championship victory reflects the team’s dedication, discipline, and perseverance, building upon a strong runner-up finish in the previous year; and

WHEREAS, the team demonstrated resilience and focus throughout the tournament, particularly in the final round, where strong performances over the closing holes secured the championship; and

WHEREAS, Head Coaches Billy Early and Luke Coates provided exceptional leadership, emphasizing focus, teamwork, and mental toughness, guiding the team to this championship achievement; and

WHEREAS, through hard work and determination, these student 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 King’s Academy Golf Team for winning the 2025 State Championship.

RESOLVED THIS 13TH DAY OF APRIL 2026.

Approved as to form:

HAYNSWORTH SINKLER BOYD, P.A.
CITY ATTORNEY

LETHONIA BARNES
MAYOR

ATTEST:

CASEY C. MOORE
MUNICIPAL CLERK



STAFF REPORT
Florence City Council
April 13, 2026

Agenda Item:
IX.d.

Resolution

Department: City Council

Issue Under Consideration:

A Resolution of Recognition for The Kings Academy for winning the 2025 SCISA 2A Volleyball Championship.

Current Status/Previous Action Taken:

This Resolution is co-sponsored by Councilman Bryan A. Braddock and Councilman Zach McKay.

Points to Consider:

1. The King's Academy Volleyball Team achieved a historic milestone by winning the 2025 SCISA 2A State Championship. The team secured the title with a hard-fought 3-2 victory over Laurens Academy at Cardinal Newman in a competitive five-set match.
2. This victory marks the first state championship in the history of The King's Academy volleyball program, representing a significant achievement for both the school and the Florence community.
3. Throughout the match, the team demonstrated resilience and determination, overcoming deficits and rallying in multiple sets. Their performance reflected strong teamwork, discipline, and competitive spirit.

Attachments:

1. Resolution of Recognition

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-18

A RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION FOR THE KING’S ACADEMY VOLLEYBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2025 SCISA 2A STATE CHAMPIONSHIP.

WHEREAS, The King’s Academy volleyball team achieved an outstanding milestone by winning the 2025 South Carolina Independent School Association (SCISA) 2A State Volleyball Championship; and

WHEREAS, The King’s Academy secured the state title with a hard-fought 3-2 victory over Laurens Academy at Cardinal Newman, demonstrating perseverance and determination in a five-set match; and

WHEREAS, this victory marks the first state championship in the history of The King’s Academy volleyball program, a significant accomplishment for the school and the Florence community; and

WHEREAS, the team showed remarkable resilience throughout the match, overcoming multiple deficits and rallying in each set, exemplifying teamwork, discipline, and competitive spirit; and

WHEREAS, Head Coach Kyle Buckley and the coaching staff provided strong leadership and guidance, helping the team persevere after previous championship losses and achieve their long-awaited goal; and

WHEREAS, through hard work and determination, these student 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 King’s Academy Volleyball Team for winning the 2025 State Championship.

RESOLVED THIS 13TH DAY OF APRIL 2026.

Approved as to form:

HAYNSWORTH SINKLER BOYD, P.A.
CITY ATTORNEY

LETHONIA BARNES
MAYOR

ATTEST:

CASEY C. MOORE
MUNICIPAL CLERK



STAFF REPORT
Florence City Council
April 13, 2026

Agenda Item:
IX.e.

Resolution

Department: Parks, Recreation and Sports Tourism

Issue Under Consideration:

A Resolution of Recognition for the City of Florence Gymnastics State Champions.

Current Status/Previous Action Taken:

No previous action has been taken on this Resolution.

Points to Consider:

1. City of Florence gymnastics program participants recently competed in USA Gymnastics events and earned top honors in their respective divisions.
2. The gymnasts being recognized achieved notable placements, including multiple first, second, and third place finishes across events such as floor, vault, beam, and all-around competition.

Attachments:

1. Resolution of Recognition

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-19

A RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION FOR THE CITY OF FLORENCE GYMNASTICS PARTICIPANTS FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE USA GYMNASTICS COMPETITION.

WHEREAS, the City of Florence Recreation Department provides opportunities for youth to develop athletic skills, discipline, and confidence through its gymnastics program; and

WHEREAS, several participants in the City of Florence Recreation Gymnastics Program have demonstrated exceptional talent while competing in USA Gymnastics (USAG) events; and

WHEREAS, these athletes have earned top honors in their respective divisions, representing the City of Florence with excellence and sportsmanship; and

WHEREAS, the following gymnasts achieved notable accomplishments:

- **Blakelyn Craddock**, Xcel Bronze Division, earned 1st Place on Floor on March 15;
- **Brenlee Curlington**, USAG Level 4, earned 3rd Place on Beam, 3rd Place on Floor, and 3rd Place All-Around on March 29;
- **Amelia Coughlin**, Xcel Bronze Division, earned 1st Place on Floor on March 14;
- **Madelynn Horton**, Xcel Bronze Division, earned 3rd Place on Floor on March 15;
- **Jax Perkins**, Xcel Silver Division, earned 2nd Place on Vault on March 14;
- **Noemi Ward**, Xcel Silver Division, earned 3rd Place on Floor on March 14;
- **Miriam Welch**, Xcel Silver Division, earned 1st Place on Floor, 3rd on Bars, and 2nd Place All-Around on March 13; and

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

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT, the City Council of the City of Florence, South Carolina commends this athletic accomplishment and congratulates the Florence Gymnastics participants for their outstanding achievements in the USA Gymnastics Competition.

RESOLVED THIS 13TH DAY OF APRIL 2026.

Approved as to form:

HAYNSWORTH SINKLER BOYD, P.A.
CITY ATTORNEY

LETHONIA BARNES
MAYOR

ATTEST:

CASEY C. MOORE
MUNICIPAL CLERK



STAFF REPORT
Florence City Council
April 13, 2026

Agenda Item:
IX.f.

Resolution

Department: City Council

Issue Under Consideration:

A Resolution of Recognition for FLO-TOWN United Classy Queens for their contributions to the community.

Current Status/Previous Action Taken:

This Resolution is sponsored by Councilwoman LaShonda NeSmith-Jackson.

Points to Consider:

1. FLO-TOWN United Classy Queens was established in March 2024 in Florence, South Carolina. The organization is a women-led group focused on strengthening and uplifting the community through service, unity, and empowerment.
2. Since its founding, the organization has been actively involved in charity drives, mentorship programs, scholarship support, and community-based fundraisers.

Attachments:

1. Resolution of Recognition

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-20

A RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION FOR FLO-TOWN UNITED CLASSY QUEENS FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COMMUNITY.

WHEREAS, FLO-TOWN United Classy Queens, established in March 2024 in Florence, South Carolina, is a women-led community organization dedicated to strengthening and uplifting the Florence community through service, unity, and empowerment; and

WHEREAS, the organization is committed to supporting individuals and families by providing resources that promote overall well-being, personal development, and community stability; and

WHEREAS, the mission of FLO-TOWN United Classy Queens is to preserve and strengthen communities by offering mental health and nutrition support services, along with clothing assistance to promote workforce readiness; and

WHEREAS, since its founding, FLO-TOWN United Classy Queens has demonstrated a strong commitment to service through organizing and participating in charity drives, community outreach programs, mentorship initiatives, scholarship support, and sponsorship fundraisers; and

WHEREAS, the organization's efforts have positively impacted individuals and families throughout the Florence community by fostering unity, encouraging leadership, and promoting meaningful opportunities for growth and success; and

WHEREAS, the dedication and leadership of FLO-TOWN United Classy Queens serve as an example of civic engagement and community pride within the City of Florence;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Florence, South Carolina hereby recognizes and commends FLO-TOWN United Classy Queens for the contributions to the community.

RESOLVED THIS 13TH DAY OF APRIL 2026.

Approved as to form:

HAYNSWORTH SINKLER BOYD, P.A.
CITY ATTORNEY

LETHONIA BARNES
MAYOR

ATTEST:

CASEY C. MOORE
MUNICIPAL CLERK



STAFF REPORT
Florence City Council
April 13, 2026

Agenda Item:
IX.g.

Resolution

Department: City Council

Issue Under Consideration:

A Resolution to proclaim May as Small Business Month in the City of Florence.

Current Status/Previous Action Taken:

This Resolution is sponsored by Councilman Chaquez T. McCall.

Points to Consider:

1. Small businesses play a vital role in the City of Florence by creating jobs, driving innovation, and contributing to the overall quality of life. They are a key component of the local economy, providing essential goods and services while also supporting community initiatives.
2. The City recognizes the dedication and resilience of small business owners and their employees, whose efforts help strengthen neighborhoods and foster a strong sense of local identity. Supporting small businesses promotes economic growth and ensures a diverse and thriving business environment.
3. Designating May as Small Business Month provides an opportunity to highlight the importance of small businesses and encourages residents to support local enterprises throughout the community.

Attachments:

1. Resolution of Recognition

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-21

A RESOLUTION TO PROCLAIM MAY AS SMALL BUSINESS MONTH IN THE CITY OF FLORENCE.

WHEREAS, small businesses are the backbone of the local economy and play a vital role in creating jobs, driving innovation, and enhancing the quality of life in the City of Florence; and

WHEREAS, small businesses contribute significantly to the economic vitality of Florence by providing goods and services, supporting community initiatives, and fostering a sense of local identity; and

WHEREAS, the City of Florence recognizes the dedication, resilience, and entrepreneurial spirit of small business owners and their employees, who work tirelessly to serve our community; and

WHEREAS, supporting small businesses helps promote economic growth, strengthen neighborhoods, and ensure a diverse and thriving local economy; and

WHEREAS, the month of May provides an opportunity to celebrate and promote the importance of small businesses and to encourage residents to support local enterprises;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Florence, South Carolina hereby proclaims May as Small Business Month in the City of Florence and encourages all citizens to recognize and support the contributions of small businesses throughout the community.

RESOLVED THIS 13TH DAY OF APRIL 2026.

Approved as to form:

HAYNSWORTH SINKLER BOYD, P.A.
CITY ATTORNEY

LETHONIA BARNES
MAYOR

ATTEST:

CASEY C. MOORE
MUNICIPAL CLERK



STAFF REPORT
Florence City Council
April 13, 2026

Agenda Item:
IX.h.

Resolution

Department: Utilities Department

Issue Under Consideration:

A Resolution authorizing the City Manager to submit for loan application from the South Carolina Water Quality Revolving Fund Authority and other matters related thereto.

Current Status/Previous Action Taken:

1. City Council authorized and approved the City Manager to apply for a loan for a PFAS Study through the South Carolina Water Quality Revolving Fund Authority during May 13, 2024, City Council meeting by Resolution 2024-22.
2. The current resolution is to award \$4,000,000 for the PFAS Study Treatment Assessment at the City's Regional Surface Water Treatment Plant.

Points to Consider:

1. EPA is setting enforceable Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) at 4.0 parts per trillion for PFOA and PFOS for each individual parameter.
2. The City's Pee River Regional Surface Water Treatment Plant is required to meet compliance with the new rule for these parameters by 2029.
3. The proposed Resolution will allow the City to secure funding necessary to assess present treatment options which best allows the City's Surface Water Treatment Plant to achieve compliance of the proposed EPA enforceable Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) at 4.0 parts per trillion for PFOA and PFOS limits.

Attachments:

1. City Council Resolution - PFAS - April 13 2026

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-22

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO SUBMIT A DRINKING WATER SRF LOAN APPLICATION THE SOUTH CAROLINA WATER QUALITY REVOLVING FUND AUTHORITY.

WHEREAS, the South Carolina Water Quality Revolving Fund Authority (the “State Authority”) provides low-interest loan financing for the construction of public drinking water facilities from the Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund (the “Fund”) pursuant to the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act and Title 48, Chapter 5, Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, as amended; and

WHEREAS, the City of Florence is legally constituted municipal corporation in the State of South Carolina and is authorized to incur debt pursuant to Title 6, Chapter 21, Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, as amended; and

WHEREAS, THE City of Florence has determined that it is in the best interests of the City to apply to the State Authority for loan from the Fund;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Florence, South Carolina (the “Council”), in a meeting duly assembled:

1. That the Council hereby authorizes the City Manager to complete and execute and submit an application to the State Authority for a loan from the Fund in the amount of approximately \$4,000,000 to finance the costs of the PFAS Treatment Study of the City’s Frank E. Willis Regional Surface Water Treatment Plant. The City Manager is authorized to take such actions as may be necessary or convenient to complete the application process.

2. That the City will grant to the State Authority a pledge of, and lien on, all revenues of the City’s combined water and sewer utility revenues for repayment of the loan.

3. That the final terms and conditions of the loan and the loan documents shall be subject to the approval of this Council.

ADOPTED, THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2026.

Resolution No. 2026-22
Page 2 – April 13, 2026

Approved as to form:

City Attorney

Lethonia Barnes
Mayor

Attest:

Casey C. Moore
Municipal Clerk



STAFF REPORT
Florence City Council
April 13, 2026

Agenda Item:
IX.i.

Resolution

Department: Utilities Department

Issue Under Consideration:

A Resolution authorizing the City Manager to submit a Clean Water SRF Loan Application to the South Carolina Water Quality Revolving Fund Authority and other matters related thereto.

Current Status/Previous Action Taken:

1. The current resolution is to execute and submit an application to the State Authority for a loan from the Fund in the amount of approximately \$24,714,000 in State Revolving Fund (SRF) loan for the Phase I Jeffries Creek Sanitary Sewer Project.

Points to Consider:

1. The loan was made available through the South Carolina Water Clean Water Revolving Fund Authority program and distributed through the South Carolina Rural Infrastructure Authority State Revolving Fund by the South Carolina Department of Environmental Services.
2. The scope of the Sanitary Sewer Interceptor Project involves the upgrade of existing infrastructure (gravity sewer pipe and manholes).
3. The project will improve sanitary sewer conveyance by replacing existing infrastructure that can no longer provide adequate capacity to convey sanitary sewer efficiently to the City's Water Reclamation Facility.

Attachments:

1. City Council Resolution - Jeffries Creek Sanitary Sewer Interceptor Improvements April 13 2026

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-23

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO SUBMIT A CLEAN WATER SRF LOAN APPLICATION THE SOUTH CAROLINA WATER QUALITY REVOLVING FUND AUTHORITY.

WHEREAS, the South Carolina Water Quality Revolving Fund Authority (the “State Authority”) provides low-interest loan financing for the construction of publicly owned wastewater facilities from the Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund (the “Fund”) pursuant to the Federal Clean Water Act and Title 48, Chapter 5, Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, as amended; and

WHEREAS, the City of Florence is legally constituted municipal corporation in the State of South Carolina and is authorized to incur debt pursuant to Title 6, Chapter 21, Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, as amended; and

WHEREAS, THE City of Florence has determined that it is in the best interests of the City to apply to the State Authority for loan from the Fund;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Florence, South Carolina (the “Council”), in a meeting duly assembled:

1. That the Council hereby authorizes the City Manager to complete and execute and submit an application to the State Authority for a loan from the Fund in the amount of approximately \$24,714,000 to finance the costs of the Jeffries Creek Interceptor Improvements. The City Manager is authorized to take such actions as may be necessary or convenient to complete the application process.

2. That the City will grant to the State Authority a pledge of, and lien on, all revenues of the City’s combined water and sewer utility revenues for repayment of the loan.

3. That the final terms and conditions of the loan and the loan documents shall be subject to the approval of this Council.

ADOPTED, THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2026.

Resolution No. 2026-23
Page 2 – April 13, 2026

Approved as to form:

City Attorney

Lethonia Barnes
Mayor

Attest:

Casey C. Moore
Municipal Clerk