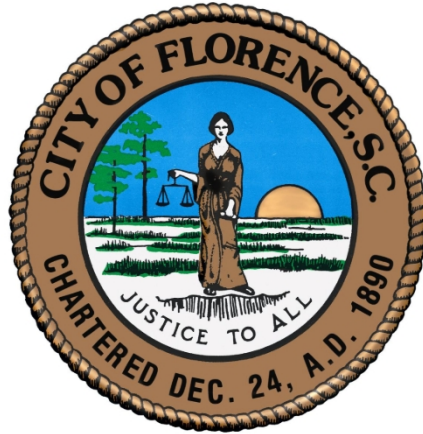
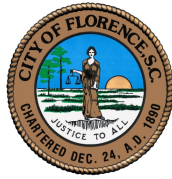


**REGULAR MEETING
OF
FLORENCE CITY COUNCIL**



Council Chambers
324 West Evans Street
Florence, South Carolina

Monday, May 11, 2026
1:00 PM



**REGULAR MEETING OF FLORENCE CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, MAY 11, 2026 - 1:00 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
324 WEST EVANS STREET
FLORENCE, SOUTH CAROLINA**

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. INVOCATION

Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag

III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

April 13, 2026 - Regular Meeting

V. HONORS AND RECOGNITIONS

SERVICE RECOGNITIONS

Wallace Wingate – 30 years – Sanitation

Robert Woodberry – 15 years – Parks, Recreation and Tourism

Stacey Watts – 10 years – Police Department

VI. SPRING 2026 CITY UNIVERSITY GRADUATION

VII. PUBLIC HEARING

- a. A Public Hearing will be held to receive input on the City of Florence Fiscal Year budget 2026-2027.
- b. A Public Hearing will be held to receive input on the allocation of Community Development Block Grant funds awarded from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.

VIII. ORDINANCES IN POSITION

a. Bill No. 2026-11 – Second 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.

b. Bill No. 2026-12 – Second 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.

- c. **Bill No. 2026-13 - Second Reading**
An ordinance to establish an Opioid Response Commission for the review and recommendation of opioid settlement funding distributions.
- d. **Bill No. 2026-14 - Second Reading**
An ordinance to amend the declining rate schedule for business licenses effective January 1, 2027.
- e. **Bill No. 2026-15 - Second 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.

IX. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

- a. **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.
- b. **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.)
- c. **Bill No. 2026-18 – 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.
- d. **Bill No. 2026-19 - First Reading**
An Ordinance to raise revenue and adopt a budget for the City of Florence, South Carolina, for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027.
- e. **Bill No. 2026-20 - First Reading**
An Ordinance to rezone the property located on Stokes Road from CG to RG-3, identified as Florence County Tax Map Number 00121-01-065.
- f. **Bill No. 2026-21 - First Reading**
An Ordinance to annex and zone PD the 0.13 acre lot adjacent to 1057 Grove Boulevard, identified as Florence County Tax Map Number 07515-01-301.
- g. **Bill No. 2026-22 - First Reading**
An Ordinance to declare as surplus and authorize the conveyance of the real estate known as Tax Parcel 00121-01-029 to the Florence Section National Council of Negro Women, described more fully on Exhibit "A" attached hereto.
(Note: This item may be discussed in Executive Session.)
- h. **Bill No. 2026-23 - First Reading**
An Ordinance to declare as surplus and authorize the conveyance of the real estate known as Tax Parcel 90066-06-008 to John and Candace Greenan, described more fully on Exhibit "A" attached hereto.
(Note: This item may be discussed in Executive Session.)

- i. **Bill No. 2026-24 - First Reading**
A Series Ordinance authorizing water and sewer system revenue borrowing and approval of State Revolving Fund loan for infrastructure improvements, and other matters related thereto.

X. INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

- a. **Resolution No. 2026-21**
A Resolution to proclaim May as Small Business Month in the City of Florence.
- b. **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.)
- c. **Resolution No. 2026-25**
A Resolution of Recognition for West Florence High School Girls Tennis Team for winning the 2025 SCHSL 5A, Division II State Championship.
- d. **Resolution No. 2026-26**
A Resolution recognizing May 24, 2026 as Gray Day in the City of Florence in recognition of Brain Cancer Awareness.
- e. **Resolution No. 2026-27**
A Resolution to adopt the Community Development Block Grant Budget for Fiscal Year 2026-2027.
- f. **Resolution No. 2026-28**
A Resolution of City Council approving Downtown Redevelopment Grants for Fourth Quarter, FY26.
(Note: This item may be discussed in Executive Session.)
- g. **Resolution No. 2026-29**
A Resolution to recommend to the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) to authorize safety improvements and traffic calming measures along Cheves Street and Coit Street.
- h. **Resolution No. 2026-30**
A Resolution authorizing and approving the acceptance of loan assistance monies from the State Revolving Fund Drinking Water Project to fund the replacement of lead and copper service lines, and other matters related thereto

XI. REPORT TO COUNCIL

- a. **Appointments to Boards and Commissions**
(Note: This item may be discussed in Executive Session.)
- b. **Utilities Update**

XII. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

XIII. MAYORAL REPORT

XIV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Business Development Committee
- b. Community Development Committee
- c. Finance, Audit and Budget Committee

XV. 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 for the conveyance of property as referenced in Bill No. 2026-22 [30-4-70(a)(2)].
- c. Discussion and receipt of legal advice regarding proposed contractual arrangements for the conveyance of property as referenced in Bill No. 2026-23 [30-4-70(a)(2)].
- d. 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)].
- e. Discussion of a proposed economic development project as referenced in Resolution 2026-28 [30-4-70(a)(5)].
- f. For a discussion regarding appointments to city Boards and Commissions [30-4-70(a)(1)].
- g. To receive an update on the AESC economic development project [30-4-70(a)(5)].
- h. Discussion of a contractual matter and to receive legal advice regarding PFAS litigation [30-4-70(a)(2)].

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

XVI. ADJOURN



**REGULAR MEETING OF FLORENCE CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, APRIL 13, 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 (arrived at 1:27pm) and Councilman Zach McKay

ALSO PRESENT

Mr. Scotty Davis, City Manager; Mr. Ronald Scott, City Attorney; Mr. Luke Carter, City Attorney; Mr. Clint Moore, Assistant City Manager of Development; Mrs. Casey Moore, Municipal Clerk; Ms. Patrice Rankin, Assistant City Clerk; Chief Shannon Tanner, Florence Fire Department; Chief Angela Greene, Florence Police Department; Captain Stephen Starling, Florence Police Department; Mr. Michael Hemingway, Director of Utility Planning and Economic Development; Mr. Jerry Dudley, Director of Planning; Mrs. Jennifer Krawiec, Director of Human Resources; Mrs. Amanda Pope, Director of Marketing/Communications and Municipal Services; Mr. Adam Swindler, Director of Public Works; Mrs. Victoria Nash, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Sports Tourism and Mr. Glenn Bodenheimer, Finance Director

MEDIA PRESENT

Deirdre Weaver-Currin with the Post and Courier was present for the meeting.

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

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Barnes called the April 13, 2026 Regular meeting of Florence City Council to order at 1:01pm.

INVOCATION

Pastor Brenda Deas gave the invocation for the meeting. The pledge of allegiance to the American Flag followed the invocation

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Mayor Barnes requested to move Resolutions No. 2026-15, 2026-16, 2026-17, 2026-18, 2026-19, and 2026-20 after Honors and Recognitions.

Without objection, the agenda for the April 13, 2026 Regular meeting was adopted.



APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson made a motion to adopt the minutes of the March 9, 2026 Regular Meeting and Pro tem Jebaily seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously (6-0) adopted, with Councilman Smith having not yet arrived.

SERVICE RECOGNITIONS

Ms. Angela Greene, Police Chief, recognized Anson Shells for 25 years of service with the Florence Police Department.

Mr. Scotty Davis, City Manager, recognized Jennifer Krawiec for 15 years of service with the City of Florence.

Mr. Adam Swindler, Director of Public Works, recognized Phillip Roth for 10 years of service with the City of Florence.

Mr. Shannon Tanner, Fire Chief, recognized Jeremy Miller for 10 years of service with the Florence Fire Department.

Mayor Barnes recognized the Southside Middle School Student Government Association that was present for today's meeting.

APPEARANCES BEFORE COUNCIL

Don Strickland– Executive Director, Pee Dee Regional Transportation Authority (PDRTA)

Mr. Don Strickland, Executive Director of the Pee Dee Regional Transportation Authority (PDRTA), appeared before Council to provide a transit update and FY 2026–27 funding summary. He reported significant growth within PDRTA, highlighting positives from the Transit Development Plan along with areas needing improvement. He noted PDRTA serves six counties across more than 3,500 square miles, making it the largest geographically in the state and third largest in the nation among regional transportation authorities, and provided an overview of the plan.

Councilman Braddock asked about federal funding, noting it accounts for a significant portion. Mr. Strickland clarified that federal and state funding together total closer to 70% and that increased local funding would expand the overall budget rather than reduce federal percentages. He stated that for every \$1 of local funding, PDRTA can provide approximately \$4 in service, increasing operational capacity and capital improvements.

Councilman McCall asked about the impact of fare-free service. Mr. Strickland explained that Florence County currently offsets lost farebox revenue based on prior trends and that continued funding is included in the County's budget request. He noted Florence County has more than doubled its funding over the past three years. He added that eliminating fares avoids significant capital costs, such as replacing fareboxes, and increases ridership, which in turn improves eligibility for federal and state funding.

Councilman McCall inquired about the Florence Transit Center. Mr. Strickland confirmed it remains open, noted past loitering issues that were addressed with security measures, and stated that PDRTA has outgrown the facility. He indicated expansion is not feasible due to limited space and that efforts are underway to secure a larger location.



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Councilman Braddock asked about the Ride for Transportation Tax in Horry County. Mr. Strickland explained it is a penny sales tax referendum funding multiple transportation-related projects, including public transit. Discussion also included the feasibility of matching funds for farebox replacement and the long-term sustainability of fare-free service, with Mr. Strickland noting fare revenue cannot be used to match federal or state funds and that fare-free service supports ridership growth.

Councilman Braddock also asked about potential public-private partnerships for a future intermodal hub. Mr. Strickland expressed support for this approach.

Councilman McKay confirmed that \$1 million in local funding could leverage approximately \$4 million or more in total funding, depending on the use, and discussed the economic impact of PDRTA services.

Mr. Strickland reported approximately 525,000 passenger trips this year, with 78% of riders lacking access to a vehicle and 62% commuting to work.

Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson asked about fare-free routes. Mr. Strickland noted there are 275 stops within Florence, with regional connections to surrounding areas. Service hours are currently 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., with hopes for future expansion.

ORDINANCES IN POSITION

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.

Councilman Braddock made a motion to adopt Bill No. 2026-07 on second reading and Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson seconded the motion.

Council voted unanimously (7-0) in favor of the motion. Bill No. 2026-07 was adopted.

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.

Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson made a motion to adopt Bill No. 2026-08 on second reading and Pro tem Jebaily seconded the motion.

Council voted unanimously (7-0) in favor of the motion. Bill No. 2026-08 was adopted.

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.

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

Councilman Braddock asked about the composition of the Commission. Mr. Scotty Davis, City Manager, explained that Council requested four members be appointed by City Council and three by Florence



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County Council. Councilman Braddock recommended involving Ashley Blade of Pee Dee Tourism with the Commission to help maintain an established relationship with the organization.

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

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

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, explained that the ordinance, deferred from last month, proposes changing window signage from an allowed use to a permitted use and limiting it to 25% of window area for commercial properties. He noted that staff included visual examples and, in response to Council's prior concerns, suggested alternatives, such as allowing up to 50% in more intense zoning districts due to greater setbacks, while ensuring total building and window signage does not exceed 25% of the building façade.

Councilman Smith raised concerns from small businesses, asking about the permit cost and approval process. Mr. Dudley said the permit fee is \$25 and that approvals would be handled administratively by staff, unless a hardship requires review by the Board of Zoning Appeals, which would take longer.

Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson opposed the amendment, expressing concern that reducing allowable window signage from 100% to 25% could make businesses harder to identify and unnecessarily restrict their ability to advertise.

Councilman Braddock also expressed concerns, suggesting the ordinance should establish a fair minimum allowance for signage regardless of window size to ensure equity among businesses.

Mayor Barnes said window signage was discussed during the Riley Mayors Design Fellowship, emphasizing that Council has a responsibility to guide smart growth through reasonable regulations. She noted that while overly small signage limits could present challenges, businesses might consider placing signage on the building instead of covering windows. She added that law enforcement has raised concerns about fully covered windows, as they limit visibility into buildings and create potential safety risks. She stressed the need for balanced regulations that align with the city's vision.

Councilman Smith asked whether law enforcement is adequately trained to handle situations involving obstructed windows and business signage. Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson responded that this had been confirmed at the previous meeting.

Ms. Angela Greene, Police Chief, explained that, from a public safety perspective, fully covered or heavily tinted windows make it more difficult for officers to assess situations before entering a building. She noted that visible windows provide a clearer understanding of potential risks, allowing for safer and more informed responses, and stated a preference for visibility over obstruction.

Councilman Braddock reiterated his concern with the ordinance's approach, suggesting it should focus on requiring a minimum amount of clear window space for visibility rather than strictly limiting how much



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signage can be used. He recommended defining an appropriate visibility standard and allowing businesses flexibility with the remaining space.

Councilman McKay clarified that the ordinance applies to window signage, not window tinting, which Mr. Dudley confirmed. He agreed with Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson, expressing concern that the proposal represents unnecessary government regulation. While acknowledging the issue of visual clutter, he emphasized the importance of remaining pro-business and avoiding measures that could deter new businesses. Mr. Dudley noted the only cost involved would be the \$25 permit fee.

Pro tem Jebaily spoke in support of the ordinance, saying that clear regulations and guidelines can enhance quality of life, strengthen community identity, and do not discourage businesses from locating downtown.

Councilman McCall said that while regulations have their place, the current economic climate, particularly affordability challenges, makes this an inopportune time to introduce additional fees or requirements. He indicated he would not support the ordinance.

Mayor Barnes sought clarification on the purpose of the fee. Mr. Dudley explained it is tied to the permit process, noting that window signage is currently an allowed use. He added that Council could choose to keep it as an allowed use without a permit, while still enforcing guidelines through Code Enforcement if violations occur.

Councilman Smith asked whether 25% is a typical standard across municipalities. Mr. Dudley explained that regulations vary, some use a percentage of window area, others a maximum size per façade, but noted that 25% is a commonly used benchmark, though it can be adjusted. He added that the permit fee could be incorporated into a business's initial signage or use package as a one-time cost, unless additional signage is added later.

Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson referenced examples from the agenda packet, saying the reduced signage appeared too small in practice. Mr. Dudley responded that businesses often compensate for smaller signage by enhancing font size, design, or imagery.

Councilman Braddock cautioned that without clear and specific language, business owners may find ways to work around the ordinance. He stressed the importance of clearly defining what is permitted to avoid loopholes and unintended alternatives.

Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson added that some businesses intentionally use extensive window signage as a deterrent to theft, limiting visibility into the store as a protective measure.

Councilman McCall asked whether the ordinance would apply citywide or only downtown. Mr. Dudley confirmed it would apply to all commercial zoning districts. He noted that downtown does not currently have a specific requirement beyond existing code, though proposals are often reviewed by the Design Review Board.

Mayor Barnes reiterated the need to address what she described as a growing issue, again voicing support for the ordinance. She emphasized that without clear standards in place, there is a risk of unchecked and inconsistent practices.

Pro tem Jebaily asked Mr. Scotty Davis, City Manager, whether the item could be deferred and referred to the Business Development Committee for further review. Mr. Davis responded that it could, or



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alternatively be sent to the Planning Commission to explore revisions, such as defining a specific allowable signage area instead of using a percentage.

Councilman McKay sought confirmation that Bill No. 2026-09 had been deferred at the previous meeting, which was confirmed.

Pro tem Jebaily made a motion to defer Bill No. 2026-09 to allow for further review by either the Planning Commission or the Business Development Committee, with the goal of revising the ordinance to establish a specific allowable signage area rather than a percentage and Councilman Braddock seconded the motion.

Council voted (4-3) to defer Bill No. 2026-09 with Mayor Barnes, Pro tem Jebaily, Councilman Braddock and Councilman Smith voting in favor of the motion and Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson, Councilman McCall and Councilman McKay voting against the motion. Bill No. 2026-09 was deferred.

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.

Councilman Braddock made a motion to pass Bill No. 2026-11 on first reading and Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson seconded the motion.

Mr. Jerry Dudley, Director of Planning, explained that the property is currently city-owned and serves as the site of one of the city's water production plants. Due to recent annexations, it now borders the city limits, and staff is proposing to formally annex and zone it as General Residential to align with the surrounding properties.

Council voted unanimously (7-0) in favor of the motion. Bill No. 2026-11 was passed on first reading.

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.

Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson made a motion to pass Bill No. 2026-12 on first reading and Councilman McCall seconded the motion.

Mr. Jerry Dudley, Director of Planning, explained that this item is similar to Bill No. 2026-11 but pertains to a different location. He noted that recent annexations have created continuity for the property, which is the site of a city water treatment plant, and that the proposed zoning aligns with the surrounding residential properties. Planning Commission voted unanimously (6-0) to recommend the annexation and zoning request.

Council voted unanimously (7-0) in favor of the motion. Bill No. 2026-12 was passed on first reading.

Bill No. 2026-13 – First Reading

An Ordinance to establish an Opioid Response Commission for the review and recommendation of opioid settlement funding distributions.

Councilman Smith made a motion to pass Bill No. 2026-13 on first reading and Councilman Braddock seconded the motion.



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Mr. Glenn Bodenheimer, Finance Director, explained that the ordinance would establish a five-member advisory commission appointed through the Finance, Audit and Budget Committee and approved by Council. He said the commission would include members with expertise in areas such as public health, substance abuse treatment, law enforcement, emergency management services (EMS), behavioral health, and community advocacy. Its role would be to review funding applications for opioid settlement funds, ensure alignment with the Community Action Plan presented to Council in December 2025, and recommend annual funding allocations to the Committee for Council's final approval, promoting transparency, accountability, and alignment with established priorities.

Councilman Braddock made a motion to move Bill No. 2026-13 to Executive Session and Councilman Smith seconded the motion.

Without objection, this item will be discussed in Executive Session.

Bill No. 2026-14 – First Reading

An Ordinance to amend the declining rate schedule for business licenses effective January 1, 2027.

Councilman McCall made a motion to pass Bill No. 2026-14 on first reading and Councilman Braddock seconded the motion.

Mr. Glenn Bodenheimer, Finance Director, said the proposed ordinance was previously discussed at the January Budget Work Session and would take effect on January 1, 2027. He explained that the update is intended to modernize the City's declining rate structure, improve fairness across income tiers, better align with peer cities in South Carolina, and support small businesses while maintaining a competitive environment. Mr. Bodenheimer reviewed the current structure, noting it includes large brackets and steep discounts, with reductions beginning early and accelerating quickly. Florence's model is among the most aggressive in the state, more comparable to larger economies like Myrtle Beach and North Charleston, despite having a different economic base. He added that the current system disproportionately benefits larger businesses, shifting more of the burden to small and mid-sized local businesses, especially since over 2,000 of the city's approximately 2,700 licensed businesses never reach the discounted tiers. Mr. Bodenheimer said the proposed structure would introduce smaller, more gradual brackets, progressing in \$2 million increments up to \$7 million, and cap the maximum discount at 60% beyond that point. This approach would create a more balanced, small business-friendly system while still encouraging growth and remaining competitive with peer cities. He noted the proposal also aligns with the Municipal Association of South Carolina's model ordinance and has been recommended for approval by the Finance, Audit and Budget Committee.

Councilman Smith thanked Mr. Bodenheimer for his work in making the structure more equitable, particularly for small businesses. Mr. Bodenheimer added that the proposal reflects a collaborative effort with Business Licensing staff and builds on discussions that have taken place over several years.

Council voted unanimously (7-0) in favor of the motion. Bill No. 2026-14 was passed on first reading.

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.

Pro tem Jebaily made a motion to pass Bill No. 2026-15 on first reading and Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson seconded the motion.



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Mr. Glenn Bodenheimer, Finance Director, explained that the proposed ordinance would amend the FY 2025–2026 budget to appropriate \$300,000 from the Fund Balance for the installation of above-ground fuel tanks at the City’s Marion Street location. He noted that while tanks already exist on site, the funding would support rehabilitation and the addition of diesel capacity. Mr. Bodenheimer said the goal is to improve operational efficiency and resiliency. Currently, the City’s only diesel tank is located at Public Works on McCurdy Road, requiring vehicles and equipment working downtown to travel there for refueling. Adding a diesel tank at the Marion Street site would reduce downtime and provide redundancy in the event of emergencies such as severe weather.

Council voted unanimously (7-0) in favor of the motion. Bill No. 2026-15 was passed on first reading.

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.

Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson made a motion to move Bill No. 2026-16 to Executive Session and Councilman Braddock seconded the motion.

Without objection, this item will be discussed in Executive Session.

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.

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. 2026-15

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

Pro tem Jebaily made a motion to pass Resolution No. 2026-15 and Councilman McCall seconded the motion.

Mayor Barnes and presented the Resolution to Pamela Jacobs, Chief Executive Officer of the Pee Dee Realtors Association. Ms. Jacobs thanked Council for the recognition.

Council voted unanimously (6-0) in favor of the motion, with Councilman Smith having not yet arrived. Resolution No. 2026-15 was passed.

Resolution No. 2026-16

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

Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson made a motion to pass Resolution No. 2026-16 and Councilman Braddock seconded the motion.



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Mayor Barnes and Councilman Braddock presented the Resolution to Donnie Carter. Mr. Carter thanked Council for the recognition.

Council voted unanimously (6-0) in favor of the motion, with Councilman Smith having not yet arrived. Resolution No. 2026-16 was passed.

Resolution No. 2026-17

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

Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson made a motion to pass Resolution No. 2026-17 and Councilman Braddock seconded the motion.

Mayor Barnes, Councilman McKay and Councilman Braddock presented the Resolution to The Kings Academy Golf Team. The Kings Academy Golf Team thanked Council for the recognition.

Council voted unanimously (6-0) in favor of the motion, with Councilman Smith having not yet arrived. Resolution No. 2026-17 was passed.

Resolution No. 2026-18

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

Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson made a motion to pass Resolution No. 2026-18 and Councilman McCall seconded the motion.

Mayor Barnes, Councilman McKay and Councilman Braddock presented The Kings Academy Volleyball Team. The Kings Academy Volleyball Team thanked Council for the recognition.

Council voted unanimously (7-0) in favor of the motion. Resolution No. 2026-18 was passed.

Resolution No. 2026-19

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

Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson made a motion to pass Resolution No. 2026-19 and Pro tem Jebaily seconded the motion.

Mayor Barnes presented the Resolution to the City of Florence Gymnastics Team. Liame Frewin, Gymnastics Coordinator, thanked Council for the recognition.

Council voted unanimously (7-0) in favor of the motion. Resolution No. 2026-19 was passed.

Resolution No. 2026-20

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

Councilman Braddock made a motion to pass Resolution No. 2026-20 and Councilman McCall seconded the motion.



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Mayor Barnes and Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson presented the Resolution to FLO-TOWN United Classy Queens. FLO-TOWN United Classy Queens thanked Council for the recognition.

Council voted unanimously (7-0) in favor of the motion. Resolution No. 2026-20 was passed.

Resolution No. 2026-21

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

Without objection, Resolution No. 2026-21 was deferred.

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.

Councilman McCall made a motion to pass Resolution No. 2026-22 and Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson seconded the motion.

Council voted unanimously (7-0) in favor of the motion. Resolution No. 2026-22 was passed.

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.

Pro tem Jebaily made a motion to pass Resolution No. 2026-23 and Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson seconded the motion.

Mr. Michael Hemingway, Director of Utility Planning and Economic Development, provided an update on the city's sewer expansion project, explaining that Phase I includes installation of an 8-inch sewer main extending from South Cashua Drive along Fairway to the city's wastewater treatment facility, ultimately transitioning to a 54-inch line. He noted that in gravity sewer construction, work begins at the lowest elevation and progresses upstream, and that the project includes approximately 11,000 linear feet of new pipe installation.

Pro tem Jebaily asked for clarification on costs, confirming that Phase I totals \$24.7 million, which Mr. Hemingway confirmed. Pro tem Jebaily further confirmed the overall project cost is approximately \$25 million and expressed appreciation that the state is providing \$24.7 million in funding for the project.

Councilman Braddock inquired about incentives for local contractors during the bidding process. Mr. Scotty Davis, City Manager, explained that contractors within the City of Florence and Florence County are given preference and may match the lowest bid if they are within a 3%–5% range, allowing them to be awarded the project.

Councilman McKay asked whether the incentive applies only to City and Florence County contractors or includes those statewide. Mr. Davis confirmed it is limited to contractors within the city and county. Councilman McKay asked whether the program could be expanded to include state contractors while still prioritizing local firms and sought clarification on whether awarded contractors for this project were out of state. Mr. Hemingway responded that the project has not yet gone out for bid and is currently awaiting final approval from the South Carolina Department of Environmental Services (DES), with bidding anticipated in July.



**FLORENCE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING – APRIL 13, 2026**

Mayor Barnes thanked city staff for securing the funding and asked Mr. Hemingway to outline the overall project development process. Mr. Hemingway explained that initial engineering work began in 2021 with field assessments conducted by the city's engineering team. Following those assessments, the state permitting process was initiated. After permit approval, the design phase began and took approximately 2.5 years to complete. Additional approvals were required from CSX and the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT). He noted that once all approvals are finalized, DES will authorize the project to move forward to construction.

Council voted unanimously (7-0) in favor of the motion. Resolution No. 2026-23 was passed.

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.

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.

Utilities Update

Mr. Michael Hemingway, Director of Utility Planning and Economic Development, provided an update on the city's utility projects. He reported that, in coordination with city staff and consulting engineers AECOM and CDM Smith, there are currently 16 water-related projects underway across three phases: seven in planning, four in design, and five under construction. For sewer projects, three are in the planning phase, two are in design, and one is under construction. Additionally, there are six stormwater projects, with two in planning, two in design, and two under construction. He noted that CDM Smith is working with contractor Wharton Smith on the expansion of the surface water treatment plant, with initial work such as plans and submittals already in progress. Other ongoing efforts include infrastructure development for the Florence Global Technology Park, located between Williamson Road and Highway 327, and the Jeffries Creek Sanitary Sewer Interceptor. In total, there are 31 utility-related projects currently being managed by city staff and consulting engineers.

Councilman Braddock asked whether this information is available to the public. Mr. Hemingway said that many of the water-related projects are accessible through the city's water portal and added that staff is developing a sewer portal to provide similar access for sewer projects.

Councilman McKay referenced a recent incident involving a sewer backup into a resident's home and asked whether current projects would address such issues. Mr. Hemingway responded that the specific issue, caused by a collapsed manhole, has been repaired. Mr. Ron Scott, City Attorney, advised that matters involving specific individuals and the city are more appropriately addressed in Executive Session rather than in open session.



CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Scotty Davis, City Manager, recognized Mr. Adam Swindler, Director of Public Works, for participating in this year's Dancing For Our Future Stars, sponsored by The School Foundation, noting that he received both the Most Entertaining Award and the People's Choice Award. He also reported that on April 11th, the City unveiled a new community mural at the City Center Market, funded by the South Carolina Arts Commission, and acknowledged Mrs. Amanda Pope, Director of Marketing/Communications and Municipal Services, along with city staff for their efforts in securing the grant. Mr. Davis announced that the City of Florence, in partnership with Duke Energy, Keep Florence Beautiful, Naturally Outdoors, and the South Carolina Forestry Commission, will host an Earth Day Native Tree Giveaway on April 29 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Naturally Outdoors. He further reported that approximately \$18 million has been secured for the Levy Park expansion project, with construction drawings about 90% complete. The project is expected to go out for bid in early fall, with completion anticipated by the end of September 2027. Lastly, Mr. Davis acknowledged Chief Angela Greene of the Florence Police Department, noting this was her first Council meeting, and announced that Mr. Glenn Bodenheimer has been officially promoted to Finance Director, thanking him for his hard work.

MAYORAL REPORT

Mayor Barnes expressed excitement for the Levy Park expansion project and recognized Pro tem Jebaily and Councilman Smith for their leadership with this project, as well as city staff for their contributions. She also shared that she was selected to participate in the Riley Mayors Design Fellowship, noting that Florence was highlighted and recognized, and she thanked Council and staff for their continued efforts on behalf of the city. Lastly, Mayor Barnes shared that she, along with Mr. Davis and others, recently took a canoe trip down Jeffries Creek, describing it as a valuable community asset and expressing her support for its continued preservation and maintenance.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Business Development Committee, Chaired by Pro tem Jebaily

Pro tem Jebaily reported that the committee did not meet in March. He spoke on the updates occurring with the city's groundwater treatment plants.

Community Development Committee, Chaired by Mayor Barnes

Mayor Barnes reported the committee did not meet in March.

Finance, Audit and Budget Committee, Chaired by Councilman McCall

Councilman McCall reported that the committee discussed the business license declining rate schedule. The committee also reviewed the budget amendments that will be discussed in Executive Session and the Opioid Response Commission ordinance.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Barnes said Council will be entering into Executive Session for a discussion and receipt of legal advice regarding Bill No. 2026-13, the receipt of legal advice regarding Bill No. 2026-16, for a discussion and receipt of legal advice regarding proposed contractual arrangement for the lease of property as referenced in Bill No. 2026-17, for a discussion and receipt of legal advice regarding proposed



**FLORENCE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING – APRIL 13, 2026**

contractual arrangements between the City of Florence and Florence School District One, as referenced in Resolution No. 2026-24, for a discussion regarding appointments to city Boards and Commissions, for a discussion and receipt of legal advice regarding proposed contractual arrangements for the acquisition of property and for a personnel matter regarding the reappointment of judges.

Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson made a motion to enter into Executive Session and Councilman Smith seconded the motion. Council voted unanimously (7-0) to enter into Executive Session at 3:18pm.

Councilwoman McCall made a motion to resume open session and Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson seconded the motion. The motion carried. Council resumed open session at 4:34pm and took action on the following items:

Bill No. 2026-13 – First Reading

An Ordinance to establish an Opioid Response Commission for the review and recommendation of opioid settlement funding distributions.

The motion by Councilman Smith to pass Bill No. 2026-13 on first reading and seconded by Councilman Braddock is on the table.

Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson made a motion to amend Bill No. 2026-13 to add the following language under Exhibit B, Section 3 entitled “Membership”: “Members shall be required to publicly disclose affiliations with organizations applying for funding” and Councilman Smith seconded the motion.

The motion to amend was passed unanimously (7-0).

Councilman McCall made a motion to pass Bill No. 2026-13, as amended, on first reading and Councilman Braddock seconded the motion.

Council voted unanimously (7-0) in favor of the motion, as amended. Bill No. 2026-13 was passed, as amended.

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.

Councilman McCall made a motion to defer Bill No. 2026-16 and Councilman Smith seconded the motion.

Council voted unanimously (7-0) in favor of the motion. Bill No. 2026-16 was deferred.

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.

Councilman Braddock made a motion to defer Bill No. 2026-17 and Councilman Smith seconded the motion.

Council voted unanimously (7-0) in favor of the motion. Bill No. 2026-17 was deferred.



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.

Pro tem Jebaily made a motion to defer Resolution No. 2026-24 and Councilman Smith seconded the motion.

Council voted unanimously (7-0) in favor of the motion. Resolution No. 2026-24 was deferred.

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.

Florence City-County Convention and Visitors Commission

Councilman McCall made a motion to appoint Chad Patterson for a term of 3 years, Grey Raines for a term of 1 year, Arnette James for a term of 2 years and Hunter Morgan for a term of 3 years to the Florence City-County Convention and Visitors Commission and Pro tem Jebaily seconded the motion.

Council voted unanimously (7-0) in favor of the motion. The motion was passed.

Opioid Response Commission

Councilman McCall made a motion to appoint Dr. Brian Hanna from Freedom Family Medicine, Cassie Love from The Hope Center, Officer Brian Hartwell from Florence County Sheriff's Office, Corbert Stone from Reformers Anonymous and Cedric Evans from Pee Dee Mental Health to the Opioid Response Commission and Councilman Smith seconded the motion.

Council voted unanimously (7-0) in favor of the motion. The motion was passed.

Reappointment of Judges

Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson made a motion to reappoint Judge Alesha Lewis, Judge Nick Lewis, Judge Edgar Wilcox, and Judge Marsh Julian and Councilman McCall seconded the motion.

Council voted unanimously (7-0) in favor of the motion. The motion was passed.



**FLORENCE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING – APRIL 13, 2026**

ADJOURN

Without objection, the April 13, 2026 Regular meeting of City Council was adjourned at 4:41pm.

Dated this 11th day of May 2026.

Casey C. Moore, Municipal Clerk

Lethonia Barnes, Mayor

DRAFT



STAFF REPORT
Florence City Council
May 11, 2026

Agenda Item:
VIII.a.

Ordinance 2nd 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:

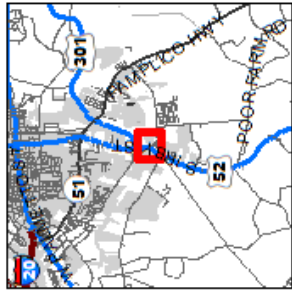
City Attorney

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



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



Date: 1/29/2026

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
May 11, 2026

Agenda Item:
VIII.b.

Ordinance 2nd 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:

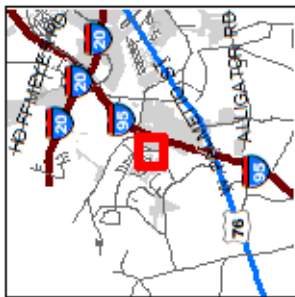
City Attorney

Lethonia Barnes,
Mayor

Attest:

Casey C. Moore,
Municipal Clerk

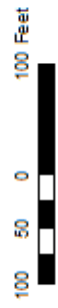
**PC 2026-10
Vicinity Map - 875 Stratton Dr.**



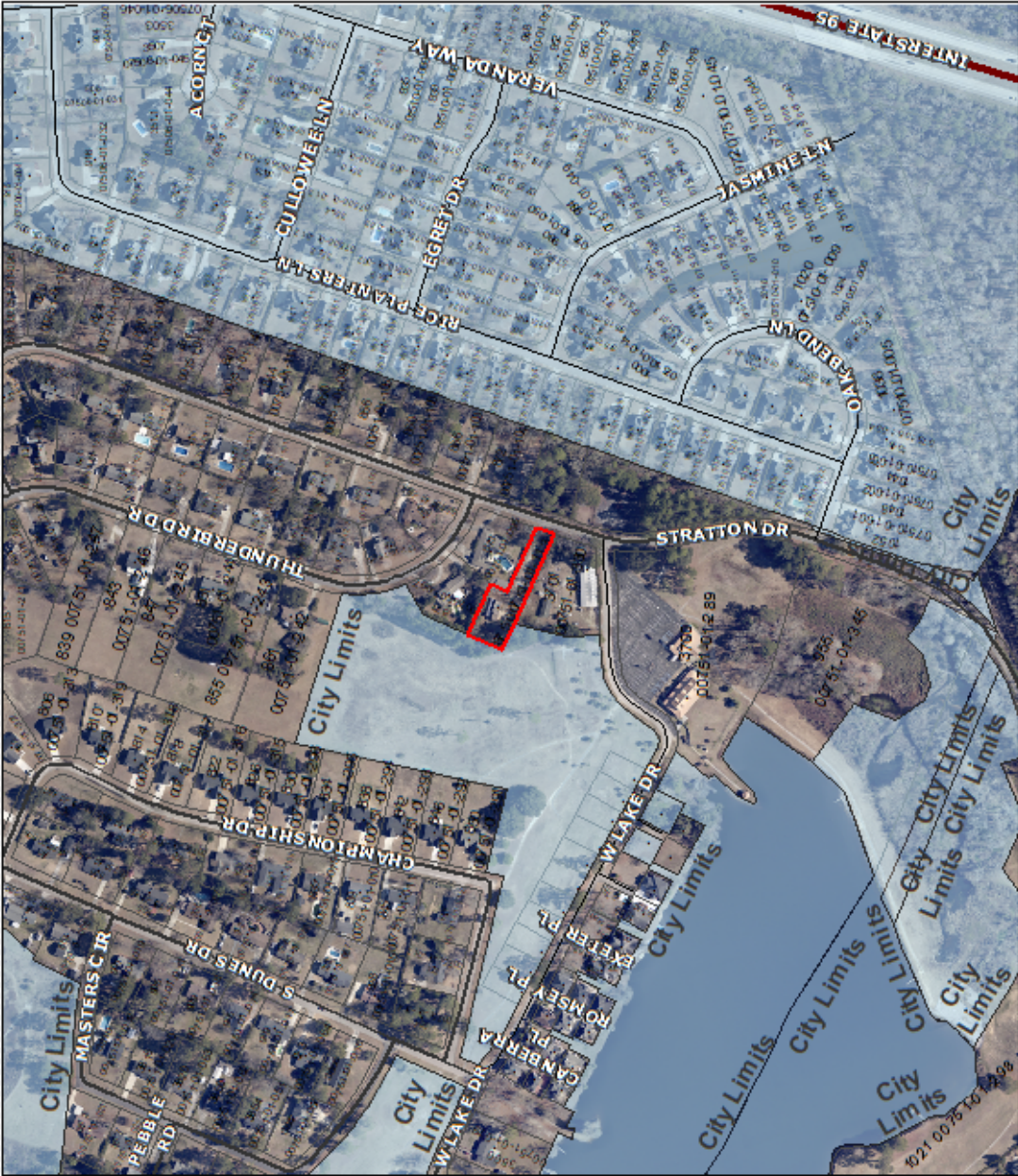
- Legend**
- City Limits
 - Parcels
 - Proposed Parcel



DISCLAIMER:
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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

[Signature]
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
May 11, 2026

Agenda Item:
VIII.c.

Ordinance 2nd Reading

Department: Finance Department

Issue Under Consideration:

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

Current Status/Previous Action Taken:

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

Under this proposal:

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

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

1st reading, April 13, 2026, passed with an amendment to Exhibit B, Section 3, "Membership" to add the following language: "Members shall be required to publicly disclose affiliations with organizations applying for funding."

Points to Consider:

1. The Opioid Response Commission will serve in an advisory capacity to:

- Review and evaluate funding applications submitted during the annual application cycle.
- Confirm that proposed uses of funds are eligible and consistent with the City's Opioid Settlement Community Action Plan.
- Recommend annual funding distributions to the Finance and Audit Committee for consideration and approval.

2. Alignment with the Community Action Plan

- Applications will be evaluated based on alignment with the following plan strategies:
 - Strategy 1 – Prevention, Community Awareness, and Harm Reduction
 - Strategy 2 – Treatment Access and Navigation
 - Strategy 3 – Strengthening Housing, Peer Support, and Long-Term Recovery Pathways

3. Governance and Transparency

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

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

Attachments:

1. FY25-26 Opioid Reponse Commission Ordinance.2nd Reading.Revised

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.

WITNESETH:

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 be required to publicly disclose affiliations with organizations applying for funding.

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
May 11, 2026

Agenda Item:
VIII.d.

Ordinance 2nd 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
May 11, 2026

Agenda Item:
VIII.e.

Ordinance 2nd 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
May 11, 2026

Agenda Item:
IX.a.

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
May 11, 2026

Agenda Item:
IX.b.

Ordinance 1st Reading

Department: City Manager's Office

Issue Under Consideration:

An ordinance authorizing the execution of an amendment (the "*Lease Amendment*") to extend the Lease Agreement (the "*Lease*") between the City of Florence (the "*City*") and Pee Dee Healthy Start, Inc. ("*Pee Dee Healthy Start*").

Current Status/Previous Action Taken:

The City and Pee Dee Healthy Start entered into the Lease on September 1, 2016 for a ten (10) year term set to expire on June 30, 2026.

Points to Consider:

1. The Amendment would extend the Lease an additional ten (10) years through June 30, 2036.

Attachments:

1. Pee Dee Healthy Start Lease Amendment Ordinance 12219405.1

ORDINANCE NO. 2026 - _____

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXEUCION OF A LEASE AMENDMENT TO EXTEND THE LEASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF FLORENCE, SOUTH CAROLINA AND PEE DEE HEALTHY START, INC.

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, the City of Florence, South Carolina (the “**City**”) entered into a Lease Agreement (the “**Lease**”) with Pee Dee Healthy Start, Inc. (“**Pee Dee Healthy Start**”) on September 1, 2016; and

WHEREAS, the Lease is set to expire on June 30, 2026; and

WHEREAS, the City and Pee Dee Healthy Start desire to enter into an amendment to the Lease (the “**Lease Amendment**”) to extend the term of the Lease for an additional ten (10) years through June 30, 2036.

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

- a. The City hereby approves and authorizes the City Manager to execute and sign that certain Lease Amendment between the City and Pee Dee Healthy Start extending the term of the existing Lease by an additional ten (10) years, in substantially the form presented to City Council of the City.
- b. 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



STAFF REPORT
Florence City Council
May 11, 2026

Agenda Item:
IX.c.

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 May 6, 2026 and recommended for approval.

Points to Consider:

1. The proposed budget amendment reflects appropriation of State allocated funds designated for a specific capital project:
 - a. The State of South Carolina, through General Appropriations Act (Section 118 – Department of Archives & History), included a \$2,000,000 earmark for the City of Florence for the Historic Carolina Theatre renovation project.
 - b. These funds are administered through the South Carolina Department of Archives & History and are restricted to eligible project costs associated with the preservation, rehabilitation and construction related improvements of the Carolina Theatre.
 - c. The Carolina Theatre is a historically significant cultural asset in downtown Florence, and the renovation is part of the City’s broader plans to improve economic development, tourism and cultural programming within the downtown district.
 - d. Funds will be utilized in accordance with all applicable State guidelines, procurement requirements and reporting obligations tied to the earmarked appropriations.
2. Staff recommends approval and adoption of the proposed ordinance.

Attachments:

1. FY2025-26 Amendment #7 - Budget Amendment - Carolina Theatre Project

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:

100120-790000 The City of Florence has received State appropriated funding from the South Carolina Department of Archives & History in the amount of \$2,000,000 to assist in construction and renovation costs related to the Historic Carolina Theatre renovation project.

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

10049300-850010 Miscellaneous Grant Expenditures (Non-Departmental) is funded in the amount of \$2,000,000 for the costs related to the construction renovation project of the Carolina Theatre.

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:

City Attorney

Lethonia Barnes
Mayor

Attest:

Casey C. Moore
Municipal Clerk



STAFF REPORT
Florence City Council
May 11, 2026

Agenda Item:
IX.d.

Ordinance 1st Reading

Department: Finance Department

Issue Under Consideration:

For City Council consideration is the adoption of Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget for the City of Florence.

Current Status/Previous Action Taken:

1. FY 2026-27 budget development began in January and continued through April with the preparation of revenue estimates, wages and benefits data development, the submission of departmental budget requests, and departmental budget meetings with the City Manager.
2. A Council work session was held April 30, 2026 to review budget related issues.
3. This ordinance was recommended for approval by the Finance, Audit and Budget Committee on May 6, 2026.

Points to Consider:

1. The General Fund, General Fund Debt Service Fund, Water & Sewer Enterprise Fund, Stormwater Enterprise Fund, Water and Sewer Utilities Construction Fund, Stormwater Utility Construction Fund, Water and Sewer Utilities Equipment Replacement Fund, Stormwater Utility Equipment Replacement Fund, and the Hospitality Fund budgets for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, recommended for adoption by the City Council are enclosed for your review.
2. Staff recommends adoption of the FY 2026-2027 budgets as recommended.

Attachments:

1. Budget Ordinance - FY 2026-2027

ORDINANCE NO. 2026- ____

AN ORDINANCE TO RAISE REVENUE AND ADOPT A BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF FLORENCE, SOUTH CAROLINA, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2026, AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2027.

WHEREAS, § 5-7-260 of the South Carolina Code of Laws (as amended) requires that a Municipal Council shall act by ordinance to adopt budgets and levy taxes pursuant to public notice.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Florence in Council duly assembled and by the authority of the same:

Section 1

- (a) There is hereby adopted a General Fund budget for the City of Florence for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027, as filed in the office of the City Clerk which is hereby incorporated by reference as if set forth fully herein, providing for revenues and appropriations in a total amount of \$56,189,480.
- (b) Further, there is hereby adopted a General Fund Debt Service Fund budget for the City of Florence for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027, as filed in the office of the City Clerk which is hereby incorporated by reference as if set forth fully herein, providing for revenues and appropriations in the total amount of \$694,000.
- (c) Further, there is hereby adopted a Water and Sewer Utilities Enterprise Fund budget for the City of Florence for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027, as filed in the office of the City Clerk which is hereby incorporated by reference as if set forth fully herein, providing for revenues and appropriations in a total amount of \$60,988,000.
- (d) Further, there is hereby adopted a Stormwater Utility Enterprise Fund budget for the City of Florence for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027, as filed in the office of the City Clerk which is hereby incorporated by reference as if set forth fully herein providing for revenues and appropriations in the total amount of \$2,128,260.
- (e) Further, there is hereby adopted a Water and Sewer Utilities Construction Fund budget for the City of Florence for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027, as filed in the office of the City Clerk which is hereby incorporated by reference as if set forth fully herein, providing for revenues and appropriations in a total amount of \$28,431,900.
- (f) Further, there is hereby adopted a Stormwater Utility Construction budget for the City of Florence for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027, as filed in the office of the City Clerk which is hereby incorporated by reference as if set forth fully herein, providing for revenues and appropriations in a total amount of \$658,790.

- (g) Further, there is hereby adopted a Water and Sewer Utilities Equipment Replacement Fund budget for the City of Florence for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027, as filed in the office of the City Clerk which is hereby incorporated by reference as if set forth fully herein providing for revenues and appropriations in the total amount of \$1,820,000.
- (h) Further, there is hereby adopted a Stormwater Utility Equipment Replacement Fund budget for the City of Florence for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027, as filed in the office of the City Clerk which is hereby incorporated by reference as if set forth fully herein providing for revenues and appropriations in the total amount of \$217,580.
- (i) Further, there is hereby adopted a Hospitality Fund budget for the City of Florence for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027, as filed in the office of the City Clerk which is hereby incorporated by reference as if set forth fully herein providing for revenues and appropriations in the total amount of \$6,867,400.

Section 2

In accordance with § 6-1-320 of the South Carolina Code of Laws (as amended), a tax for general operating purposes for the period from July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027, for the sums and in the amount hereinafter mentioned, is and shall be levied, collected, and paid into the treasury of the City of Florence for the operational use and service thereof. A tax of seventy one and six-tenths (71.6) mills upon each one dollar (\$1.00) in value of real estate and personal property of every description owned and used in the City of Florence, South Carolina, is and shall be levied and paid into the City treasury for the credit to the City of Florence for the corporate purposes, improvements, and for the purpose of paying current operating expenses of said municipality. Such tax, set at the same operating millage rates as the previous fiscal year, is levied on property assessed for taxation for County and State purposes.

Section 3

In accordance with of § 6-1-320 of the South Carolina Code of Laws (as amended), a tax for general obligation bond indebtedness for the period from July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027, for the sums and in the amount hereinafter mentioned, is and shall be levied, collected, and paid into the treasury of the City of Florence for the purpose of meeting general obligation bond debt service requirements. A tax of up to, but not exceeding, four (4.0) mills upon each one dollar (\$1.00) in value of real estate and personal property of every description owned and used in the City of Florence, South Carolina, is and shall be levied and paid into the City treasury for the credit to the City of Florence for the purpose of providing and paying for general obligation bond debt of the municipality. Such tax is levied on property that is assessed for taxation for County and State purposes.

Section 4

In accordance with § 23-47-10 through § 23-47-80 of the South Carolina Code of Laws (as amended), and § 14-93 through § 14-98 of the City of Florence, SC Code of ordinances (as amended), funding is and shall be provided to allow for the operation, maintenance, and

enhancements of the E-911 system through a monthly charge of seventy-seven cents (\$0.77) upon each local exchange access line in the area served by or which would be served by the E-911 service and/or system of the City. Such charges are specifically enforceable under § 23-47-50 (B) of the SC Code of Laws. E-911 fees collected by the City of Florence shall be used to fund the acquisition of Police and Fire communications equipment in compliance with © 23-47-40 (B) of the South Carolina Code of Laws, as amended.

Section 5

In accordance with Section 12-272 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Florence, South Carolina, as amended, it is hereby authorized an adjustment to the Stormwater Utility Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU) rate for the period beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027, in the amount of seventy-five cents (\$0.75) per ERU per month, to applied in accordance with the City's adopted stormwater service charge methodology.

Section 6

The City Manager shall administer the budget and may authorize the transfer of appropriate funds within and between departments as necessary to achieve the goals of the budget. The City Manager is authorized to assign fund balance intended to be used for specific purposes.

Section 7

The City Manager or his designee is authorized to execute all necessary documents relating to the lease-purchase financing of equipment specifically authorized in the budget as presented or amended by City Council for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027. This action further constitutes a resolution of City Council authorizing and approving such equipment for lease-purchase acquisition, and this ordinance shall serve as representation of this resolution.

Section 8

If for any reason, any sentence, clause, or provision of this Ordinance shall be declared invalid, such shall not affect the remaining provisions thereof.

Section 9

That all ordinances or parts of ordinances conflicting with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed, insofar as the same affect this Ordinance.

Section 10

That this Ordinance shall become effective on July 1, 2026.

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
May 11, 2026

Agenda Item:
IX.e.

Ordinance 1st Reading

Department: Planning, Research & Development

Issue Under Consideration:

An ordinance to rezone from CG to RG-3 the parcel located on Stokes Road, said property being specifically designated in the Florence County Tax Records as Tax Map Parcel 00121-01-065. The request is being made by the developer on behalf of the property owner.

Current Status/Previous Action Taken:

On April 14, 2026, Planning Commission held a public hearing on this matter and voted unanimously (6-0) to recommend that the parcel be rezoned from CG to RG-3.

Points to Consider:

1. This request is being considered for first reading.
2. City water and sewer are available to the parcel.
3. The property is currently zoned CG Commercial General District. This zoning district only allows commercial uses.
4. The requested zoning of RG-3 allows residential uses, including single-family detached housing.
5. The applicant intends to develop the parcel with single-family housing.

Attachments:

1. Stokes Rd Rezoning CC Ordinance
2. Stokes Rd Maps

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-_____

**AN ORDINANCE TO REZONE 49 ACRES ALONG STOKES ROAD,
TAX MAP NUMBER 00121-01-065, FROM COMMERCIAL GENERAL (CG) ZONING
DISTRICT TO RESIDENTIAL GENERAL-3 (RG-3) ZONING DISTRICT:**

WHEREAS, a Public Hearing was held in City Council Chambers on April 14, 2026 at 6:00 P.M. before the City of Florence Planning Commission and notice of said hearing was duly given;

WHEREAS, Paul Jones on behalf of Morr Group, Inc. made application to rezone from CG Commercial General District to RG-3 Residential General-3 District;

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 by amending the Zoning Atlas of the City of Florence for the aforesaid property to RG-3;**

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

ADOPTED THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2026

Approved as to form:

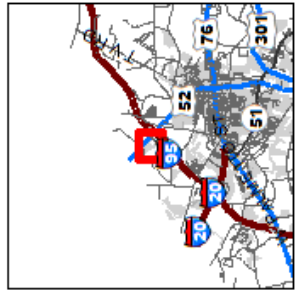
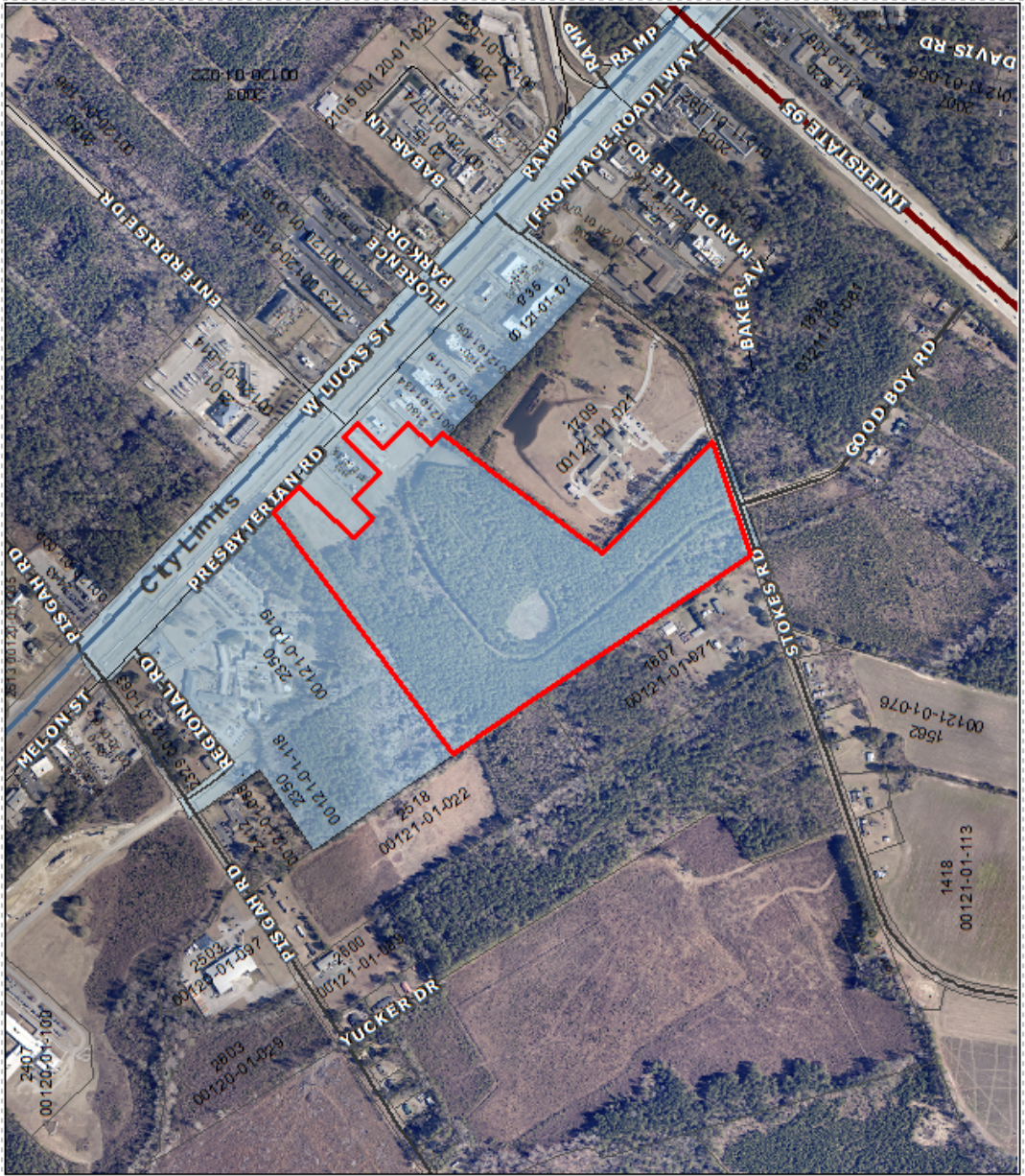
City Attorney

Lethonia Barnes
Mayor

Attest:

Casey C. Moore
Municipal Clerk

**PC 2026-11
Vicinity Map - Stokes Road**



Legend

- City Limits
- Parcels
- Proposed Parcel

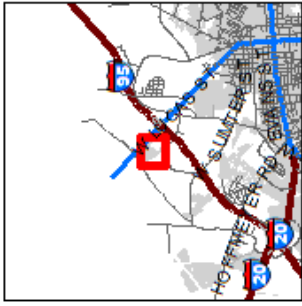
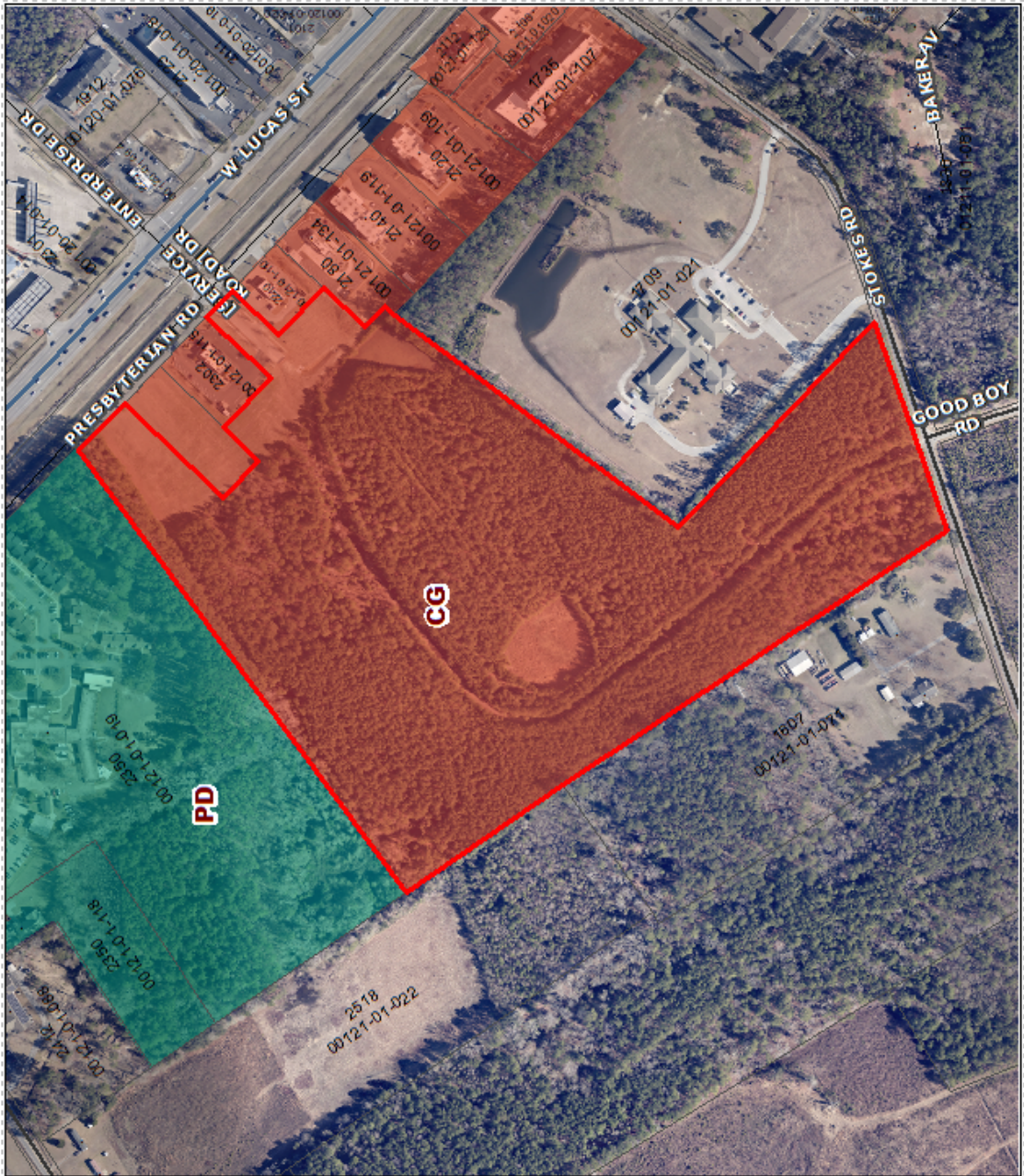


DISCLAIMER:
The City of Florence Department of Planning, Research, and Development data represented on this map is the product of compilation, as produced by others. It is provided for informational purposes only and the City of Florence makes no representation as to its accuracy. Its use without field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



DATE: 3/24/2026

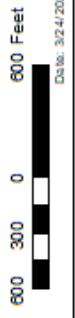
PC 2026-11 Zoning Map - Stokes Road



- Legend**
- Parcels
 - Zoning District
 - Residential Districts
 - PD
 - Business and Commercial Districts
 - CG
 - Proposed Parcel

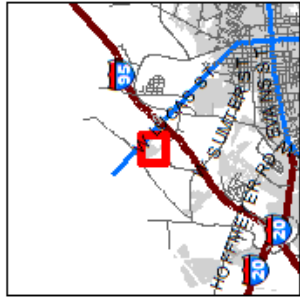
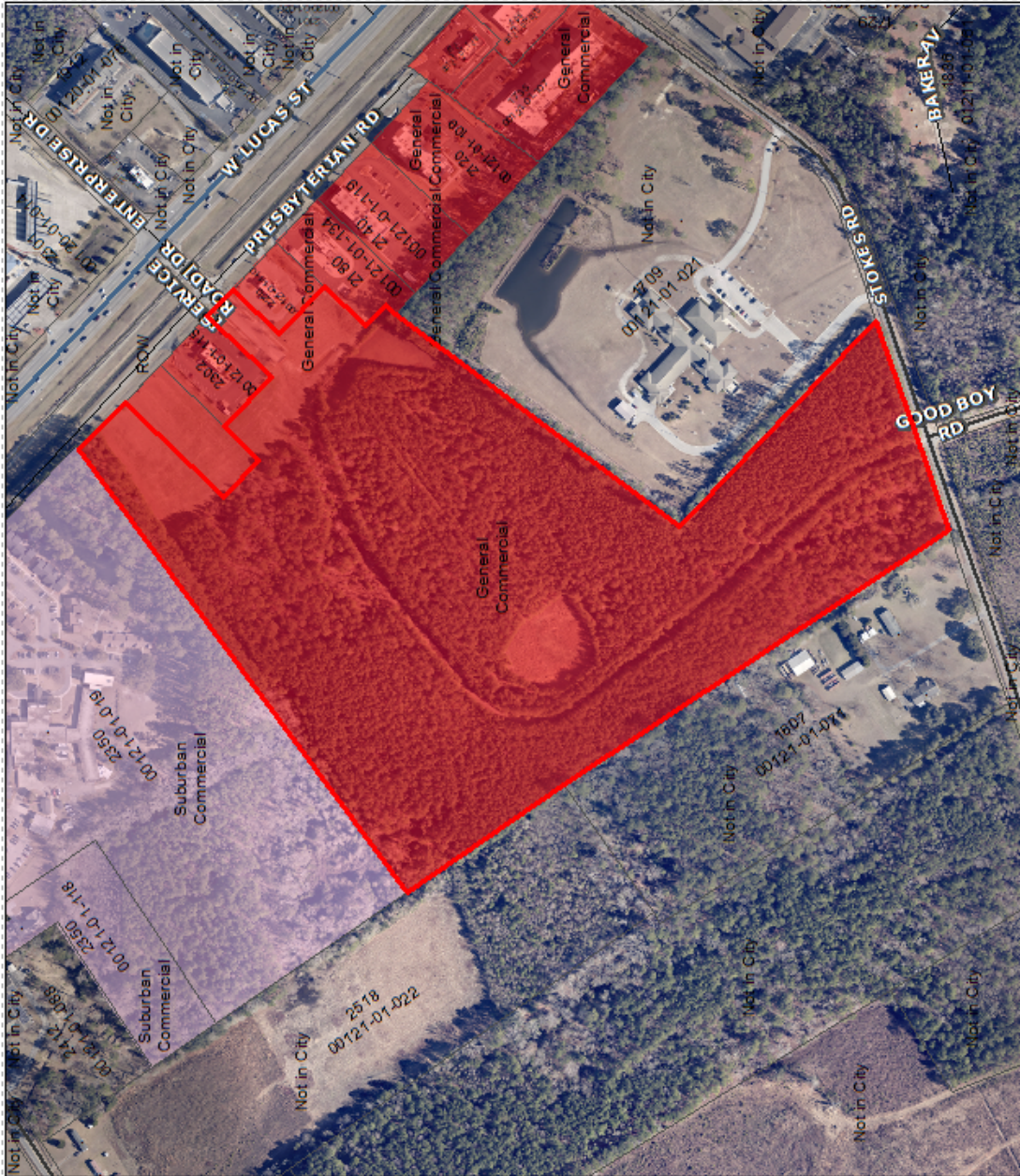


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PC 2026-11

Future Land Use Map - Stokes Road



Legend

- Parcels
- Proposed Parcel
- Future Land Use and Character 2023
- FLU_1
- Parks and Open Space
- Suburban Residential
- General Residential
- Urban Residential
- Neighborhood Conservation
- Suburban Commercial
- General Commercial
- Corridor Mixed Use
- Urban Downtown
- Suburban Campuses
- Industrial
- Utilities



Date: 3/24/2026



STAFF REPORT
Florence City Council
May 11, 2026

Agenda Item:
IX.f.

Ordinance 1st Reading

Department: Planning, Research & Development

Issue Under Consideration:

Request to annex the parcel located adjacent to 1057 Grove Boulevard, with Tax Map Number 07515-01-301, into the City of Florence and assign it the zoning designation of Planned Development (PD). The request is being made by the property owner.

Current Status/Previous Action Taken:

On April 14, 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 Planned Development (PD).

Points to Consider:

1. The previous owners of 1057 Grove Boulevard constructed an accessory structure on a portion of Tax Map Number 00075-01-272, which was owned by The Grove at Ebenezer LLC and is listed as unzoned by the County.
2. The new owners of 1057 Grove Boulevard purchased the 5,663 square foot lot around the accessory structure and intend to combine it with their lot once it has been annexed into the City.
3. A Public Hearing for zoning was held at the April 14, 2026 Planning Commission meeting.
4. City staff recommends annexation and concurs with Planning Commission's recommendation to approve the request to zone the property Planned Development (PD).

Attachments:

1. 1057 Grove Blvd CC Ordinance
2. 1057 Grove Vicinity Map
3. 1057 Grove Annexation Petition

ORDINANCE NO. 2026 - _____

AN ORDINANCE TO ANNEX AND ZONE PLANNED DEVELOPMENT (PD) THE 0.13 ACRE LOT ADJACENT TO 1057 GROVE BOULEVARD, TMN 07515-01-301.

WHEREAS, a Public Hearing was held in the Council Chambers on April 14, 2026 at 6:00 P.M. before the City of Florence Planning Commission, and notice of said hearing was duly given;

WHEREAS, application by Hunter Lowe on behalf of the owner of TMN 07515-01-301, 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 PD:

The property requesting annexation is shown more specifically on Florence County Tax Map 07515, block 01, parcel 301 (0.13 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:

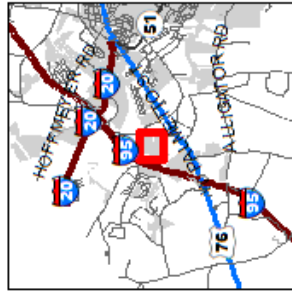
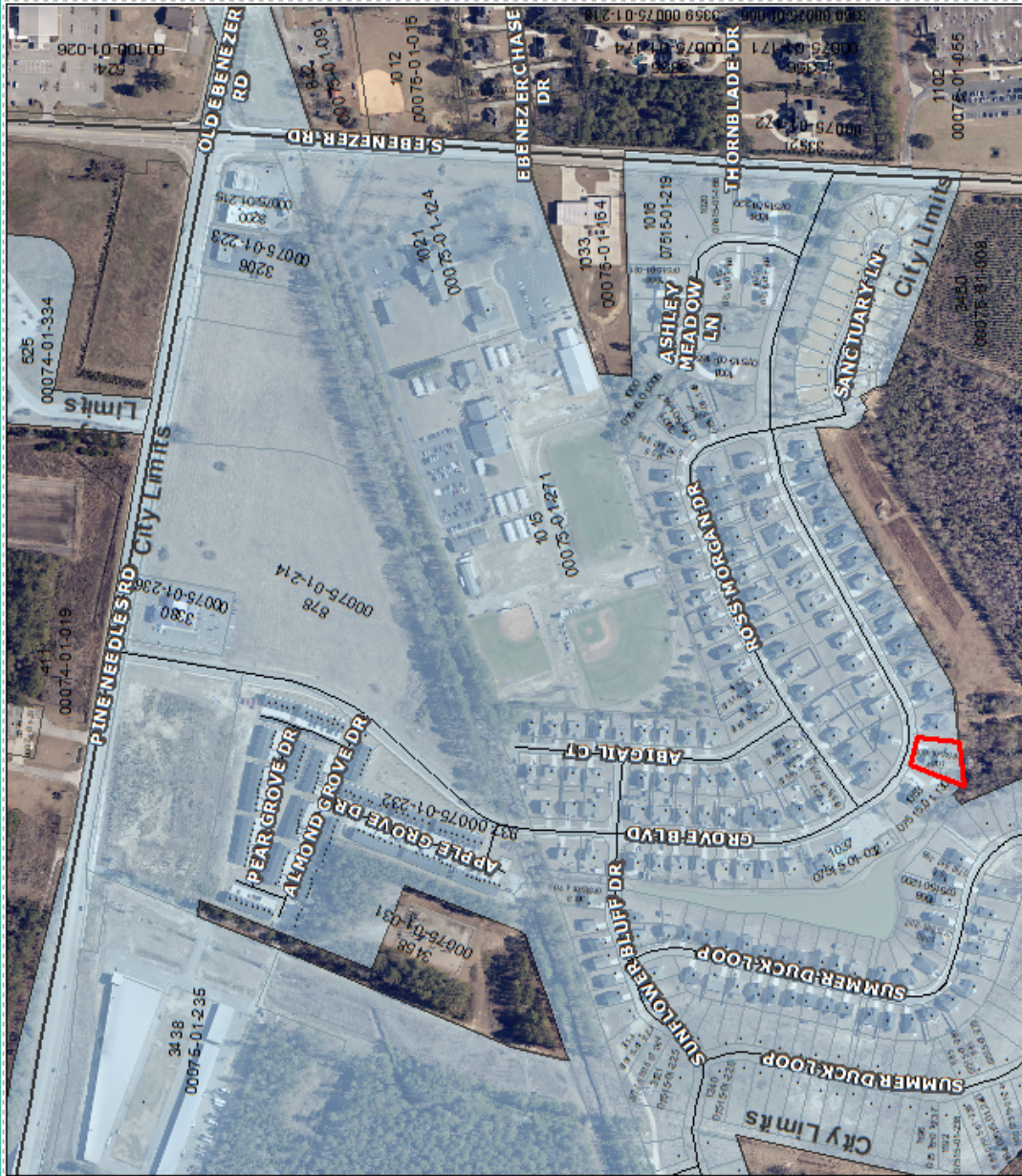
City Attorney

Lethonia Barnes,
Mayor

Attest:

Casey C. Moore,
Municipal Clerk

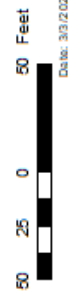
**PC 2026-12
Vicinity Map - 1057 Grove Blvd.**

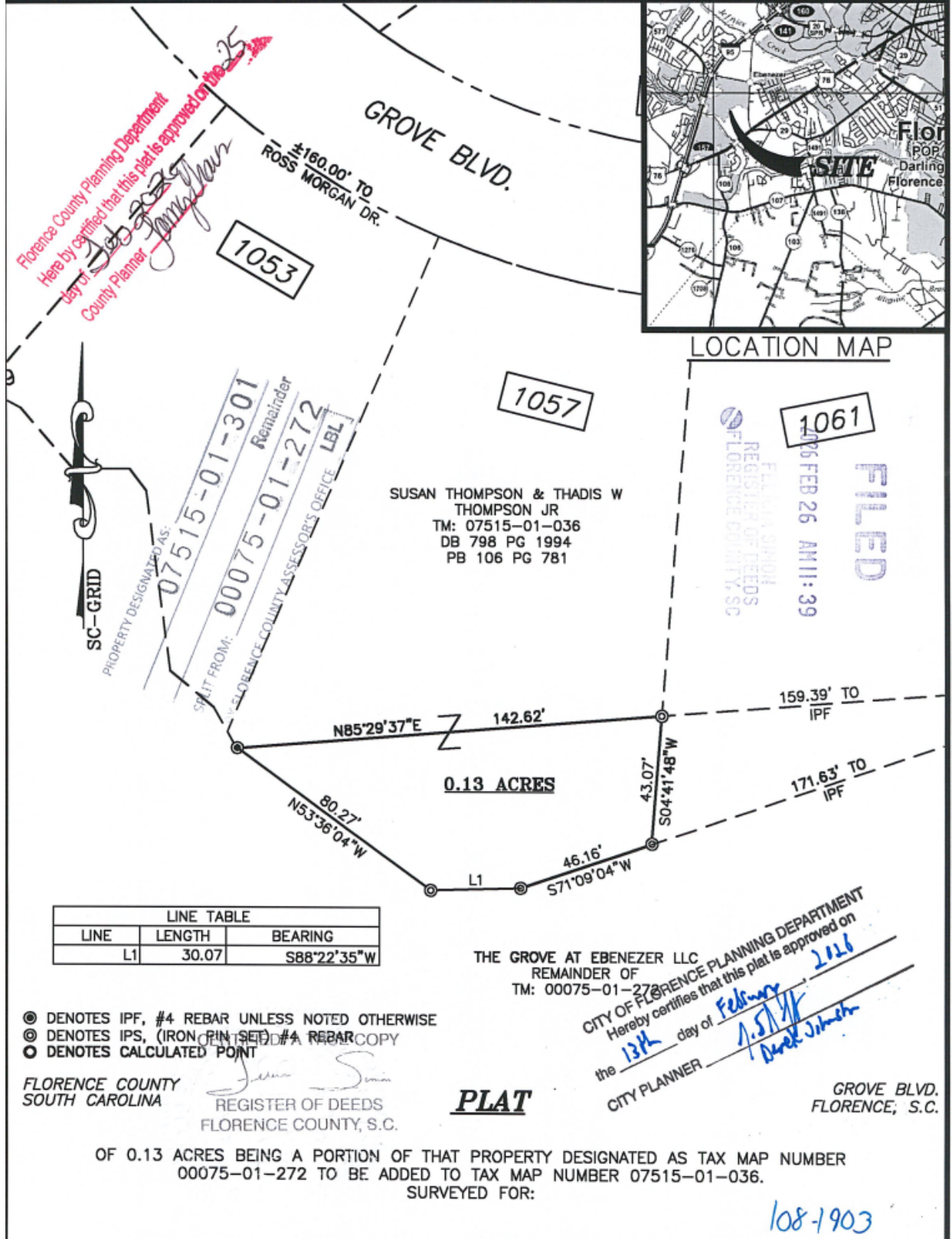


- Legend**
- City Limits
 - Parcels
 - Proposed Parcel



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.





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 07515-01-301

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

To combine two parcels into one in order to have one tax bill w. tm#.

- 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>2</u>
Race	<u> </u>
Total 18 and Over	<u>2</u>
Total Registered to Vote	<u>2</u>

Date 2/27/2026

Susan Thompson
Petitioner

Date _____

Petitioner

Certification as to ownership on the date of petition:	FOR OFFICAL USE ONLY
Date <u>2/27/26</u>	<u>AB</u>



STAFF REPORT
Florence City Council
May 11, 2026

Agenda Item:
IX.g.

Ordinance 1st Reading

Department: Planning, Research & Development

Issue Under Consideration:

An Ordinance to declare as surplus and authorize the conveyance of the real estate known as Tax Parcel 00121-01-029 to the Florence Section National Council of Negro Women, described more fully on Exhibit "A" attached hereto.

Current Status/Previous Action Taken:

No previous action has been taken.

Points to Consider:

1. The City of Florence accepted the deed and title of 1511 Stokes Road on behalf of the Florence Section National Council of Negro Women (NCNW) in 2020 at the request of the NCNW.
2. The City of Florence agreed to maintain the property as set forth within the restrictive covenants and reservations.
3. The NCNW has requested the property to be transferred back into the organization's ownership at our earliest convenience.

Attachments:

1. Stokes Rd surplus property Ordinance
2. Restrictive Covenants 1511 Stokes Rd
3. NCNW request letter

ORDINANCE NO. 2026 - _____

AN ORDINANCE TO DECLARE AS SURPLUS AND AUTHORIZE THE CONVEYANCE OF THE REAL ESTATE KNOWN AS TAX PARCEL 00121-01-029 TO THE FLORENCE SECTION NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NEGRO WOMEN, DESCRIBED MORE FULLY ON EXHIBIT "A" ATTACHED HERETO.

WHEREAS, after due consideration, the City has concluded that the land designated as Florence County tax parcel 00121-01-029 as described on Exhibit “A” and shown on the location map attached hereto as Exhibit “B” is surplus land to the City, and transfer of said property to the Florence Section National Council of Negro Women is in the best interest and to the benefit of the citizens of the City of Florence, and;

WHEREAS, the City of Florence met the requirements as described within the restrictive covenants and reservations, and;

WHEREAS, it is at the request of the Florence Section National Council of Negro Women that the property located at 1511 Stokes Road be transferred back to the organization;

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 pursuant to §5-7-260(6) of the South Carolina Code of Laws, as amended, and §2-26(8) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Florence, the City Manager of the City of Florence is hereby authorized to execute the necessary Deed and other documentation in order to convey title to the property described above to the Florence Section National Council of Negro Women.
2. This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon its approval and adoption by the City Council of the City of Florence.

ADOPTED THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2026

Approved as to form:

RONALD T. SCOTT
CITY ATTORNEY

LETHONIA BARNES
MAYOR

ATTEST:

CASEY MOORE

EXHIBIT A

All that certain piece, parcel or lot of land in the County of Florence, State of South Carolina, fronting on the north side of Stokes Road and being bounded as follows: on the North by property now or formerly of the M.D. Lucas Estate for a distance of 417.4 feet; on the East by property now or formerly of the M.D. Lucas Estate for a distance of 170 feet; on the South by Stokes Road where on it fronts for a distance of 310 feet; and on the West by property now or formerly of the M.D. Lucas Estate for a distance of 208.7 feet.

This being the same property conveyed to National Council of Negro Women, Florence Section, Inc. by deed of Metropolitan Council of Negro Women, Inc. dated July 19, 1980, and recorded in Deed Book A-170 at page 164 in the Office of the Clerk of Court for Florence County.

EXHIBIT B

1511 Stokes Road



Florence County Recording Page



Florence Clerk of Court
Doris Poulos O'Hara
180 North Irby Street MSC-E
Florence, SC 29501
(843) 665-3031

File Number : **2020-00002638**

Book : **840** Page : **1796**



Doc ID - 007553140005

On (Recorded Date) : **2/26/2020**
At (Recorded Time) : **4:38:00 PM**

Recording Pages : **5**
Recording Fee : **\$15.00**

Please keep this Cover Page with the Original Document
This sheet is now part of this document, please leave attached.

Index Type : **DEEDS**
Type of Instrument : **DEED**
Type of Transaction: **Deeds**

First GRANTOR

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NEGRO WOMEN FLORENCE SECTION INC

First GRANTEE

FLORENCE CITY OF

Received From :
CLARKE JOHNSON PETERSON & MCLEAN

Return To :
CLARKE JOHNSON PETERSON & MCLEAN

The attached document including this Cover Page was recorded in the County Recorder's office of
Florence County, South Carolina

Restrictive Covenants and Reservations

The conveyance of the above described property is subject to the following restrictions and reservations of rights regarding its use and maintenance:

1. The **City of Florence** will hold title to the above described property for the purpose preserving the property as a historically significant site for the development of an African American Museum by the Grantor or its designated successor; provided, however, this use restriction can be eliminated by following the procedure set out in Paragraph 4 below.

2. The **City of Florence** shall maintain the structural integrity of the property subject to the provisions of Paragraph 3 below.

3. The **City of Florence** shall have the right to demolish the improvements on said property should it determine that the continued maintenance of said improvements is no longer reasonably justified provided, however, prior to demolishing the improvements, the **City of Florence** will notify the Grantor of its decision in writing of its decision and the Grantor shall have one hundred twenty (120) days from the receipt of said notice to avoid the demolition by agreeing to have the property deeded back to it and agreeing to assume responsibility for all future maintenance of said property.

4. The use restriction set forth in Paragraph 1 above shall only apply to the property during its ownership by the **City of Florence**. In the event the **City of Florence** should determine in the future that it is no longer in the public interest for the **City of Florence** to maintain ownership of the above described property, it must notify the Grantor of its decision in writing of its decision to sell or convey the property, and the Grantor or its designated successor shall have one hundred twenty (120) days from the receipt of said notice to require that the property be deeded back to it at no cost and free and clear of all liens and encumbrances except for any lien established pursuant to Paragraph 5 below. This Right of First Refusal shall be waived if Grantor or its designated successor fails to provide the **City of Florence** with written Notice of its demand that the property be deeded back to it within the one hundred twenty-day period described above.

5. During its ownership of the above described property, the **City of Florence** may keep a detailed accounting of all expenses incurred by it in maintaining or demolishing the improvements on the property. In the event the above described property is conveyed back to the Grantor or its designated successor pursuant to the provisions of Paragraph 3 or 4 above, then such conveyance will be done subject to a mortgage lien held by the **City of Florence** in the amount of the expenses incurred by it in maintaining or demolishing the improvements on the property. There will be no interest charged on said amount, and payment of said amount will be due only in the event the Grantor or its designated successor ultimately sells the described property to another entity for valuable consideration. If such sale of the property is for the purpose of raising funds for an African American Museum or some similar public purpose, then the **City of Florence** will release its mortgage without payment as an incentive to facilitate the

development.

TOGETHER with all and singular, the rights, members, hereditaments and appurtenances to the said premises belonging or in anywise incident or appertaining.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD all and singular the premises before mentioned unto the said **City of Florence**, its Successors and Assigns forever.

And we do hereby bind ourselves and our Successors, Executors and Administrators, to warrant and forever defend all and singular the said premises unto the said **City of Florence**, its Successors and Assigns, against itself and its Successors and Assigns and against every person whomsoever lawfully claiming, or to claim, the same or any part thereof.

WITNESS the hand and seal this 18 day of Feb, 2020.

Signed, Sealed and Delivered

in the Presence of

Mickie Wynn
Kuzo Wynn

National Council of Negro Women, Florence Section, Inc.

By: Modestine Samuel (Seal)
Modestine Samuel, President

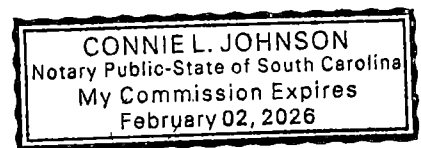
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

COUNTY OF FLORENCE

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this 18 day of Feb, 2020 by Modestine Samuel, President of National Council of Negro Women, Florence Section, Inc. a South Carolina corporation, on behalf of the corporation.

Connie L. Johnson (Seal)
Notary Public for SC
My Commission Expires: 2-2-26



STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
COUNTY OF FLORENCE)

AFFIDAVIT FOR TAXABLE OR EXEMPT TRANSFERS

PERSONALLY appeared before me the undersigned, who, being duly sworn, deposes and says:

1. I have read the information on this affidavit and I understand such information.
2. The property being transferred is located at City of Florence bearing Florence County Tax Map Numbers 121-01-029, were transferred by National Council of Negro Women, Florence Section, Inc. to the City of Florence on _____, 2020.
3. Check one of the following: The deed is
 - (a) _____ subject to the deed recording fee as a transfer for consideration paid or to be paid in money or money's worth.
 - (b) _____ Subject to the deed recording fee as a transfer between a corporation, a partnership, or other entity and a stockholder, partner, or owner of the entity, or is a transfer to a trust or as a distribution to a trust beneficiary.
 - (c) Exempt from the deed recording fee because (See Information section of affidavit): Exemption #2 (If exempt, please skip items 4 - 7, and go to item 8, of this affidavit.)

If exempt under exemption #14 as described in the Information section of this affidavit, did the agent and principal relationship exist at the time of the original sale and was the purpose of this relationship to purchase the realty?
Check Yes _____ or No _____

4. Check one of the following if either item 3(a) or item 3(b) above has been checked (See Information section of this affidavit):
 - (a) _____ The fee is computed on the consideration paid or to be paid in money or money's worth in the amount of _____
 - (b) _____ The fee is computed on the fair market value of the realty which is _____
 - (c) _____ The fee is computed on the fair market value of the realty as established for property tax purposes which is _____

5. Check Yes _____ or No _____ to the following: A lien or encumbrance existed on the land, tenement, or realty before the transfer and remained on the land, tenement, or realty after the transfer. (This includes, pursuant to Code Section 12-59-140(E)(6), any lien or encumbrance on realty in possession of a forfeited land commission which may subsequently be waived or reduced after the transfer under a signed contract or agreement between the lien holder and the buyer existing before the transfer.) If "Yes", the amount of the outstanding balance of this lien or encumbrance is: \$ _____.

6. The deed recording fee is computed as follows:
 - (a) Place the amount listed in item 4 above here: _____ 0
 - (b) Place the amount listed in item 5 above here: _____ 0
(If no amount is listed, place zero here.)
 - (c) Subtract Line 6(b) from Line 6(a) and place result here: _____ 0

7. The deed recording fee due is based on the amount listed on Line 6(c) above and the deed recording fee due is: \$0

8. As required by Code Section 12-24-70, I state that I am a responsible person who was connected with the transaction as Seller.

9. I understand that a person required to furnish this affidavit who willfully furnishes a false or fraudulent affidavit is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, must be fined not more than one thousand dollars or imprisoned not more than one year, or both.

National Council of Negro Women, Florence Section, Inc.

By: Modesline Samuel President
Responsible Person Connected with the Transaction
Modesline Samuel, President

Sworn to before me this 18 day
of Feb 2020
[Signature]
Notary Public for South Carolina
My Commission Expires: 2-2-26

CONNIE L. JOHNSON
Notary Public-State of South Carolina
My Commission Expires
February 02, 2026

NCNW Florence Section

March 6, 2026

Lethonia Barnes, Mayor
The City of Florence
324 W. Evans Street
Florence, SC 29501

Dear Mayor,

I am writing this letter to formally request that the property owned by The Florence Section National Council of Negro Women located at 1511 Stokes Road in Florence SC 29501 currently held in trust by The City of Florence be lawfully returned to us as soon as possible.

We will be able to meet with you whenever it is possible to accomplish this transaction. We would like the property deeded back to us all free and clear with no charges.

Yours in service,

Modestine J. Samuel

Dr. Modestine J. Samuel, President
Florence Section NCNW
modestinesamuel@gmail.com



STAFF REPORT
Florence City Council
May 11, 2026

Agenda Item:
IX.h.

Ordinance 1st Reading

Department: Planning, Research & Development

Issue Under Consideration:

An Ordinance to declare as surplus and authorize the conveyance of the real estate known as Tax Parcel 90066-06-008 to John and Candace Greenan, described more fully on Exhibit "A" attached hereto.

Current Status/Previous Action Taken:

No previous action has been taken.

Points to Consider:

1. The City of Florence purchased 540 Wisteria Drive in July of 2020.
2. John and Candace Greenan have requested the transfer of property for the addition and recombination of their existing property.
3. The property will be surveyed and recorded by John and Candace Greenan.
4. Compensation for the property will be established in accordance with the City's recent appraisal of the property, less the cost of demolition of the structure.

Attachments:

1. 540 Wisteria surplus property ordinance

ORDINANCE NO. 2026 - _____

AN ORDINANCE TO DECLARE AS SURPLUS AND AUTHORIZE THE CONVEYANCE OF THE REAL ESTATE KNOWN AS TAX PARCEL 90066-06-008 TO JOHN AND CANDACE GREENAN, DESCRIBED MORE FULLY ON EXHIBIT "A" ATTACHED HERETO.

WHEREAS, after due consideration, the City has concluded that the land designated as Florence County tax parcel 90066-06-008 as described on Exhibit "A" and shown on the location map attached hereto as Exhibit "B" is surplus land to the City, and sale of said property to John and Candace Greenan at fair market value is in the best interest and to the benefit of the citizens of the City of Florence and;

WHEREAS, said property identified as Florence County tax parcel 90066-06-008 is to be sold to the Greenan's at fair market value less the cost of demolition of the residential structure;

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 pursuant to §5-7-260(6) of the South Carolina Code of Laws, as amended, and §2-26(8) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Florence, the City Manager of the City of Florence is hereby authorized to execute the necessary Deed and other documentation in order to convey title to the property described above to John and Candace Greenan.
2. This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon its approval and adoption by the City Council of the City of Florence.

ADOPTED THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2026

Approved as to form:

RONALD T. SCOTT
CITY ATTORNEY

LETHONIA BARNES
MAYOR

ATTEST:

CASEY MOORE

EXHIBIT A

All that certain piece, parcel or lot of land lying, being and situate in the City of Florence, County of Florence, State of South Carolina, being shown and designated as Lot No. Eight (8) in Block F as shown on a plat of Forest Hills Subdivision made by A.L. Ervin, CE and Eugene Martini Landscape Architect dated August, 1950 and recorded in Plat Book L at page 103 in the office of the Clerk of Court for Florence County. Said lot lies on the south side of Wisteria Drive upon which it fronts and measures one hundred (100') feet. Reference is had to said plat for a more complete and accurate description of said property.

This being the same property conveyed to Derrick F. Owens and Christine R. Owens by Deed of John W. Schofield, Jr. dated January 11, 2017 and recorded January 13, 2017 in Deed Book B670 at page 1186 in the office of the Clerk of Court for Florence County.

EXHIBIT B

540 Wisteria Drive





STAFF REPORT
Florence City Council
May 11, 2026

Agenda Item:
IX.i.

Ordinance 1st Reading

Department: Utilities Department

Issue Under Consideration:

A Series Ordinance to authorize the borrowing of not exceeding \$6,000,000, plus capitalized interest, if any, from the South Carolina Water Quality Revolving Fund Authority (“SRF”) for a low interest loan from the Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund to finance a PFAS Study at the city’s Pee Dee Regional Surface Water Treatment Plant and for lead and copper service line replacement as required by the EPA Lead and Copper Rule Improvement.

Current Status/Previous Action Taken:

1. City Council authorized and approved the City Manager to accept initial PFAS Study South Carolina Water Quality Revolving Fund Authority during May 13, 2024, City Council meeting by Resolution 2024-22.
2. The current ordinance is to provide a funding source for \$6,000,000 for additional PFAS Study Treatment Assessment at the city’s Regional Surface Water Treatment Plant and for lead and copper service line replacement as required by the Lead and Copper Rule Improvement.

Points to Consider:

1. The financing, in the approximate amount of \$3.5 million, will be provided through a Drinking Water SRF loan at an interest rate of 2.6%, along with approximately \$1.5 million in loan forgiveness grant funding.
2. In April 2026, City Council approved a resolution to submit an application to the South Carolina Water Quality Revolving Fund Authority (“SRF”) for a low interest loan from the Drinking Water Revolving Loan to finance the PFAS Study.
3. The adoption of this ordinance is required prior to the closing of the State Revolving Fund Loan to finance the PFAS Study for operational improvement of the city’s Pee Dee Regional Surface Water Treatment Plant.
4. EPA is setting enforceable Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) at 4.0 parts per trillion for PFOA and PFOS for each individual parameter.
5. The city’s Pee River Regional Surface Water Treatment Plant is required to meet compliance with the new rule for these parameters by 2029.
6. 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.

7. EPA finalized Lead and Copper Rule on October 8, 2024, to eliminate lead exposure in drinking water by completing lead service line inventory within water distribution systems and to notify customers about the status of their water service lines.
8. Staff recommends to approve and adopt the proposed ordinance approving a loan from the State Revolving Fund in the amount of not exceeding \$6,000,000 to finance the PFAS Study at the city's Pee Dee Regional Surface Water Treatment Plant and lead and copper water service line replacement.

Attachments:

1. City Council 2026-24 SRF - Lead Copper and PFAS Series Ordinance

ORDINANCE NO. _____

A SERIES ORDINANCE

MAKING PROVISION FOR THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF COMBINED WATERWORKS AND SEWERAGE SYSTEM REVENUE BORROWING OF THE CITY OF FLORENCE, SOUTH CAROLINA, AUTHORIZED BY A BOND ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF FLORENCE ADOPTED OCTOBER 24, 1989, AS AMENDED BY ORDINANCES OF CITY COUNCIL DATED APRIL 12, 2010 AND DECEMBER 12, 2011; APPROVING THE FINANCING OF SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS THROUGH THE BORROWING OF NOT EXCEEDING \$6,000,000 PLUS CAPITALIZED INTEREST, IF ANY, FROM THE STATE DRINKING WATER REVOLVING LOAN FUND BY AGREEMENT WITH THE SOUTH CAROLINA WATER QUALITY REVOLVING FUND AUTHORITY PURSUANT TO TITLE 48, CHAPTER 5, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, AS AMENDED; PROVIDING FOR THE AGREEMENT TO MAKE AND TO ACCEPT THE LOAN, THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A LOAN AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE CITY OF FLORENCE AND THE SOUTH CAROLINA WATER QUALITY REVOLVING FUND AUTHORITY, THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A PROMISSORY NOTES FROM THE CITY OF FLORENCE TO THE SOUTH CAROLINA WATER QUALITY REVOLVING FUND AUTHORITY; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FLORENCE, SOUTH CAROLINA, IN MEETING DULY ASSEMBLED:

ARTICLE I

FINDINGS OF FACT

SECTION 1.1. Findings of Fact. As an incident to the adoption of this Series Ordinance, the City Council (“**City Council**”) of the City of Florence, South Carolina (the “**City**”) has made the following findings:

(a) The City of Florence is a municipality created pursuant to the laws of the State of South Carolina and empowered by the provisions of Title 48, Chapter 5, Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, as amended (the “**Act**”) (i) to undertake a drinking water supply/distribution project as defined and approved pursuant to the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act, 42 U.S.C.A. subsection 300f et seq.; (ii) to make application for and to receive assistance; (iii) to comply with regulations relating to the receipt and disposition of money of the State Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund created by the Act; (iv) to apply for and receive state grants; (v) to enter into loan agreements; and (vi) to comply with all terms and conditions of any loan agreement.

(b) Title 6, Chapter 17, Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, as amended, permits the incurring of debt for the purpose of financing facilities for the furnishing of water and wastewater treatment services and permits the securing of such indebtedness with a pledge of revenues derived from the operation of the Combined Waterworks and Sewerage System (the “**System**”) of the City.

(c) By ordinance entitled AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF COMBINED WATERWORKS AND SEWERAGE SYSTEM REVENUE BONDS OF THE CITY OF FLORENCE, SOUTH CAROLINA, AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO, adopted on October 24, 1989, by ordinances of City Council dated April 12, 2010 and December 12, 2011 (the “**Bond Ordinance**”), City Council made provision for the issuance from time to time of Combined Waterworks and Sewerage System Revenue Bonds of the City payable from revenues derived from the operation of the System.

(d) The revenues derived from the System are now hypothecated and pledged to the payment of the following:

(1) the outstanding installments of an original issue of \$10,428,518 South Carolina Water Quality Revolving Fund Loan dated April 18, 2013;

(2) the outstanding installments of an original issue of \$3,817,741 South Carolina Water Quality Revolving Fund Loan dated September 23, 2013;

(3) the outstanding installments of an original issue of \$6,111,310.18 Waterworks and Sewerage System Junior Lien Revenue Bond dated March 10, 2014;

(4) the outstanding installments of an original issue of not exceeding \$1,750,566 plus capitalized interest, if any, South Carolina Water Quality Revolving Fund Loan dated September 11, 2014;

(5) the outstanding installments of an original issue of \$2,702,347.56 Combined Waterworks and Sewerage System Refunding Revenue Bond, Series 2015, dated July 15, 2015;

(6) the outstanding installments of an original issue of \$14,405,000 Combined Waterworks and Sewerage System Refunding Revenue Bonds, Series 2016, dated November 9, 2016;

(7) the outstanding installments of an original issue of \$9,055,000 Special Obligation Bonds (Florence Downtown Redevelopment Project Area), Taxable Series 2016A, dated November 9, 2016, additionally secured by a junior lien pledge of System revenues;

(8) the outstanding installments of an original issue of \$26,515,000 Special Obligation Bonds (Florence Downtown Redevelopment Project Area), Series 2016B, dated November 9, 2016, additionally secured by a junior lien pledge of System revenues;

(9) the outstanding installments of an original issue of not exceeding \$2,260,938 plus capitalized interest, if any, South Carolina Drinking Water Revolving Fund Loan dated June 14, 2018;

(10) the outstanding installments of an original issue of not exceeding \$5,730,149 plus capitalized interest, if any, South Carolina Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund Loan dated June 14, 2018;

(11) the outstanding installments of an original issue of \$68,590,000 Combined Waterworks and Sewerage System Refunding and Capital Improvement Revenue Bonds, Series 2019, dated October 3, 2019;

(12) the outstanding installments of an original issue of \$15,252,000 Combined Waterworks and Sewerage System Refunding Improvement Revenue Bond, Series 2020, dated May 15, 2020;

(13) the outstanding installments of an original issue of \$32,100,000 Combined Waterworks and Sewerage System Refunding Improvement Revenue Bonds, Series 2023, dated September 27, 2023; and

(14) the outstanding installments of an original issue of \$147,395,000 Combined Waterworks and Sewerage System Capital Improvement Revenue Bonds, Series 2025, dated November 13, 2025.

The City will simultaneously borrow not exceeding \$6,000,000 plus capitalized interest, if any, from the South Carolina Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund as evidenced by one or more notes (the “**2026A Note**” or the “**2026B Note**,” together, the “**2026 Notes**”) by issuance of Waterworks and Sewer System Revenue Bonds in one or more series (the “**2026 Bonds**”) which will be issued on parity with the above-described borrowings in this paragraph (d) (1), (2), (4) through (6), and (9) through (14) are hereinafter referred to as the “**Parity Bonds**.”

(e) The City has determined to defray the cost of the capital improvements described in attached Exhibit A (collectively, the “**Projects**”) through the borrowing authorized herein. The Projects will be part of the System.

(f) City Council has adopted a Resolution authorizing application to the South Carolina Water Quality Revolving Fund Authority (the “**State Authority**”) for a loan from the South Carolina Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund created by the Act (the “**2026A Loan**”), to provide for the financing of the 2026A Project.

(g) City Council has adopted a Resolution authorizing application to the State Authority for a loan from the South Carolina Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund created by the Act (the “**2026B Loan**”), to provide for the financing of the 2026B Project.

(h) The State Authority upon review of the City’s loan application conditionally approved the 2026A Loan and is in the process of approving the Loan application with respect to the 2026B Loan.

(i) The Bond Ordinance provides that a Series Ordinance shall be adopted with respect to each Series of Bonds which Series Ordinance shall express the approval of City Council to the issuance of a Series of Bonds and City Council’s agreement to abide by the terms, provisions and agreements set forth in the Bond Ordinance and shall specify and determine:

- (1) As prescribed by Section 6-17-60 of the Enabling Act, the then period of usefulness of the System;
- (2) The Date or Dates of Issue of such Series of Bonds;
- (3) The precise principal amount of the Series of Bonds;
- (4) The specific purposes for which the proceeds of such Series will be used;
- (5) The title and designation of the Bonds of such Series and manner of numbering and lettering, and the denomination or denominations of the Bonds of such Series;
- (6) The date or dates of maturity and the amounts thereof;
- (7) The interest rate or rates, or the manner of determining such rate or rates, of the Bonds of such Series;
- (8) The time for the payment of interest on the Bonds in such Series and the Record Date;

(9) The redemption price or redemption prices and the redemption date or redemption dates and other terms of redemption (if any) applicable to any of the Bonds of such Series for such payments;

(10) The Registrar for such Bonds if other than the Trustee;

(11) The portion of such Series that are serial Bonds and that are Term Bonds, if any, including the amount and date of each mandatory redemption or sinking fund installment, if any, required by such Series Ordinance to be paid for the retirement of any such Bonds;

(12) The portion of such Series that are Capital Appreciation Bonds, if any, including the time for payment of such Capital Appreciation Bonds in order to address the information requested in paragraphs (7) and (8) above.

(13) Any other applicable redemption requirement for the Bonds of such Series and the method of satisfying the same;

(14) The manner in which Bonds of such Series are to be sold and provisions for the sale thereof;

(15) The form or forms for the Bonds of each Series;

(16) That the then applicable Reserve Requirement has been or will be met;

(17) The disposition of the proceeds of the sale of the Bonds of such Series and the manner of their application; and

(18) Any other provisions deemed advisable by the City not in conflict with or in substitution for the provisions of the Bond Ordinance and the Series Ordinance relating to the Bonds of such Series.

(j) The funds are to be loaned and secured pursuant to a loan agreements (the “**2026A Loan Agreement**” or “**2026B Loan Agreement**,” and together, the “**Loan Agreements**”) between the City and the State Authority, and promissory notes executed and delivered by the City registered in the name of the State Authority (the “**2026A Note**” or the “**2026B Note**,” and together, the “**2026 Notes**”). Pursuant to the Loan Agreement, the City will agree to use the 2026 Loan proceeds only to pay the actual eligible costs of the components of Projects, and the City will agree to pay to the State Authority such amounts as shall be required to provide for the payment of all amounts due with respect to the repayment of the 2026 Loan. To secure its obligations the City will grant to the State Authority a pledge of, and lien upon, all revenues derived from the operation of the System and all funds and accounts of the City derived from such revenues, which pledge is on a parity with the Parity Bonds and any additional bonds issued on a parity therewith.

Upon any failure of the City to make any payments to the State Authority pursuant to the Loan Agreements or the 2026 Notes, the State Authority shall require the State Treasurer to pay to the State Authority, subject to the provisions of the Act, such amount from State appropriations to which the City may be or may become entitled as may be necessary to provide for the payment of all amounts due with respect to the 2026 Notes.

(k) City Council is adopting this Ordinance in order to:

(a) authorize the execution and delivery on behalf of the City of the Loan Agreements and the 2026 Notes;

(b) evidence the approval of the Project and the 2026 Loans by the City; and

(c) authorize the execution and delivery by, and on behalf of, the City of such other agreements and certificates and the taking of such other action by the City and its officers as shall be necessary or desirable in connection with the financing of the Projects in order to carry out the intent of this Ordinance.

(l) The Bond Ordinance permits the issuance of further bonds on a parity with the Parity Bonds, on the following conditions. Capitalized terms used herein shall have the meanings ascribed thereto in the Bond Ordinance.

(1) There shall exist, on the occasion of the issuance of the Bonds, no default in the payment of the principal of or interest on any Prior Lien Bonds, Bonds or Junior Lien Bonds then Outstanding;

(2) There shall be on deposit in each Debt Service Reserve Fund established pursuant to any Series Ordinance the amount then required to be on deposit therein by the provisions of such Series Ordinance; and

(3) Except in the case of Bonds issued for the purpose of refunding any Bonds, there shall be delivered to the Trustee a certificate, which is not required to be based upon an audit of the City, from an Accountant, a Financial Consultant or a Consulting Engineer, to the effect that Net Earnings during any consecutive 12-month period out of the 24 months immediately preceding the issuance date of the proposed Bonds (the “**Test Period**”) are not less than 125% of the greatest sum for any Fiscal Year ending after the date of delivery of the Bonds proposed to be issued obtained by adding all the Annual Principal and Interest Requirement for each Fiscal Year for all Series of Bonds then proposed to be Outstanding.

It is specifically found that the 2026 Notes, whose issuance are herewith provided for, are issued as Bonds under the Bond Ordinance and for purposes permitted by and in full compliance with all of the provisions set forth in the Bond Ordinance and that the 2026 Notes will be on a parity with said Parity Bonds. It is further found that the received and anticipated commitments from the State Authority to purchase the 2026 Notes is for an amount not to exceed \$6,000,000 plus capitalized interest, if any. The final amount of the borrowing as well as the dates on which principal and interest payments will be made and the amount of such payments are subject to revision as construction proceeds. The final terms and conditions of the borrowing will be substantially as set forth in the Loan Agreement attached hereto as Exhibit B which terms and conditions are incorporated herein, with such changes as the City Manager shall approve in his discretion in order effectuate the purposes of this Ordinance.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED BY COUNCIL IN MEETING DULY ASSEMBLED:

(1) The useful life of the System is found to be 40 years.

(2) The Date of Issue of the 2026A Note is to be no later than June 30, 2026, and the actual date of issue of the 2026A Note will be as set forth in a certificate to be delivered by the Mayor and contained in the final 2026A Note.

(3) The 2026A Note shall be in the original principal amount of not exceeding \$4,000,000 plus capitalized interest, if any, and the actual principal amount of the 2026A Note will be as set forth in the 2026A Loan Agreement with respect to the 2026A Note (the “**2026A Loan Agreement**”).

(4) The proceeds of the 2026A Note shall be used to defray that portion of the Project allocated to the 2026A Note described in attached Exhibit A;

(5) The 2026A Note shall be designated South Carolina Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund, Series 2026A, and shall be issued in the denomination of the final principal amount borrowed and shall be numbered 1.

(6) The date of maturity and amounts thereof shall be as set forth in the 2026A Loan Agreement. Inasmuch as the final principal amounts may be reduced to reflect lower than anticipated construction costs, any changes to the principal amounts to provide for a reduction in the amounts borrowed shall be permitted and shall be evidenced by the City's execution of the 2026A Loan Agreement, as it may be amended from time to time.

(7) The interest rate on the 2026A Note and the time for the payment of interest and the Record Date shall be as set forth in the 2026A Loan Agreement.

(8) The 2026A Note is subject to prepayment in whole or in part together with any accrued interest thereon at any time without penalty or premium; all such prepayments shall be applied against principal installments due on the 2026A Note in inverse order of maturity.

(9) The Registrar for the 2026A Note shall be the Trustee under the Bond Ordinance.

(10) The 2026A Note shall be sold to the State Authority pursuant to the State Authority's final approval of the 2026A Loan and shall be issued as a single obligation with principal to be paid as set forth in the 2026A Loan Agreement.

(11) The 2026A Note shall be substantially in the form attached to the Loan Agreement.

(12) Provision for the Reserve Requirement shall be made by the deposit in the Debt Service Reserve Fund established as permitted by the Bond Ordinance of an amount necessary to satisfy the Reserve Requirement as set forth in the 2026A Loan Agreement.

(13) The proceeds of the 2026A Note shall be disbursed in accordance with the requirements of the 2026A Loan Agreement.

(14) The Date of Issue of the 2026B Note is to be no later than June 30, 2026, and the actual date of issue of the 2026B Note will be as set forth in a certificate to be delivered by the Mayor and contained in the final 2026B Note.

(15) The 2026B Note shall be in the original principal amount of not exceeding \$2,000,000 plus capitalized interest, if any, and the actual principal amount of the 2026B Note will be as set forth in the 2026B Loan Agreement with respect to the 2026B Note (the "**2026B Loan Agreement**").

(16) The proceeds of the 2026B Note shall be used to defray that portion of the Project allocated to the 2026B Note described in attached Exhibit A;

(17) The 2026B Note shall be designated South Carolina Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund, Series 2026B, and shall be issued in the denomination of the final principal amount borrowed and shall be numbered 1.

(18) The date of maturity and amounts thereof shall be as set forth in the 2026B Loan Agreement. Inasmuch as the final principal amounts may be reduced to reflect lower than anticipated construction costs, any changes to the principal amounts to provide for a reduction in the amounts borrowed shall be permitted and shall be evidenced by the City's execution of the 2026B Loan Agreement, as it may be amended from time to time.

(19) The interest rate on the 2026B Note and the time for the payment of interest and the Record Date shall be as set forth in the 2026B Loan Agreement.

(20) The 2026B Note is subject to prepayment in whole or in part together with any accrued interest thereon at any time without penalty or premium; all such prepayments shall be applied against principal installments due on the 2026B Note in inverse order of maturity.

(21) The Registrar for the 2026B Note shall be the Trustee under the Bond Ordinance.

(22) The 2026B Note shall be sold to the State Authority pursuant to the State Authority's final approval of the 2026B Loan and shall be issued as a single obligation with principal to be paid as set forth in the 2026B Loan Agreement.

(23) The 2026B Note shall be substantially in the form attached to the Loan Agreement.

(24) Provision for the Reserve Requirement shall be made by the deposit in the Debt Service Reserve Fund established as permitted by the Bond Ordinance of an amount necessary to satisfy the Reserve Requirement as set forth in the 2026B Loan Agreement.

(25) The proceeds of the 2026B Note shall be disbursed in accordance with the requirements of the 2026B Loan Agreement.

ARTICLE II

THE LOANS

SECTION 2.1. Authorization of 2026A Loan. Council hereby authorizes the City's acceptance of the 2026A Loan from the State Authority of not exceeding \$4,000,000 plus capitalized interest, if any, pursuant to and in accordance with, the provisions of the 2026A Loan Agreement.

SECTION 2.2. Repayment of 2026A Loan by the City. Council hereby authorizes the repayment of the 2026A Loan by the City to the State Authority from revenues of the System or, if said revenues are not sufficient, from state appropriations the City may become entitled pursuant to and in accordance with the provisions of the 2026A Loan Agreement and the 2026A Note.

SECTION 2.3. Authorization of 2026B Loan. Council hereby authorizes the City's acceptance of the 2026B Loan from the State Authority of not exceeding \$2,000,000 plus capitalized interest, if any, pursuant to and in accordance with, the provisions of the 2026B Loan Agreement.

SECTION 2.4. Repayment of 2026B Loan by the City. Council hereby authorizes the repayment of the 2026B Loan by the City to the State Authority from revenues of the System or, if said revenues are not sufficient, from state appropriations the City may become entitled pursuant to and in accordance with the provisions of the 2026B Loan Agreement and the 2026B Note.

ARTICLE III

LOAN AGREEMENTS AND NOTES

SECTION 3.1. Authorization of 2026A Loan Agreement and the 2026A Note. The 2026A Loan Agreement and the 2026A Note in substantially the form attached hereto as Exhibit “B” with such changes as the executing officers shall approve (their execution to be conclusive evidence of such approval) are hereby approved and the execution and delivery of the Loan Agreement and the 2026A Note, on behalf of the City are hereby authorized and directed. The Loan Agreement and the 2026A Note shall be executed on behalf of the City by the Mayor and attested by the Clerk of Council (the “**Clerk**”).

SECTION 3.2. Authorization of 2026B Loan Agreement and the 2026B Note. The 2026B Loan Agreement and the 2026B Note in substantially the form attached hereto as Exhibit “B” with such changes as the executing officers shall approve (their execution to be conclusive evidence of such approval) are hereby approved and the execution and delivery of the 2026B Loan Agreement and the 2026B Note, on behalf of the City are hereby authorized and directed. The 2026B Loan Agreement and the 2026B Note shall be executed on behalf of the City by the Mayor and attested by the Clerk.

ARTICLE IV

MISCELLANEOUS

SECTION 4.1. Other Instruments and Actions. In order to implement (i) the 2026A Loan pursuant to the 2026A Loan Agreement and 2026A Note and (ii) the 2026B Loan pursuant to the 2026B Loan Agreement and 2026B Note, and to give full effect to the intent and meaning of this Ordinance and the agreements and actions herein authorized, the Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to execute and deliver such certificates, showings, instruments and agreements and to take such further action as the shall deem necessary or desirable.

SECTION 4.2. Ordinance a Contract. This Ordinance shall be a contract between the City and the State Authority, and shall be enforceable as such against the City.

SECTION 4.3. Continuing Disclosure. The City covenants to file with the State Authority:

- (a) An annual audit, within thirty days of the City’s receipt of the audit; and
- (b) Event specific information within thirty days of an event adversely affecting more than five percent of revenues of the System or the City’s tax base.

SECTION 4.4. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall become effective upon receiving approval on second reading by Council.

DONE, RATIFIED AND ADOPTED THIS 8th day of June, 2026.

(SEAL)

Mayor, City of Florence, South Carolina

Attest:

Clerk, City of Florence, South
Carolina

First Reading: May 11, 2026
Second Reading: June 8, 2026

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

COUNTY OF FLORENCE

I, the undersigned, Clerk of the City Council of the City of Florence, South Carolina (“**Council**”), DO HEREBY CERTIFY:

That the foregoing constitutes a true, correct and verbatim copy of an Ordinance adopted by Council. The Ordinance was read at two public meetings of Council on May 11, 2026, and June 8, 2026. An interval of at least six days occurred between each reading. At each meeting, a quorum of Council was present and remaining present throughout the meeting.

The Ordinance is now in full force and effect.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my Hand this 8th day of June, 2026.

Clerk

EXHIBIT A

Description of the Projects

The Projects are comprised as follows.

1. 2026A NOTE: PFAS

The cost of improvement to the City's Waterworks to meet required limitations on PFAS currently proposed by USEPA prior to 2031.

2. 2026B NOTE: Lead and Copper 2024

Replacement of all lead and galvanized water lines that are a part of the City's Waterworks System.

EXHIBIT B

Form of Loan Agreements and Notes



STAFF REPORT
Florence City Council
May 11, 2026

Agenda Item:
X.a.

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. Small Business Month

(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 11TH DAY OF MAY 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
May 11, 2026

Agenda Item:
X.b.

Resolution

Department: City Manager's Office

Issue Under Consideration:

A Resolution authorizing the execution of an intergovernmental agreement (the “*Agreement*”) between the City of Florence, South Carolina (the “*City*”) and School District No. 1 of Florence County, South Carolina (the “*School District*”) for the governance of the Aquatics Center (the “*Aquatics Facility*”).

Current Status/Previous Action Taken:

The is currently no agreement in place between the City and the School District related to the Aquatics Facility.

Points to Consider:

1. The City will contribute a total sum of \$1,000,000 which shall be paid in two installments. The first installment of \$500,000 shall be paid on or before June 30, 2026 and the second installment of \$500,000 shall be paid on or before January 31, 2027.
2. The School District shall maintain sole ownership of the Aquatics Facility and shall be responsible for maintenance, utilities and general upkeep.
3. The School District shall provide a brief status report to the City outlining the progress toward the construction and completion of the Aquatics Facility.
4. The School District shall grant the City’s Parks, Recreation & Sports Tourism Department use of the Aquatics Facility for various activities.

Attachments:

1. Intergovernmental Agreement (Aquatics Facility) Resolution
2. FSD1 Email

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-__

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 AN AQUATICS FACILITY AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO.

WHEREAS, Article IV, Section 13 of the South Carolina Constitution and Section 6-1-20 of the South Carolina Code of Laws authorize political subdivisions to enter into agreements for the joint administration of functions and exercise of powers; and

WHEREAS, the School District No.1 of Florence County, South Carolina (the “*School District*”) intends to construct and operate an Aquatics Center (the “*Aquatics Facility*”) to serve the educational and athletic needs of its students; and

WHEREAS, the School District has requested capital funding from the City of Florence, South Carolina (the “*City*”) to support development of the Aquatics Facility and the City desires to support the development of the Aquatics Facility to enhance the recreational and educational opportunities for its citizens, including seniors and youth, and the City’s swim league; and

WHEREAS, the Parties find that this collaborative effort provides a significant public benefit and promotes the efficient use of public funds; and

WHEREAS, the Parties desire to enter into an intergovernmental agreement (the “*Agreement*”) governing the development, financing, and operation of the Aquatics Facility.

NOW, THEREFORE, BASED UPON THE FINDINGS OF FACTS SET OUT ABOVE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FLORENCE, SOUTH CAROLINA AS FOLLOWS:

- a. The City hereby approves and authorizes the City Manager to execute that certain Agreement, attached hereto as Exhibit A and incorporated herein by reference.
- b. This Resolution shall become effective upon its approval and adoption by the City Council of the City.

[EXECUTED ON ONE ADDITONAL PAGE]

AND IT IS SO RESOLVED this __ day of _____, 2026.

Approved as to form:

RONALD T. SCOTT
CITY ATTORNEY

LETHONIA BARNES
MAYOR

ATTEST:

CASEY MOORE

EXHIBIT A

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT
FOR THE FUNDING AND UTILIZATION OF AN AQUATICS CENTER**

THIS INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT (the “*Agreement*”), dated as of this ____ day of _____, 2026, is entered into by and between the **CITY OF FLORENCE, SOUTH CAROLINA**, a body corporate and politic and a municipal corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of South Carolina (the “*City*”) and **SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1 OF FLORENCE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA**, a body corporate and politic (the “*School District*”). The City and the School District may be referred to herein individually as a “*Party*” and collectively, the “*Parties*”.

RECITALS

WHEREAS, Article IV, Section 13 of the South Carolina Constitution and Section 6-1-20 of the South Carolina Code of Laws authorize political subdivisions to enter into agreements for the joint administration of functions and exercise of powers; and

WHEREAS, the School District intends to construct and operate an Aquatics Center (the “*Aquatics Facility*”) to serve the educational and athletic needs of its students; and

WHEREAS, the School District has requested capital funding from the City to support development of the Aquatics Facility and City desires to support the development of the Aquatics Facility to enhance the recreational and educational opportunities for its citizens, including seniors and youth, and the City’s swim league; and

WHEREAS, the Parties find that this collaborative effort provides a significant public benefit and promotes the efficient use of public funds;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants and agreements hereinafter set forth and for other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the City and the School District hereby agree as follows:

Section I. FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION.

The City agrees to contribute a total sum of **\$1,000,000.00** (the “*Contribution*”) to the School District toward the funding of the Aquatics Facility. This Contribution shall be paid in two installments:

1. **First Payment:** \$500,000.00 to be paid on or before **June 30, 2026**.
2. **Second Payment:** \$500,000.00 to be paid on or before **January 31, 2027**.

The School District shall use these funds exclusively for the capital costs and/or construction of the Aquatics Facility.

Section II. OPERATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES.

1. **Ownership:** The School District shall maintain sole ownership of the Aquatics Facility and shall be responsible for its maintenance, utilities, and general upkeep.

Section III. PROJECT REPORTING.

Upon written request from the City, the School District shall provide a brief status report outlining the progress toward the construction and completion of the Aquatics Facility. The School District agrees to maintain open communication to ensure the City is aware of the Aquatic Facility's availability for the agreed-upon programming and services.

Section IV. FACILITY ACCESS AND USAGE.

In consideration of the Contribution, the School District shall grant the City's Parks, Recreation & Sports Tourism Department ("PRT") use of the Aquatics Facility for scheduling the following activities:

- **Senior Programming:** Two (2) PRT sponsored classes per week for senior citizens, for a duration of up to two (2) hours per class.
- **Summer Youth Activities:** Six (6) to eight (8) hours per week during the months of June, July, and August for PRT sponsored youth swim activities.
- **City Swim League:** Two (2) practice sessions per week for the PRT sponsored swim team, up to two (2) hours per session, throughout the calendar year.

The above-listed City use of the Aquatics Facility shall be coordinated by the City's PRT Director, or designee, with the School District's designee at least thirty (30) days in advance to finalize the schedule of use. Unless otherwise agreed in writing, the City shall provide its own certified lifeguards and instructors for the above-listed City PRT-sponsored activities, provided they meet the School District's safety and insurance standards.

Section V. TERM AND TERMINATION.

This Agreement shall commence on the date of execution and continue for a period of _____ years.

Section VI. Miscellaneous.

1. **Assignment.** Neither Party may assign, delegate, or otherwise transfer this Agreement or any of its rights or obligations hereunder, whether by operation of law or otherwise, without the prior written consent of the other Party. Any attempted assignment, delegation, or transfer in violation of this Section shall be null and void. This Agreement shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of the Parties and their respective permitted successors and assigns.

2. **Notice.** All notices, requests, or other communications required under this Agreement must be in writing and sent to the parties at the addresses set forth below. Notices shall be deemed sufficiently given: (a) when delivered personally; (b) one business day after deposit with a nationally recognized overnight courier; (c) three business days after being mailed by certified or registered mail; or (d) on the day of transmission if sent by email (provided no "undeliverable" error is received).

If to the City: City of Florence, South Carolina
Attn: City Manager
324 W. Evans Street
Florence, SC 29501

If to the School District: School District No. 1 of Florence County,
South Carolina
Attn: Superintendent
319 S. Irby Street
Florence, SC 29501

3. **Amendment.** This Agreement may be modified or amended only by the written agreement of the Parties.

4. **Severability.** If any provision, covenant, or portion of this Agreement or its application to any person, entity or property, is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect the application or validity of any other provisions, covenants, or portions of this Agreement and, to that end, any provisions, covenants, or portions of this Agreement are declared to be severable.

5. **Applicable Law.** This Agreement shall be construed in accordance with the laws of the State of South Carolina.

6. **Counterparts.** This Agreement may be executed in several counterparts, each of which shall be an original and all of which shall constitute but one and the same agreement.

7. **Consent or Approval.** Except as otherwise provided herein, whenever consent or approval of any Party is required, such consent or approval shall not be unreasonably withheld.

8. **Construction.** The Parties agree that each Party and its counsel have reviewed and revised this Agreement and that any rule of construction to the effect that ambiguities are to be resolved against the drafting Party shall not apply in the interpretation of this Agreement or any amendments or exhibits hereto.

9. **Entire Agreement.** This Agreement constitutes the entire and final agreement between the Parties with respect to the subject matter hereof and supersedes all prior or contemporaneous negotiations, representations, understandings, and agreements, whether oral or written. The Parties acknowledge and represent that they have not been induced to enter into this Agreement by any warranty, promise, or representation not expressly set forth herein.

[Remainder of Page Intentionally Left Blank]

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the City and the School District have caused this Agreement to be duly executed in their respective names, all as of the date first above written.

CITY OF FLORENCE, SOUTH CAROLINA

ATTEST:

By: _____
Its: City Manager

By: _____
Its: City Clerk

**SCHOOL DISTRICT NO.1 OF FLORENCE
COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA**

ATTEST:

By: _____
Its: Chairman, Board of Trustees

By: _____
Its: Secretary, Board of Trustees



STAFF REPORT
Florence City Council
May 11, 2026

Agenda Item:
X.c.

Resolution

Department: City Council

Issue Under Consideration:

A Resolution of Recognition for West Florence High School Girls Tennis Team for winning the 2025 SCHSL 5A, Division II State Championship.

Current Status/Previous Action Taken:

This Resolution is sponsored by Pro tem Jebaily.

Points to Consider:

1. The West Florence High School Girls Tennis Team completed a historic 2025 season by capturing the program's first-ever state championship.
2. Under the leadership of Head Coach Abby Sullivan, the Knights finished the season with an impressive 23-1 record.
3. After advancing to the Lower State Finals in each of the previous two seasons, the team remained focused on its goal of winning a state title. Their persistence and commitment culminated in a 4-2 victory over T.L. Hanna at the Cayce Tennis Center to secure the SCHSL 5A, Division II State Championship.

Attachments:

1. WF Tennis

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-25

**A RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION FOR WEST FLORENCE HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS
TENNIS TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2025 SCHSL 5A, DIVISION II STATE
CHAMPIONSHIP.**

WHEREAS, the West Florence High School Girls Tennis Team achieved an historic milestone by winning the 2025 South Carolina High School League (SCHSL) Class 5A, Division II State Championship; and

WHEREAS, this victory marks the first state championship in the program’s history, representing the culmination of years of dedication, perseverance, and steady improvement; and

WHEREAS, under the leadership of Head Coach Abby Sullivan, the team demonstrated unwavering determination throughout the season, finishing with an outstanding 23-1 record; and

WHEREAS, after falling short in the Lower State Finals in each of the previous two seasons, the team remained committed to their goal, embodying resilience and teamwork to reach the pinnacle of success; and

WHEREAS, the Knights secured the state championship with a 4-2 victory over T.L. Hanna at the Cayce Tennis Center, showcasing their skill, composure, and competitive spirit; 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 recognizes and commends the West Florence High School Girls Tennis Team for their outstanding achievement in winning the 2025 SCHSL 5A, Division II State Championship.

RESOLVED THIS 11TH DAY OF MAY 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
May 11, 2026

Agenda Item:
X.d.

Resolution

Department: City Council

Issue Under Consideration:

A Resolution Recognizing May 24, 2026 as Gray Day in the City of Florence in recognition of Brain Cancer Awareness.

Current Status/Previous Action Taken:

This Resolution is sponsored by Mayor Lethonia Barnes.

Points to Consider:

1. Brain cancer affects millions of individuals each year.
2. There is a critical need to increase awareness, advocacy and support for brain cancer.
3. Recognizing May 24, 2026 as Gray Day serves as a meaningful step toward raising awareness about brain cancer and brain tumors.

Attachments:

1. Gray Day

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

RESOLUTION 2026-26

A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING MAY 24, 2026 AS GRAY DAY IN THE CITY OF FLORENCE IN RECOGNITION OF BRAIN CANCER AWARENESS.

WHEREAS, brain cancer affects millions of individuals each year, including those previously diagnosed and the thousands who receive a new diagnosis annually; and

WHEREAS, the brain serves as the control center of the human body, and without healthy brain tissue, the body cannot properly function or perform essential daily activities; and

WHEREAS, there is a critical need to increase awareness, advocacy, and support for brain cancer, one of the fastest-growing and most prevalent forms of cancer, yet among the least funded for research; and

WHEREAS, brain cancer has historically received less attention and research funding compared to many other forms of cancer, underscoring the importance of initiatives that promote education, awareness, and support for those impacted; and

WHEREAS, recognizing this day serves as a meaningful step toward raising awareness, encouraging advocacy, and supporting individuals and families affected by brain cancer.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Florence, South Carolina that May 24, 2026 shall be named:

Gray Day

in the City of Florence, South Carolina, to promote awareness of brain tumors and brain cancer, to encourage advocacy, and to foster greater understanding and support for those affected by this devastating disease.

RESOLVED THIS 11TH DAY OF MAY 2026.

Approved as to form:

CITY ATTORNEY

LETHONIA BARNES
MAYOR

ATTEST:

CASEY C. MOORE
MUNICIPAL CLERK



STAFF REPORT
Florence City Council
May 11, 2026

Agenda Item:
X.e.

Resolution

Department: Planning, Research & Development

Issue Under Consideration:

A Resolution to adopt the Community Development Block Grant budget for fiscal year 2026-2027.

Current Status/Previous Action Taken:

1. The City of Florence will receive \$352,512 in Community Development Block Grant funding for FY 2026-2027. Staff met with community members and neighborhood leaders to gather input on the use of these funds. Staff informed Council of all the community funding requests that were received.

Points to Consider:

1. The City of Florence will receive approximately \$352,512 in Community Development Block Grant funding for FY 2026-2027.
2. A public hearing to receive input was held on February 19, 2026 in City Council Chambers and a second public hearing is scheduled for May 11, 2026 during the City Council Meeting. Additional meetings were held throughout March at the following locations: Levy Park Community Center, Mordecai C. Johnson Community Center, and Iola Jones Community Center.
3. CDBG funding can only be used to meet three national objectives: aid in the elimination of slum and blight; benefit to low-moderate income persons; and meeting a need having urgency.

Attachments:

1. CDBG Resolution - Proposed 2026-2027

Resolution No. 2026-

**RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF FLORENCE, SOUTH CAROLINA**

WHEREAS, the City of Florence is an Entitlement City as defined by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development; and

WHEREAS, the City of Florence will receive **\$352,512** in Community Development Block Grant funding from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development for fiscal year 2026-2027; and

WHEREAS, the City of Florence is required by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development to approve and adopt a Community Development Block Grant budget;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Florence, South Carolina in a meeting duly assembled do hereby adopt the following Community Development Block Grant budget for fiscal year 2026-2027:

Planning and Administration	\$ 70,502
Emergency Rehabilitation	\$ 132,010
Down Payment Assistance	\$ 100,000
My Brother's Keeper	\$ 30,000
Florence Senior Center (Meals on Wheels)	\$ 10,000
Florence Boys & Girls Club	\$ 10,000
TOTAL	<u>\$ 352,512</u>

ADOPTED, this **11th** day of **May, 2026**.

Approved as to form:

City Attorney

**Lethonia Barnes
Mayor**

Attest:

**Casey C. Moore
Municipal Clerk**



STAFF REPORT
Florence City Council
May 11, 2026

Agenda Item:
X.g.

Resolution

Department: Planning, Research & Development

Issue Under Consideration:

A Resolution to recommend to the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) to authorize safety improvements and traffic-calming measures along Cheves Street and Coit Street.

Current Status/Previous Action Taken:

No previous action has been taken.

Points to Consider:

1. The South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) requires the approval of the local governing body to implement “Road Diet” improvements prior to authorizing such improvements.
2. The proposed improvements will reduce the current four lane roadway with on-street parking to two lanes with a turning median, share-row, landscape islands, and on-street parking.
3. This initiative aligns with the recommendations within the City of Florence’s Comprehensive Plan, Design Guidelines, and Downtown Masterplan.

Attachments:

1. Resolution 2026-28 Road Diet Cheves Street

RESOLUTION 2026 -

A RESOLUTION TO RECOMMEND TO THE SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (SCDOT) TO AUTHORIZE SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS AND TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES ALONG CHEVES STREET AND COIT STREET.

WHEREAS, the City of Florence is committed to providing a safe, accessible, and efficient transportation network for all residents, including motorists, pedestrians, cyclists, and transit users; and

WHEREAS, a "Road Diet" typically involves converting an existing four-lane undivided roadway to a three-lane segment consisting of two through-lanes and a center two-way left-turn lane; and

WHEREAS, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) research indicates that Road Diets can reduce overall crashes by **19% to 47%** by reducing vehicle speeds and eliminating "left-turn" friction; and

WHEREAS, the proposed project on Cheves Street and Coit Street aims to repurpose excess pavement to include [e.g., buffered bike lanes, wider sidewalks, or increased on-street parking], thereby enhancing the local business climate and neighborhood livability; and

WHEREAS, this initiative aligns with the City's Comprehensive Plan and Downtown Masterplan to reduce traffic-related fatalities, encourage active transportation, and enhance the pedestrian experience; and

WHEREAS, the South Carolina Department of Transportation as part of their review and approval process requires the local governing body to provide official support for the proposed improvements.

NOW, THEREFORE, BASED UPON THE FINDINGS OF FACT SET OUT ABOVE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF FLORENCE, SOUTH CAROLINA AS FOLLOWS:

1. The City Council of the City of Florence officially supports the Road Diet configuration for Cheves Street between Kuker Street and Dargan Street, and the striping improvements along Coit Street from W NB Baroody Street and Palmetto Street.
2. The City Council directs city staff to prioritize safety and "Complete Streets" principles in the final design of this corridor.

AND IT IS SO RESOLVED this ____ day of May, 2026.

CITY ATTORNEY

LETHONIA BARNES
MAYOR

ATTEST:

CASEY MOORE
MUNICIPAL CLERK



STAFF REPORT
Florence City Council
May 11, 2026

Agenda Item:
X.h.

Resolution

Department: Economic Development

Issue Under Consideration:

A Resolution authorizing the approval and acceptance by the City Manager for loan assistance monies from the South Carolina Water Quality Revolving Fund Authority and other matters related thereto.

Current Status/Previous Action Taken:

1. The current resolution is to complete loan application for \$2,000,000 for lead and copper service line replacement as required by the Lead and Copper Rule Improvement.

Points to Consider:

1. EPA finalized Lead and Copper Rule on October 8, 2024, to eliminate lead exposure in drinking water by completing lead service line inventory within water distribution systems and to notify customers about the status of their water service lines.

Attachments:

1. City Council - RESOLUTION NO 2026-30 Lead and Copper Service Line Replacement SRF Funding

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-30

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 \$2,000,000 to finance the costs of the replacement of lead service line as required by the 2024 Lead and Cooper Rule 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.

Approved as to form:

City Attorney

Lethonia Barnes
Mayor

Attest:

Casey C. Moore
Municipal Clerk