



**REGULAR MEETING OF FLORENCE CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, MAY 11, 2026 – 1:00 P.M.
CITY CENTER – COUNCIL CHAMBERS
324 WEST EVANS STREET
FLORENCE, SOUTH CAROLINA**

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

ALSO PRESENT

Mr. Scotty Davis, City Manager; Mr. Ronald Scott, City Attorney; 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; Mr. Glenn Bodenheimer, Finance Director and Mr. Joshua Whittington, Director of Utilities

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 May 11, 2026 Regular meeting of Florence City Council to order at 1:05pm.

INVOCATION

Mayor Barnes 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. 2026-21, 2026-25 and 2026-26 after the Public Hearing.

Pro tem Jebaily requested that Bill No. 2026-19 be discussed in Executive Session.



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Without objection, the agenda for the May 11, 2026 Regular meeting was adopted.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson made a motion to adopt the minutes of the April 13, 2026 Regular Meeting and Pro tem Jebaily seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously (7-0) adopted.

SERVICE RECOGNITIONS

Mr. Adam Swindler, Director of Public Works, recognized Wallace Wingate for 30 years of service with the City of Florence.

Ms. Angela Greene, Police Chief, recognized Stacey Watts for 10 years of service with the Florence Police Department.

SPRING 2026 CITY UNIVERSITY GRADUATION

Mrs. Amanda Pope, Director of Marketing/Communications and Municipal Services and Mayor Barnes presented the Spring 2026 City University participants with their certificates of completion. Mrs. Pope said this is the fourth year for City University. City University was established in 2023 and is held in the spring and fall of each year. Each session lasts seven weeks and is held once a week. Participants have the opportunity to learn about city operations and visit different city facilities.

PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing will be held to receive input on the City of Florence Fiscal Year budget 2026-2027.

Mayor Barnes opened the public hearing at 1:25pm.

Mr. Glenn Bodenheimer, Finance Director, explained that state law limits the City's annual operating millage increase based on a combination of the Consumer Price Index and population growth from the prior year. For Fiscal Year 2026–2027, the CPI factor allows for a 2.63% increase, and the population factor has not yet been released by the South Carolina Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office. Based on current calculations, the maximum allowable increase is 2.9 mills; however, the proposed budget includes no millage increase. The operating millage will remain at 71.6 mills, and the debt service millage will remain unchanged at 4 mills. Mr. Bodenheimer also noted a proposed adjustment to the Stormwater Utility Enterprise Fund, recommending an increase of \$0.75 per ERU, which equates to approximately \$9 annually per household. This marks the first rate adjustment since 2021 and is intended to support ongoing operations impacted by post-pandemic inflation and rising maintenance costs. The fund supports drainage maintenance, flood mitigation projects, regulatory compliance, and citywide flooding improvements. The total proposed Fiscal Year 2026–2027 budget is \$157,995,410.

Mr. Steve Powers spoke in opposition to the proposed ordinance regarding window signage, noting that window advertising is beneficial for business owners and, in his experience, is more often used appropriately than misused. He suggested Council distinguish between vinyl signage, which is more permanent, and removable window clings, and encouraged greater input from local businesses and industry stakeholders before moving forward.

Councilman Braddock expressed concern about the lack of business community input and initially believed the ordinance applied only to downtown. He asked whether Mr. Powers had received any



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complaints about the appearance of downtown due to window signage, to which Mr. Powers replied that he had not. Mr. Powers also shared that he and his wife own five downtown properties, including the new Bojangles location, and noted that he has observed more excessive window signage in some strip mall developments. He added that, through his service on the Design Review Board, he has seen signage related cases reviewed and, in some instances, denied based on design concerns.

Councilman Braddock and Mr. Powers further discussed concerns related to window signage and potential approaches for addressing them moving forward.

Judy with Bojangles also spoke in opposition to proposed ordinances for window signages. She shared that Bojangles has multiple signs that are rotated every six to eight weeks and expressed the benefits of window signage for business owners.

Mayor Barnes closed the public hearing at 1:37pm.

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.

Mayor Barnes opened the public hearing at 1:38pm.

Mr. Jerry Dudley, Director of Planning, said the City receives an annual allotment through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. These are federal funds that are administered throughout the county to different communities and they meet three national objectives: to benefit low and moderate income persons, to aid in the prevention or elimination of slum or blight and to meet a need having a particular urgency within the community. This year's allotment was a total of \$352,512. The proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 is \$70,000 for Planning and Administration, \$132,010 for Emergency Rehabilitation, \$100,000 for Down Payment Assistance, \$30,000 for My Brother's Keeper, \$10,000 for Florence Senior Center (Meals on Wheels) and \$10,000 for Florence Boys and Girls Club.

There being no one signed up to speak, the public hearing was closed at 1:39pm.

ORDINANCES IN POSITION

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.

Councilman McKay made a motion to adopt Bill No. 2026-11 on second reading and Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson seconded the motion.

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

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.

Pro tem Jebaily made a motion to adopt Bill No. 2026-12 on second reading and Councilman Smith seconded the motion.

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



Bill No. 2026-13 – Second Reading

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

Councilman Braddock made a motion to adopt Bill No. 2026-13 on second reading and Councilman McKay seconded the motion.

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

Following Executive Session for discussion of boards and commission appointments, Council returned to open session. Council then amended the previously adopted ordinance to establish terms for commission members.

Councilman McCall raised a point of information, asking whether the matter should be voted on under Boards and Commissions or under Ordinances in Position. Mr. Ron Scott, City Attorney, advised that the item could be considered under either agenda item; however, if addressed under Ordinances in Position, the ordinance would need to be amended to reflect the revised term structure.

Councilman Braddock made a motion to amend Bill No. 2026-13 to establish initial three-year terms for Dr. Brian Hanna and Cedrick Evans, two-year terms for the remaining commission members, and to set all subsequent terms at two years. Councilman McCall seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously (7-0).

Bill No. 2026-13 was adopted, as amended.

Bill No. 2026-14 – Second Reading

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

Councilman McCall made a motion to adopt Bill No. 2026-14 on second reading and Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson seconded the motion.

Councilman Braddock asked Mr. Glenn Bodenheimer, Finance Director, to give an overview of the new declining rate schedule.

Mr. Bodenheimer explained that the amendment to the declining rate schedule is intended to bring the City's rate structure more in line with those used across the state. He noted that the Municipal Association of South Carolina (MASC) helped pass Act 176 in 2021 and provided municipalities with a recommended framework for implementing declining rate schedules. At that time, the City did not adopt the framework and instead maintained a more aggressive declining rate schedule, which capped at \$20 million with a 10% rate applied to businesses reporting more than \$20 million in gross revenue. Mr. Bodenheimer said that MASC recommended municipalities use \$1 million increments with gradually declining rates of 90%, 80%, 75%, 65%, and so forth. With the amended rate schedule, the City aimed to continue protecting and encouraging small businesses to remain and grow within the City of Florence. Under the revised structure, the declining rate reaches 60% at \$7 million. He noted that, in most municipalities across the state, the declining rate typically phases out around \$4 million, so the City increased the threshold to \$7 million. Mr. Bodenheimer further explained that small businesses had previously carried much of the burden of the business license tax, but the amended schedule shifts more of that responsibility to businesses with revenues exceeding \$20 million in order to better protect small businesses.



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Council voted unanimously (7-0) in favor of the motion. Bill No. 2026-14 was adopted.

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.

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

Council voted unanimously (7-0) in favor of the motion. Bill No. 2026-15 was adopted.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

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 Smith seconded the motion.

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

Bill No. 2026-17 – First Reading

An Ordinance to approve a lease extension of property known as 314 W. Pine Street and designated as Florence County Tax Map Number 90075-04-020 to 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.

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.

Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson made a motion to pass Bill No. 2026-18 on first reading and Councilman McKay seconded the motion.

Mr. Glenn Bodenheimer, Finance Director, said that this budget amendment will appropriate \$2 million in earmarked funding for the Historic Carolina Theater renovation project. The funds are administered through the South Carolina Department of Archives and History and were originally earmarked during FY 2024-2025 specifically for construction costs. With construction now underway, Mr. Bodenheimer explained that it is time to appropriate the funds, which will add \$2 million to the FY 2025-2026 budget for the project.

Council voted unanimously (7-0) in favor of the motion. Bill No. 2026-18 was passed on first reading.

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.



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Mayor Barnes said this item may be discussed in Executive Session.

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

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.

Councilman Braddock made a motion to pass Bill No. 2026-20 on first reading and Councilman Smith seconded the motion.

Mr. Jerry Dudley, Director of Planning, reported that the property is located along West Lucas Street and Interstate 95, specifically in the vicinity of and directly adjacent to Presbyterian Road and Stokes Road. He explained that the property was originally zoned Commercial General, and while much of the frontage property has developed commercially, the interior portion has remained undeveloped. Mr. Dudley said the applicant is requesting that the property be rezoned to Residential General-3 (RG-3), which would allow for single-family residential development. He noted that water and sewer services are currently available to the parcel and that Planning Commission voted unanimously (6-0) to recommend approval of the rezoning request.

Council voted unanimously (7-0) in favor of the motion. Bill No. 2026-20 was passed on first reading.

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.

Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson made a motion to pass Bill No. 2026-21 on first reading and Councilman McKay seconded the motion.

Mr. Jerry Dudley, Director of Planning, reported that the property is located within The Grove subdivision development. He explained that the property owner constructed a shed that extends across the property line. As a result, the owner will need to purchase the portion of land on which the shed is located from the adjacent property owner and combine it with their existing parcel. This consolidation will also facilitate annexation into the City. Mr. Dudley referenced a plat illustrating how the portion of land will be combined with the existing property once the request is approved. He noted that Planning Commission voted unanimously (6-0) to recommend approval of the zoning and annexation request. The property will be zoned Planned Development, consistent with the zoning of the property it will be joining.

Council voted unanimously (7-0) in favor of the motion. Bill No. 2026-21 was passed on first reading.

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.

Mayor Barnes said this item may be discussed in Executive Session.

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



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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.

Mayor Barnes said this item may be discussed in Executive Session.

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

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.

Pro tem Jebaily made a motion to pass Bill No. 2026-24 on first reading and Councilman McCall seconded the motion.

Mr. Michael Hemingway, Director of Utility Planning and Economic Development, said that this Resolution authorizes a State Revolving Fund loan in the amount of \$6 million. He explained that \$4 million of the loan will be allocated to Phase II of the PFAS study at the Surface Water Treatment Plant, with the remaining \$2 million designated for lead and copper service line replacement throughout the City's water distribution system.

Council voted unanimously (7-0) in favor of the motion. Bill No. 2026-24 was passed on first reading

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 2026-21

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

Pro tem Jebaily made a motion to pass Resolution No. 2026-21 and Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson seconded the motion.

Mayor Barnes and Councilman McCall presented the Resolution to Mr. Les Echols and Mr. David Fountain of UPS. Mr. Echols and Mr. Fountain thanked Council for the recognition.

Council voted unanimously (7-0) in favor of the motion. Resolution No. 2026-21 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.

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.



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Pro tem Jebaily made a motion to pass Resolution No. 2026-25 and Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson seconded the motion.

Mayor Barnes and Councilman McCall presented the Resolution to Ms. Abbey Sullivan, Head Coach, and the West Florence High School Girls Tennis Team. Coach Sullivan thanked Council for the recognition.

Council voted unanimously (7-0) in favor of the motion. Resolution No. 2026-25 was passed.

Resolution No. 2026-26

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

Councilman McCall made a motion to pass Resolution No. 2026-26 and Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson seconded the motion.

Mayor Barnes presented the Resolution to Mr. Christopher Lane. Mr. Lane thanked Council for the recognition and spoke on the importance of brain cancer awareness.

Council voted unanimously (7-0) in favor of the motion. Resolution No. 2026-26 was passed.

Resolution No. 2026-27

A Resolution to adopt the Community Development Block Grant Budget for Fiscal Year 2026-2027.

Councilman McCall made a motion to pass Resolution No. 2026-27 and Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson seconded the motion.

Council voted unanimously (7-0) in favor of the motion. Resolution No. 2026-27 was passed.

Resolution No. 2026-28

A Resolution of City Council approving Downtown Redevelopment Grants for Fourth Quarter, FY26.

Mayor Barnes said this item may be discussed in Executive Session.

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

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.

Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson made a motion to pass Resolution No. 2026-29 and Pro tem Jebaily seconded the motion.

Mr. Clint Moore, Assistant City Manager of Development, said this Resolution seeks Council's authorization to implement traffic calming measures, including the design, development, and construction of a road diet. He referenced an illustration of the proposed improvements and explained that Cheves Street is currently a four-lane roadway with on-street parking. The project would convert it to a three-lane configuration with a center turning lane, while also incorporating landscape islands, enhancing bicycle accommodation, and reestablishing on-street parking. Mr. Moore noted that a public meeting was held in March regarding the project, which saw strong community participation. He added that the project is



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funded through the III Penny Sales Tax program, and that Council approval of this resolution is required as part of the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) process.

Pro tem Jebaily asked for clarification on whether the project would affect the intersection of King Avenue and Gregg Avenue. Mr. Moore confirmed that it would, explaining that, due to the redevelopment of the medical school construction, adjustments are needed to improve and manage traffic flow in the area. He emphasized that the work will remain within the existing right-of-way, with changes limited to how the roadway connects at the circle at King Avenue and Gregg Avenue. Pro tem Jebaily further asked whether any private property would be impacted, and Mr. Moore confirmed that it would not, noting that all work will remain within existing public right-of-way boundaries. When asked about the project limits, Mr. Moore explained that it will extend from the intersection of King Avenue and Gregg Avenue down to Dargan Street. He added that the project will also address related improvements in the area, including sidewalks within Maple Park, drainage concerns, and roadway resurfacing. Mr. Moore clarified that no additional roadway alterations are planned beyond the Cheves Street corridor included in this project.

Council voted unanimously (7-0) in favor of the motion. Resolution No. 2026-29 was passed.

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

Pro tem Jebaily made a motion to pass Resolution No. 2026-30 and Councilman Smith seconded the motion.

Mr. Michael Hemingway, Director of Utility Planning and Economic Development, said this Resolution aligns with Bill No. 2026-24, which references \$2 million in funding for lead and copper service line replacement within the City's water distribution system. He noted that Council previously approved the \$4 million allocation for Phase II of the PFAS study at the Surface Water Treatment Plant at last month's Council meeting.

Council voted unanimously (7-0) in favor of the motion. Resolution No. 2026-30 was passed.

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, introduced Mr. Michael Henry and Mr. Keiran Ryan with AECOM to present the monthly utilities update.

Mr. Michael Henry and Mr. Keiran Ryan presented an update regarding the city's water-related, sewer and stormwater projects to Council. Mr. Henry noted that the presentation consists of projects in the city's franchise area and these are projects that the city has completed in the last 12 months and projects that are to be completed in the next 12 months. This presentation is attached to and made a part of the minutes.



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Mayor Barnes referenced the presentation's discussion of projects resulting from South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) requirements and asked whether the City is responsible for the associated costs. Mr. Henry confirmed that the City must cover those expenses. He explained that under SCDOT regulations, the City may recover up to 4% of roadway improvement costs; however, utility improvements often exceed that amount. Mr. Henry added that, in some cases, projects have been separated from SCDOT contracts and managed by City staff to maximize available City funding.

Councilman Braddock expressed concern regarding the growing costs associated with SCDOT required projects. Referencing the Holly Circle project, he asked about the total cost to the City. City staff said that the project cost approximately \$600,000.

Councilman Smith asked how much the City spends annually on SCDOT required utility relocations. Mr. Henry said that the costs are increasing, while Mr. Moore noted that expenses vary from year to year. Mr. Moore explained that any SCDOT work within the City's franchise area may require the City to relocate infrastructure outside of the SCDOT project area. Councilman Smith also asked about the timeline for relocating utility lines. Mr. Moore responded that SCDOT establishes deadlines based on the specific project.

Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson said that the City is required to complete SCDOT mandated projects and has no option but to fund those projects with City resources. She noted that while the City's funding decisions are sometimes questioned, SCDOT required projects must still be completed when they arise. Mr. Moore explained that the City maintains a Utility Construction Fund intended to support improvements to the City's utility system. However, he said SCDOT related utility relocation projects over the past 10 to 15 years have placed a significant strain on that fund.

Councilman Braddock asked about the timeline for notification of SCDOT projects. Mr. Moore explained that the turnaround is often short, requiring the City to be creative in addressing issues. He added that some scheduled projects may need to be delayed so funds can be redirected to SCDOT relocation efforts.

Pro tem Jebaily discussed the City's two water sources, 33 groundwater wells and the surface water treatment plant, and asked if the goal was to fully integrate the systems. Mr. Henry confirmed that was the objective. Pro tem Jebaily also noted the success of SCADA at the groundwater plants in addressing water quality issues and clarified with Mr. Ryan that the issues are limited to the groundwater system, not the surface water system.

Mayor Barnes emphasized the importance of customers reporting water quality concerns so city staff can respond promptly.

Mr. Michael Hemingway, Director of Utility Planning and Economic Development, informed Council that a public meeting on the first phase of the Jeffries Creek Sewer Project will be held on June 8th from 5:30pm to 7:00pm in Council Chambers.

Pro tem Jebaily and Mr. Henry emphasized the importance of maintaining available funds in order to apply for and secure additional state and federal funding opportunities.

Councilman McKay requested clarification on how the timeline for groundwater treatment plant upgrades could be shortened. Mr. Henry explained that this approach would involve a proposed partnership with a contractor rather than the conventional delivery method. He noted it could be a more cost-effective option, allowing the contractor and engineering team to collaborate during the design phase and provide real-time pricing and updates at the 10%, 30%, and 60% milestones. He added that this approach could



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reduce the project timeline by up to approximately 18 months. Councilman McKay asked whether local contractors would still have the opportunity to participate in the work, and Mr. Henry confirmed that they would.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Scotty Davis, City Manager, shared that the City of Florence hosted the Municipal Association of South Carolina (MASC) Community Development Association Annual Meeting from May 6–8. He also recognized Councilman Smith for being named Region 5-4A Coach of the Year. In addition, he noted that May 11th marks the beginning of National Police Week, and that May 7th – 23rd is recognized as National Public Works and Utilities Week. Mr. Davis reminded Council that the City will host the Fireworks Over Florence event on July 4th and asked Mrs. Victoria Nash, Director of Parks, Recreation and Tourism, to provide an update.

Mrs. Nash reported that the Fireworks Over Florence event will take place on July 4th at the Florence Soccer Complex. She noted that parking will begin at 4:00pm, with gates opening at 5:00pm. Mrs. Nash also recognized the City of Florence and MUSC Florence Medical Center as presenting sponsors for the event. She provided an overview of the day's schedule and expressed enthusiasm for the upcoming celebration.

MAYORAL REPORT

Mayor Barnes spoke about the first Florence After 5 event of the season, as well as the Cinco de Mayo festival. She highlighted the success of both events and shared her excitement about the wide range of activities and offerings the City continues to provide.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Business Development Committee, Chaired by Pro tem Jebaily

Pro tem Jebaily reported that the committee received a utilities presentation from AECOM, followed by an update on Urban Square. He also noted that the committee was briefed on a state bill related to roads.

Community Development Committee, Chaired by Mayor Barnes

Mayor Barnes reported that the committee received an update on the Affordable Housing Ad Hoc Committee, with additional information to be presented in the near future. She also noted that the committee received updates from city staff regarding ongoing demolitions and rehabilitation projects. In addition, she shared that Building Florence Together hosted a successful homebuyer's workshop in March. Mayor Barnes concluded by thanking the Community Services Department for their hard work and dedication.

Finance, Audit and Budget Committee, Chaired by Councilman McCall

Councilman McCall reported that the committee discussed the proposed budget presented to Council and thanked city staff for their work in developing a balanced budget. He noted that the committee also reviewed the budget amendments discussed earlier in the meeting. Additionally, the committee received information from the City/County Conference Committee regarding potential upgrades to lighting at the Interstate 20 and Interstate 95 interchanges. Councilman McCall also shared that a motion was made to recommend that community program funding be structured so that each Councilmember is allocated up to



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\$75,000, subject to full Council approval. Lastly, he reported that the committee reviewed the March 2026 monthly financial report.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Barnes said Council will be entering into Executive Session for a discussion and 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 regarding establishing contractual arrangements for outside funding entities as referenced in Bill No. 2026-19, discussion and receipt of legal advice regarding proposed contractual arrangements for the conveyance of property as referenced in Bill No. 2026-22, discussion and receipt of legal advice regarding proposed contractual arrangements for the conveyance of property as referenced in Bill No. 2026-23, for a 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, for a discussion of a proposed economic development project as referenced in Resolution 2026-28, for a discussion regarding appointments to city Boards and Commissions, to receive an update on the AESC economic development project and for a discussion of a contractual matter and to receive legal advice regarding PFAS litigation.

Councilman Smith made a motion to enter into Executive Session and Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson seconded the motion. Council voted unanimously (7-0) to enter into Executive Session at 3:08pm.

Pro tem Jebaily made a motion to resume open session and Councilman Smith seconded the motion. The motion carried. Council resumed open session at 6:32pm and took action on the following items:

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.

Mayor Barnes called for a motion and no motion was made.

Bill No. 2026-16 failed due to lack of a motion.

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.

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.

Pro tem Jebaily made a motion to pass Bill No. 2026-12 on first reading and to establish a contractual arrangement for outside funding entities and Mayor Barnes seconded the motion.

Council voted unanimously (7-0) in favor of the motion. Bill No. 2026-19 was passed on first reading.



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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.

Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson made a motion to pass Bill No. 2026-22 on first reading and Mayor Barnes seconded the motion.

Council voted unanimously (7-0) in favor of the motion. Bill No. 2026-22 was passed on first reading.

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.

Councilman McKay made a motion to pass Bill No. 2026-23 on first reading and Mayor Barnes seconded the motion.

Council voted unanimously (7-0) in favor of the motion. Bill No. 2026-23 was passed on first reading.

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 called for a motion and no motion was made.

Resolution No. 2026-24 failed due to lack of a motion.

Resolution No. 2026-28

A Resolution of City Council approving Downtown Redevelopment Grants for Fourth Quarter, FY26.

Pro tem Jebaily made a motion to pass Resolution No. 2026-28 and Councilman Braddock seconded the motion.

Council voted unanimously (7-0) in favor of the motion. Resolution No. 2026-28 was passed.

Appointments to Boards and Commissions

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

Design Review Board

Councilman McCall deferred his nomination to the Board.

Construction and Maintenance Board of Adjustments and Appeals

Mayor Barnes deferred remaining nominations to the Board.



**FLORENCE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING – MAY 11, 2026**

Resilience and Sustainability Advisory Committee

Councilman Smith made a motion to appoint Hannah E. Parker to the Resilience and Sustainability Advisory Committee. Hannah E. Parker was appointed to the Resilience and Sustainability Advisory Committee for a term to begin immediately and expire on June 30, 2027.

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

Mayor Barnes and Council acknowledged this is Mr. Luke Carter, City Attorney, last meeting and wished him well in his future endeavors.

ADJOURN

Without objection, the May 11, 2026 Regular meeting of City Council was adjourned at 6:40pm.

Dated this 8th day of June 2026.

Respectfully submitted:

Casey C. Moore
Municipal Clerk

City of Florence



Utilities Update to City Council
May 11, 2026



City of Florence, South Carolina
Water Distribution Master Plan



City of Florence, South Carolina
Sewer Collection System Master Plan



City of Florence, South Carolina
Stormwater Master Plan



1

1



City of Florence, South Carolina
Water Distribution Master Plan

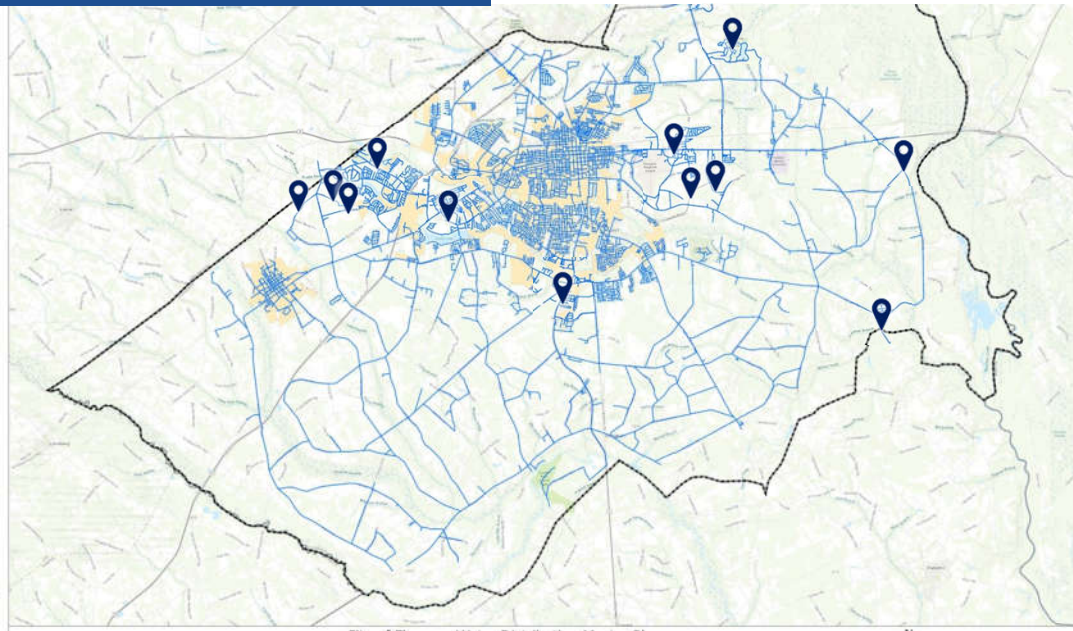


Water Distribution Master Plan

2

2

Water-Related Projects



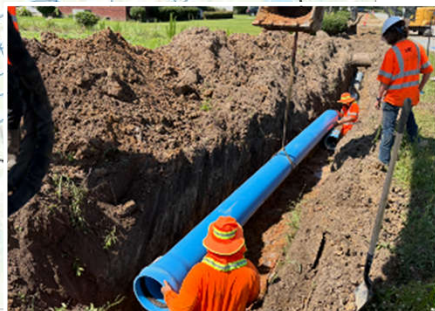
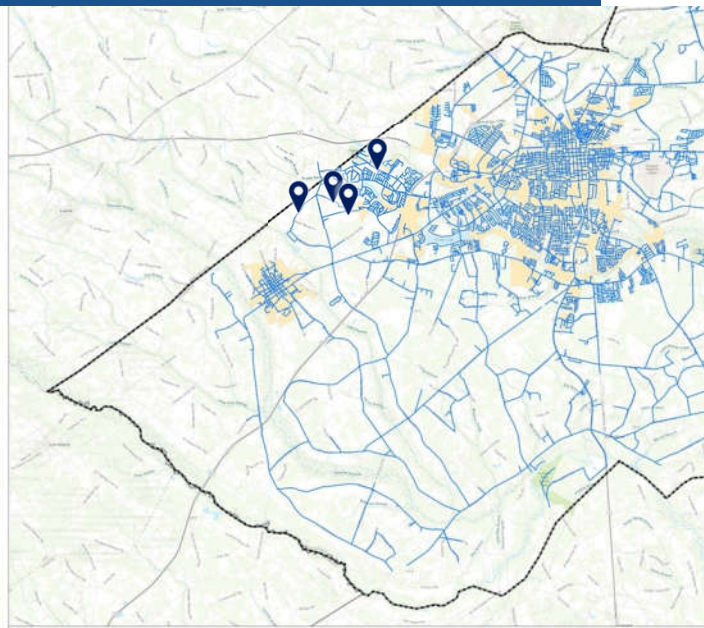
3

3

Water-Related Projects

SCIIP Projects

COMPLETED




4

4

Water-Related Projects

Holly Circle Waterline Relocation COMPLETED



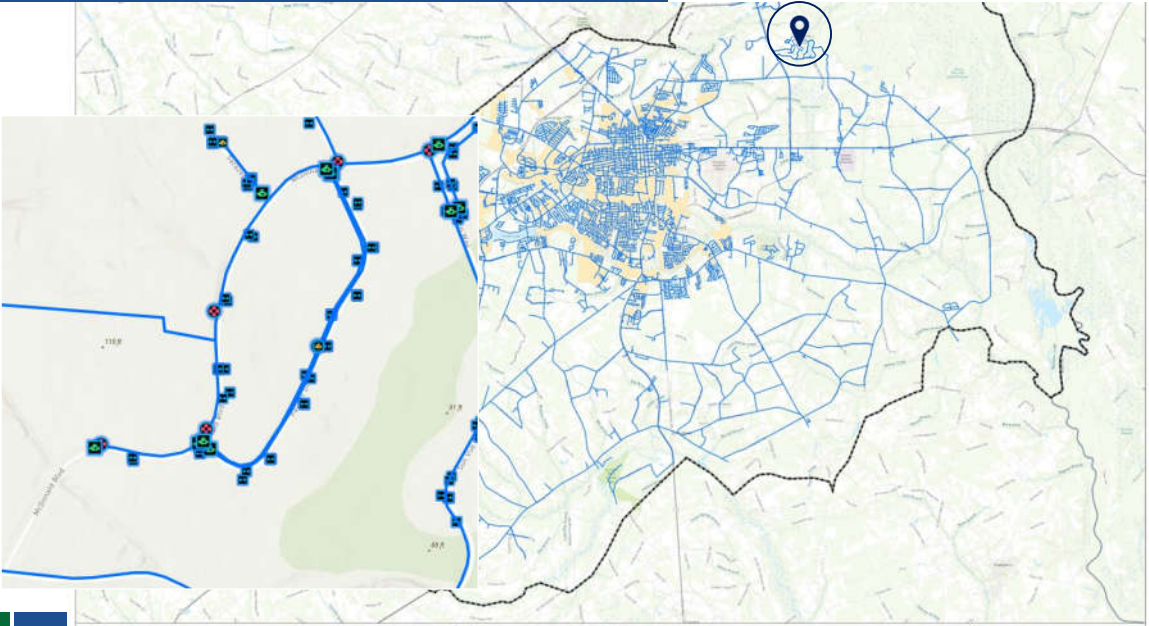
The image displays a map of a town area with a blue line indicating the waterline relocation project. A blue location pin is placed on the map. To the right, a photograph shows a construction site at night, featuring a yellow excavator, orange safety fencing, and workers in safety gear. The site is illuminated by bright work lights.

5

5

Water-Related Projects

Palmer Drive CONSTRUCTION



The image shows a map of a town area with a blue line indicating the project location. A blue location pin is placed on the map. The map also shows various colored markers (red, green, blue) along the project route.

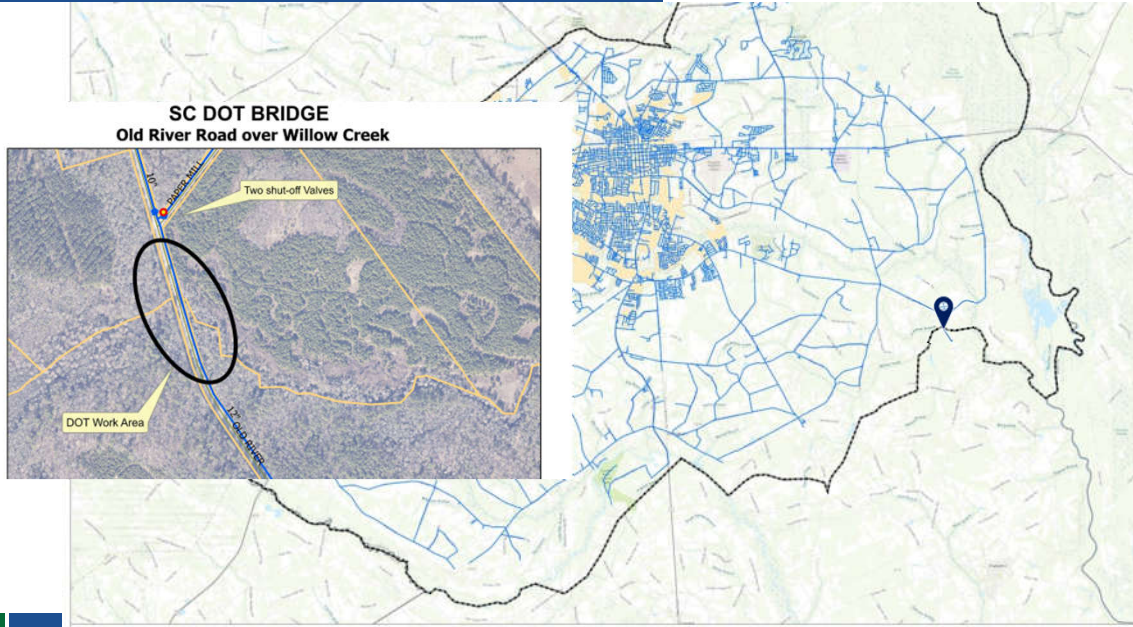
6

6

Water-Related Projects

SCDOT Bridge Utility Relocation Updates

✓ COMPLETED



7

7

Water-Related Projects

Wallace Road Extension

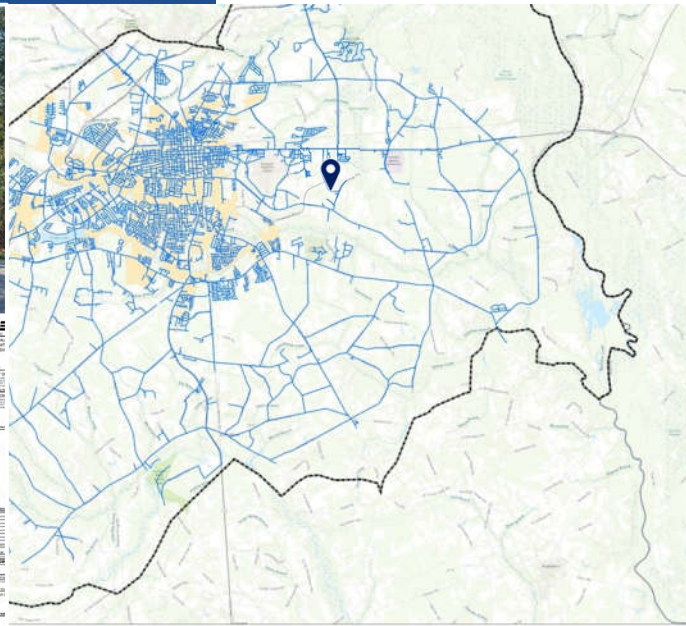
✓ COMPLETED



S. WALLACE ROAD
6" WATERLINE EXTENSION
FOR THE
CITY OF FLORENCE



INDEX	
1	PROJECT AREA
2	EXISTING UTILITIES
3	PROPOSED WATERLINE
4	PROPOSED WATERLINE TRENCH
5	PROPOSED WATERLINE VALVES
6	PROPOSED WATERLINE CONNECTIONS
7	PROPOSED WATERLINE TRENCH
8	PROPOSED WATERLINE VALVES
9	PROPOSED WATERLINE CONNECTIONS
10	PROPOSED WATERLINE TRENCH
11	PROPOSED WATERLINE VALVES
12	PROPOSED WATERLINE CONNECTIONS
13	PROPOSED WATERLINE TRENCH
14	PROPOSED WATERLINE VALVES
15	PROPOSED WATERLINE CONNECTIONS
16	PROPOSED WATERLINE TRENCH
17	PROPOSED WATERLINE VALVES
18	PROPOSED WATERLINE CONNECTIONS
19	PROPOSED WATERLINE TRENCH
20	PROPOSED WATERLINE VALVES
21	PROPOSED WATERLINE CONNECTIONS
22	PROPOSED WATERLINE TRENCH
23	PROPOSED WATERLINE VALVES
24	PROPOSED WATERLINE CONNECTIONS
25	PROPOSED WATERLINE TRENCH
26	PROPOSED WATERLINE VALVES
27	PROPOSED WATERLINE CONNECTIONS
28	PROPOSED WATERLINE TRENCH
29	PROPOSED WATERLINE VALVES
30	PROPOSED WATERLINE CONNECTIONS

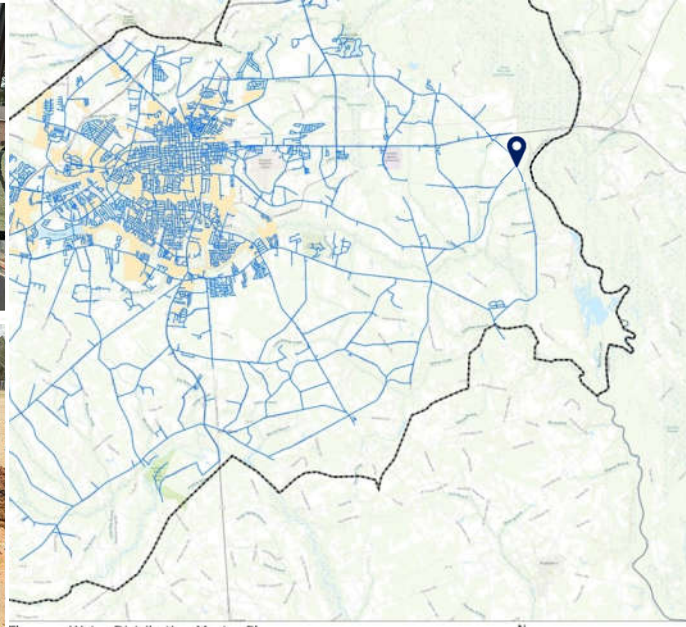


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8

Water-Related Projects

East National Cemetery Paper Mill (SCDOT Relocation) COMPLETED

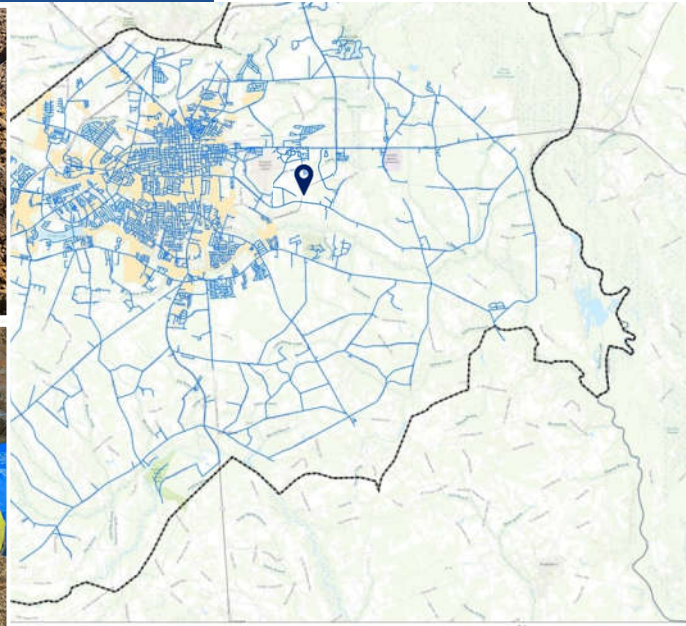


9

9

Water-Related Projects

Freedom Blvd Waterline Extension CONSTRUCTION



10

10

Water-Related Projects

S. Irby St Waterline Upgrades

AECOM
CONCEPTUAL OPINION OF CONSTRUCTION COST
 S Irby St Water Line Upgrade
 for the
 City of Florence, SC
 January 6, 2026

Item	Est. Qty.	Unit	Description	Unit Price	Total
1	1	LS	Mobilization	\$9,400	\$9,400
2	1	LS	Traffic Control	\$10,000	\$10,000
3	1	LS	Erosion & Sediment Control	\$5,000	\$5,000
4	660	LF	12" PVC Water Main	\$80	\$52,800
5	440	LF	12" RJ PVC Water Main	\$100	\$44,000
6	2,000	LBS	Ductile Iron Fittings	\$20	\$40,000
7	1	EA	3/4" Water Service	\$2,300	\$2,300
8	1	EA	2" Water Service	\$3,500	\$3,500
9	2	EA	Tie Into Existing Water Line	\$5,500	\$11,000
10	1	EA	Fire Hydrant Assembly	\$9,500	\$9,500
11	20	LF	Fire Hydrant Lead - 6" RJ DIP	\$60	\$1,200
12	40	LF	Remove & Replace Concrete Driveway	\$100	\$4,000
13	40	LF	Remove & Replace Asphalt Driveway	\$10	\$400
Subtotal Estimated Construction Costs:				\$195,900	
Contingencies (10%):				\$19,590	
Total Estimated Construction Costs:				\$215,490	
Per City MOU - Survey (3 Days):				\$3,750	
Per City MOU - Engineering Design & Permitting (11.25%):				\$24,200	
Per MOU - Provisional Observation (1 Month):				\$3,000	
Total Estimated Engineering Fee:				\$30,950	
Total Estimated Project Budget:				\$246,440	

Note:
 1. This conceptual cost estimate is based on current available cost data.
 2. No detailed design has been completed to date.
 3. Estimate does not include acquisition.

Water-Related Projects

Stadium Rd

Water Supply Construction Permit

Bureau of Water

Permission is Hereby Granted To: **FLORENCE CITY OF**
ATTN: MICHAEL HEMINGWAY
324 W EVANS ST
FLORENCE SC 29501-3430

for the construction of a distribution system in accordance with the construction plans, specifications, design calculations and the SCDES Construction Permit Application signed by Michael L Henry, Professional Engineer, S.C. Registration Number: 34086.



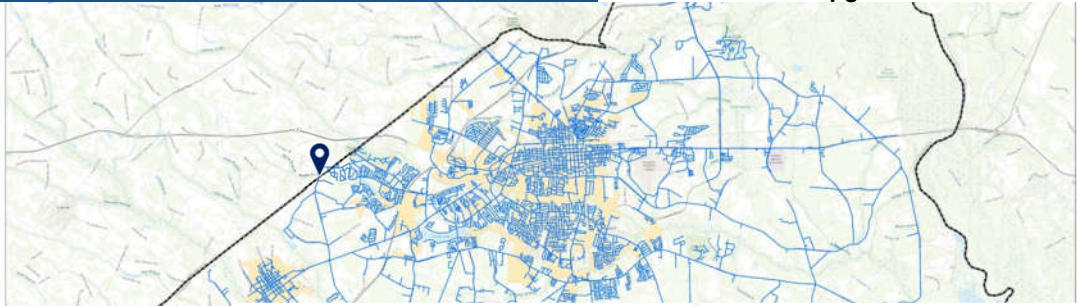

Project Name: STADIUM ROAD WATER LINE EXTENSION **County:** Florence
Location: BEGINNING ON FRONTAGE ROAD AND CONNECTS TO STADIUM ROAD, ENDING IN FRONT OF MEMORIAL STADIUM

Project Description: Approximately 777 LF of 6" PVC water line along Frontage Road, 1424 LF of 6" PVC water line along Stadium Road, and the removal and replacement of one fire hydrant.

Service By: Water will be provided by the Florence City Of (System Number: 2110001).

Water-Related Projects

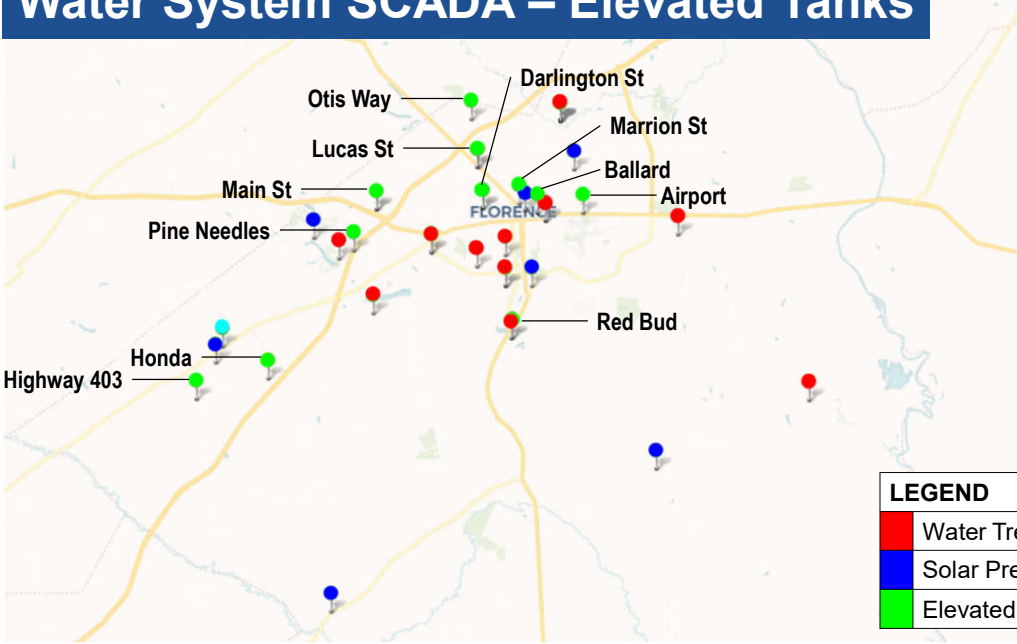
SCIIP GE Ground Water Treatment Plant Upgrades



13

13

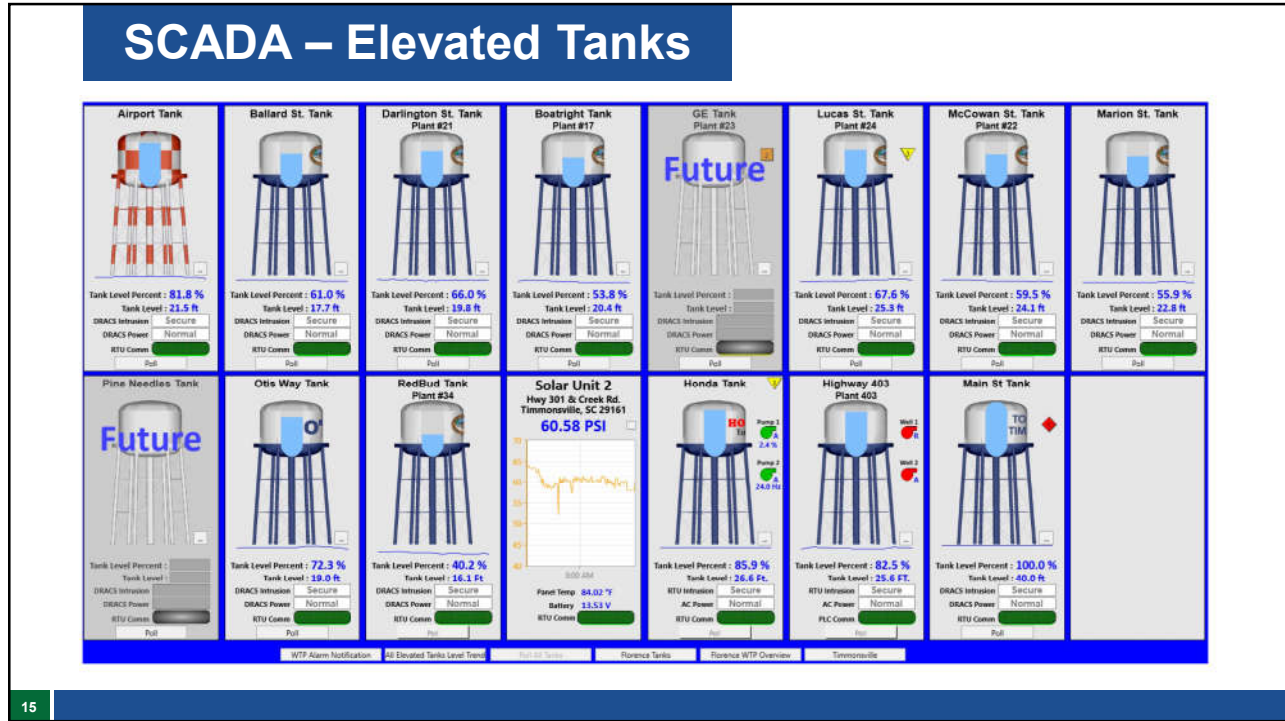
Water System SCADA – Elevated Tanks



LEGEND	
Red	Water Treatment Plant
Blue	Solar Pressure Unit
Green	Elevated Storage Tank

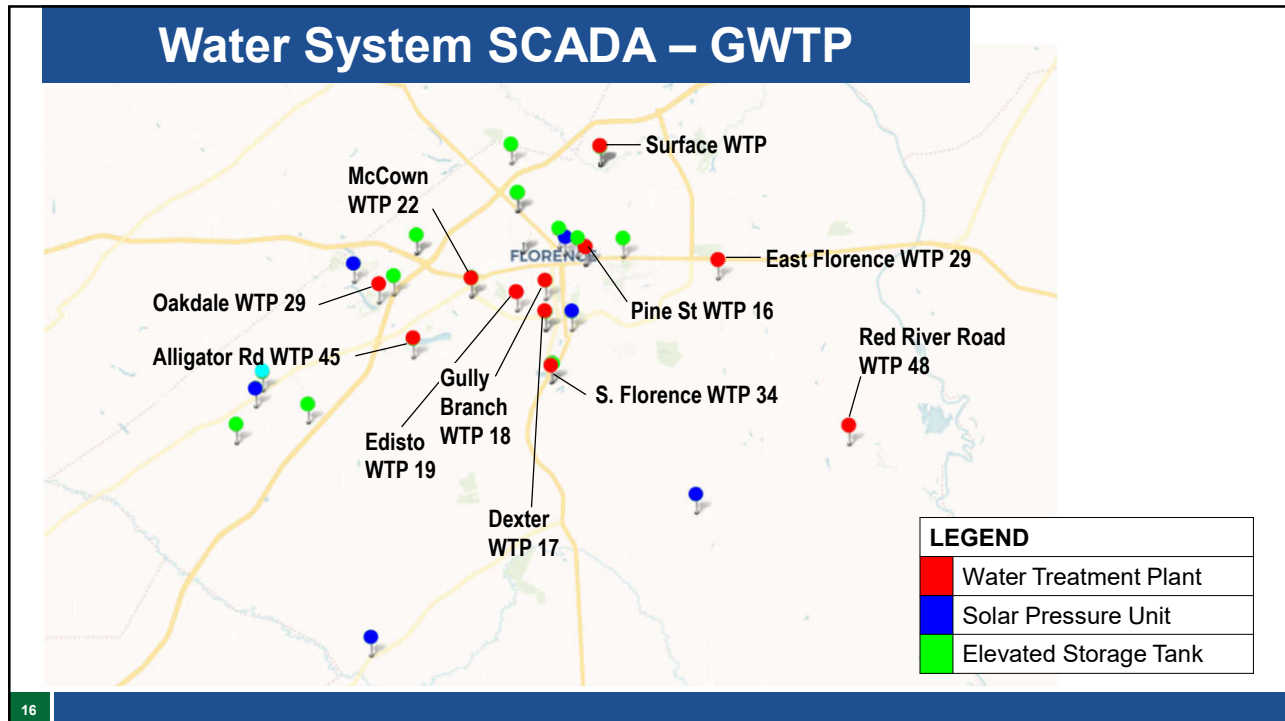
14

14



15

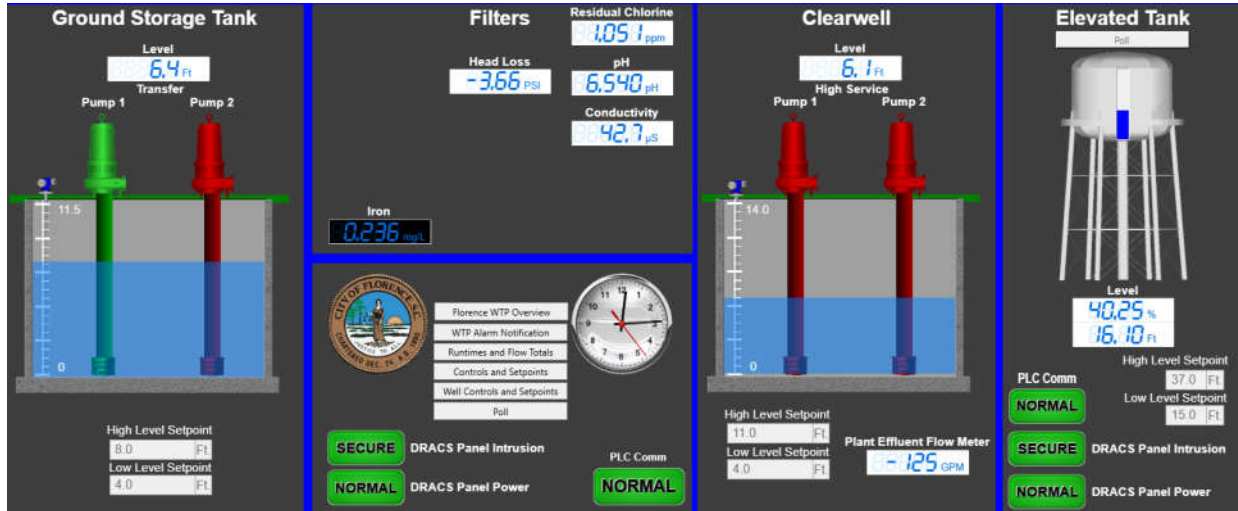
15



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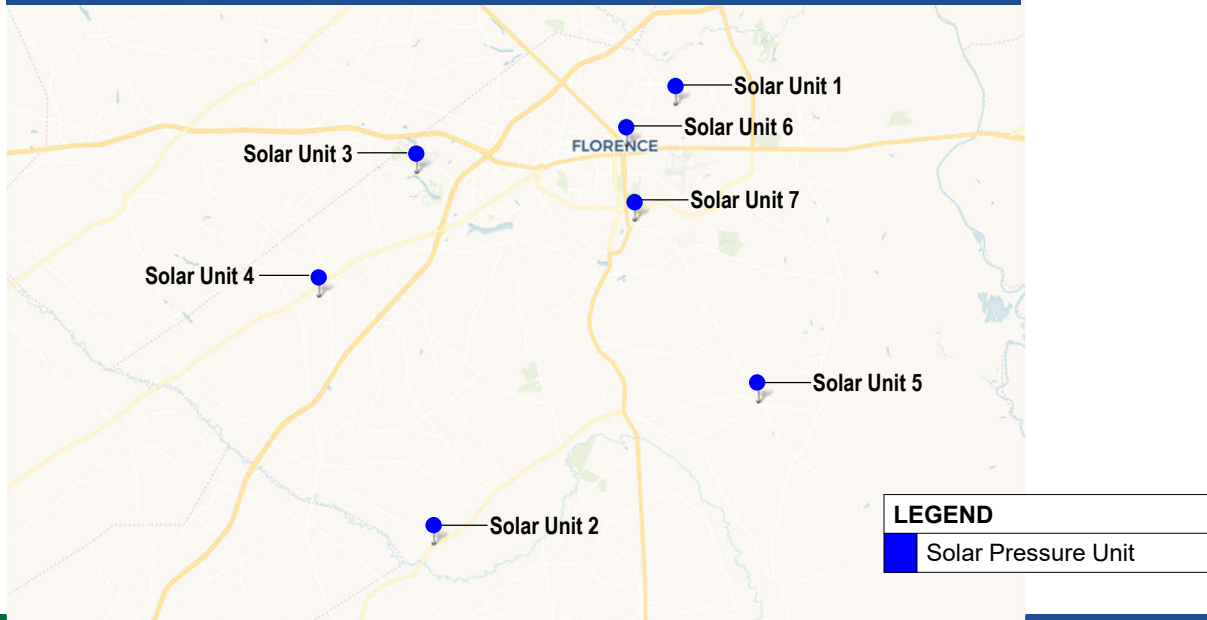
SCADA GWTPs– S. Florence Plant



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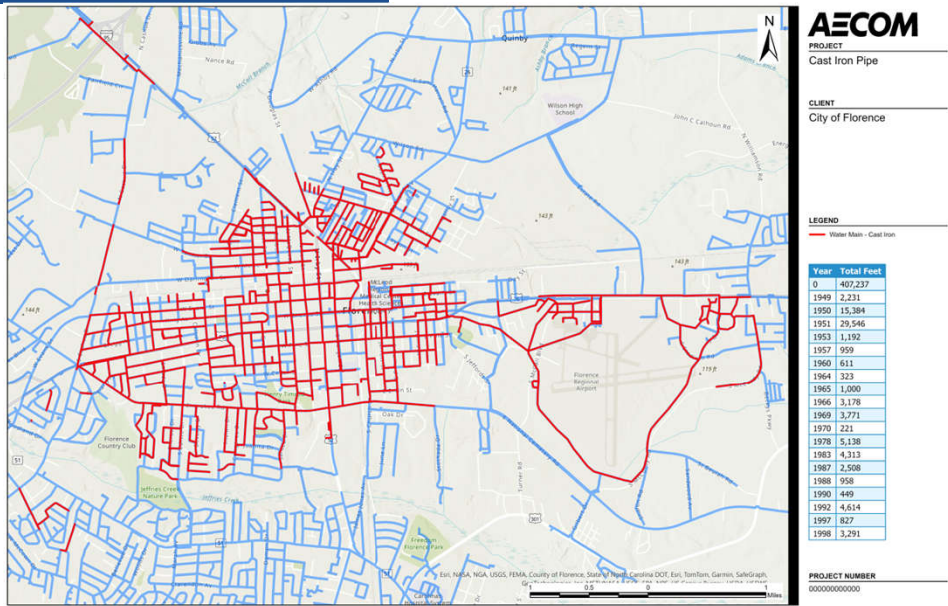
Water System SCADA – System Pressure



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Asset Management



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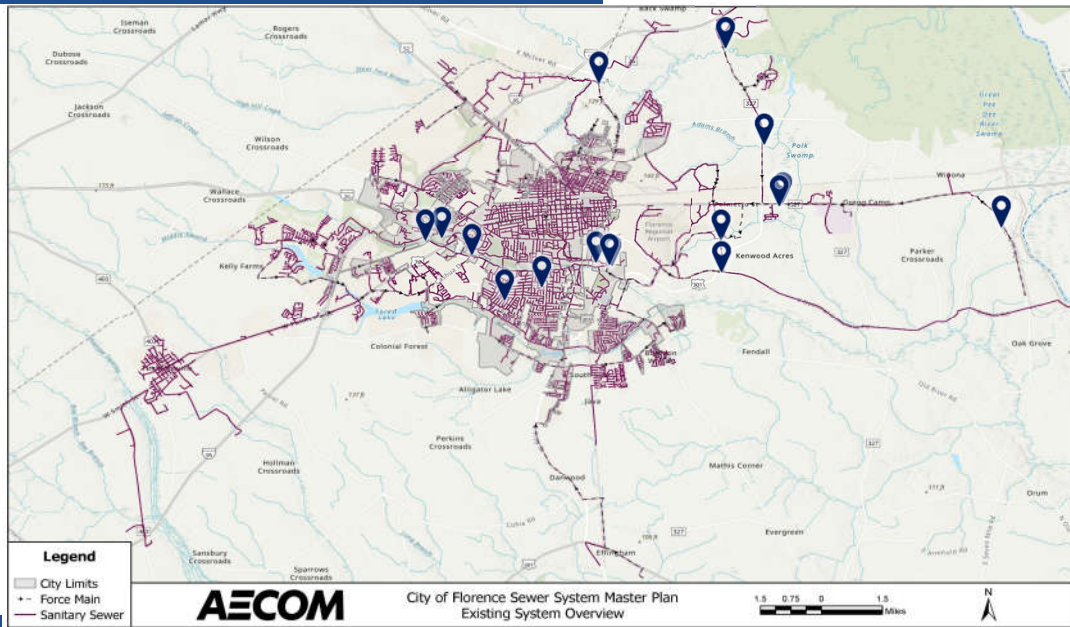


Sewer Collection System Master Plan

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Sewer-Related Projects

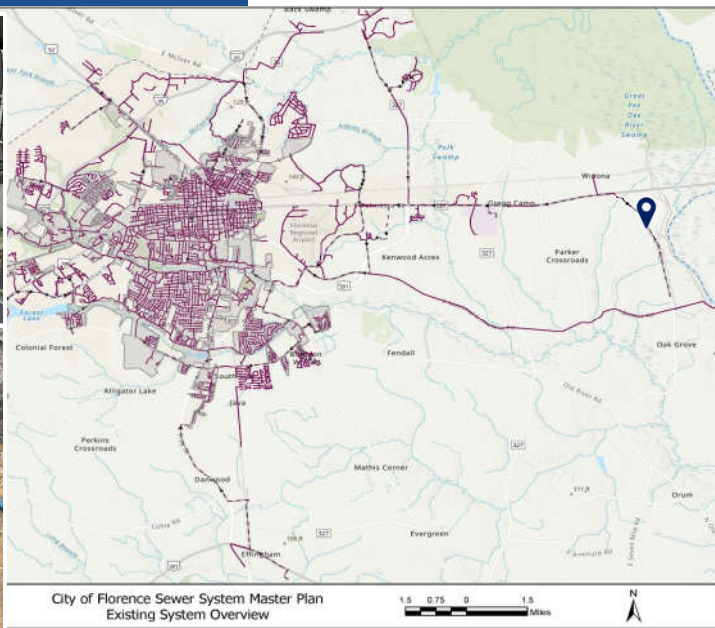


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Sewer-Related Projects

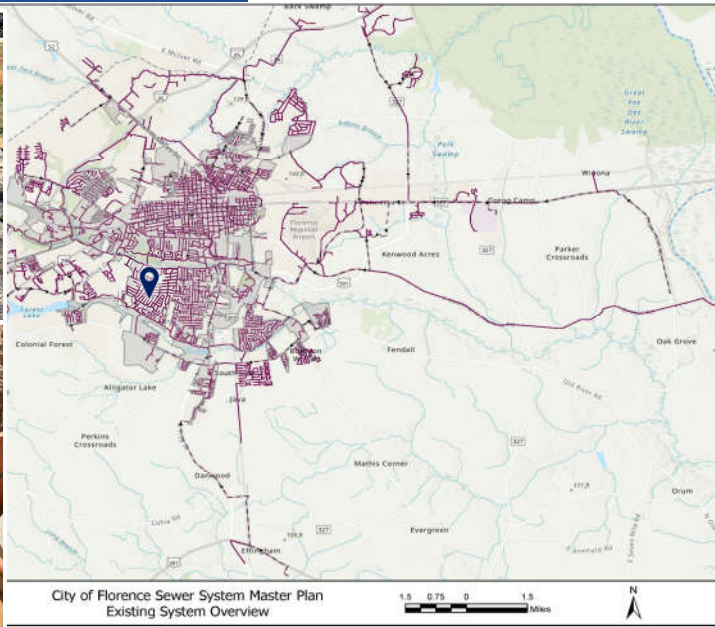
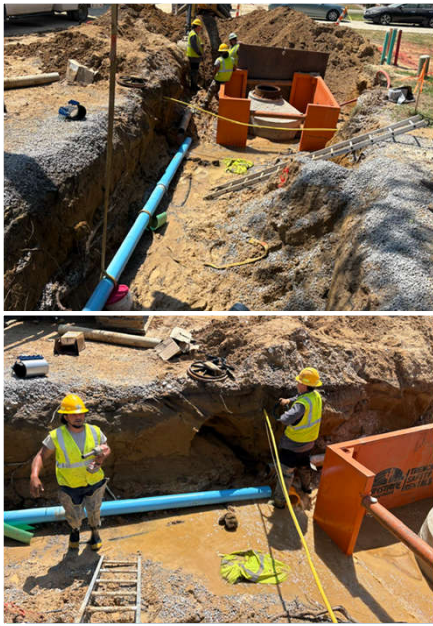
Paper Mill Road Utility Relocation COMPLETED



24

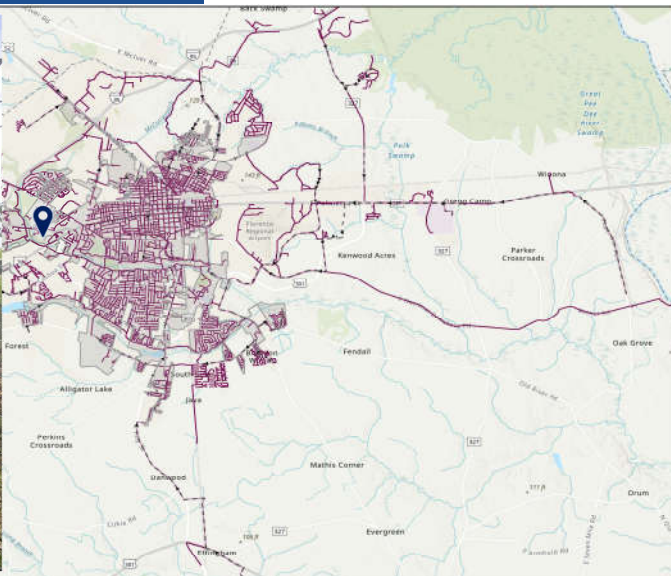
Sewer-Related Projects

Mars Hill Gravity Sewer



Sewer-Related Projects

Rail Trail Emergency Repair

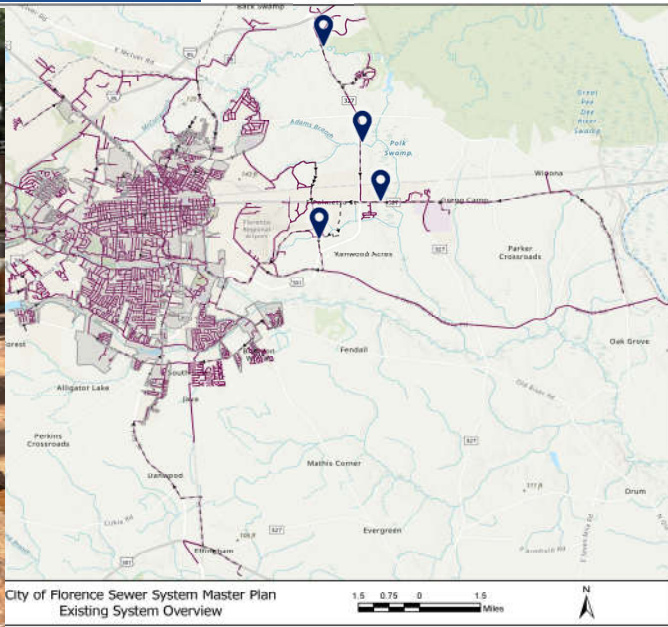


- City Limits
- Force Main
- Sanitary Sewer



Sewer-Related Projects

Pump Station Pump Replacements COMPLETED

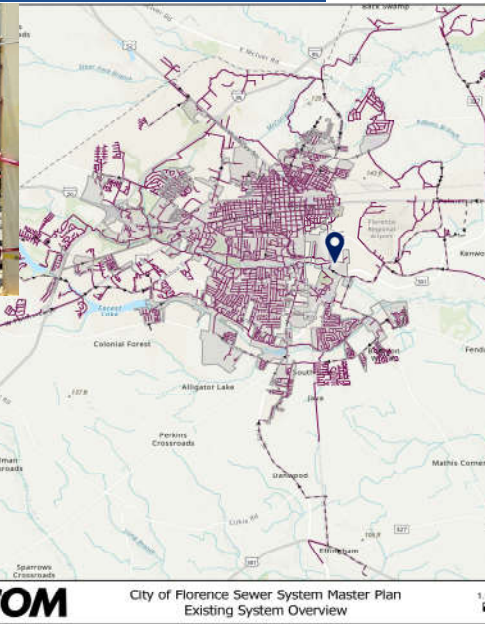


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Sewer-Related Projects

Influent Bar Screens Water Reclamation Facility COMPLETED
 UPCOMING



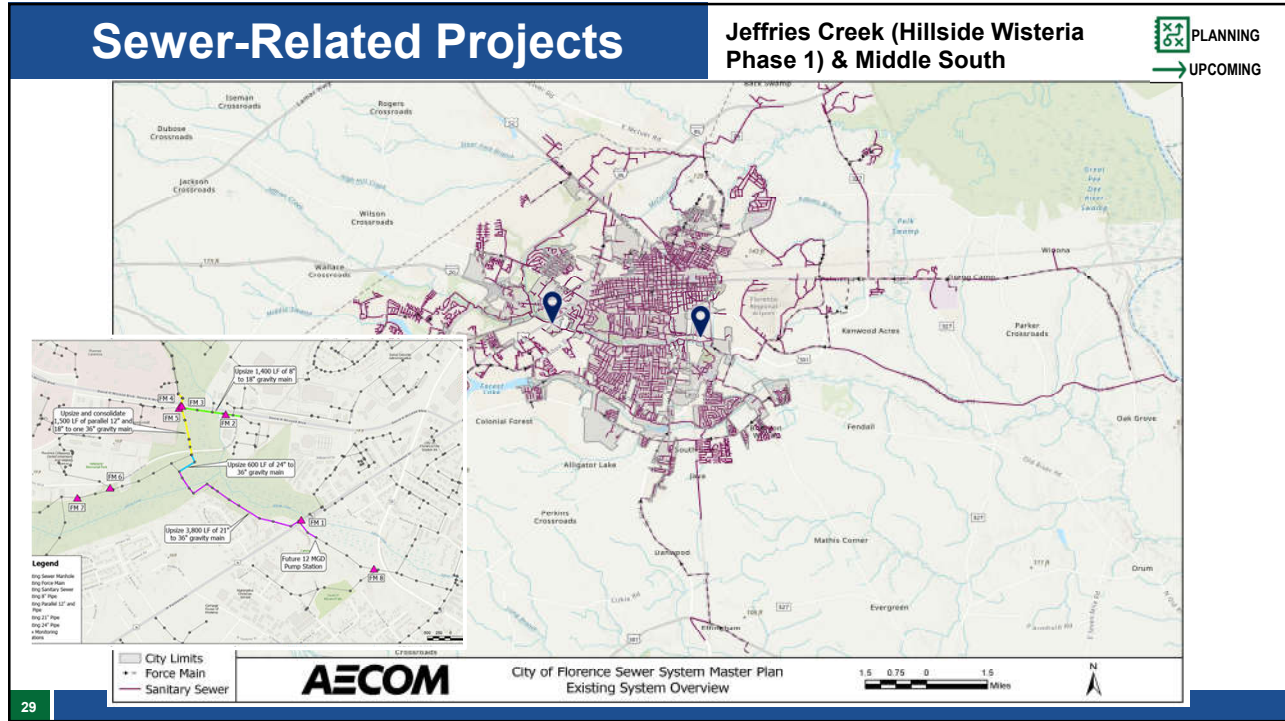
Legend
City Limits
Force Main
Sanitary Sewer

AECOM

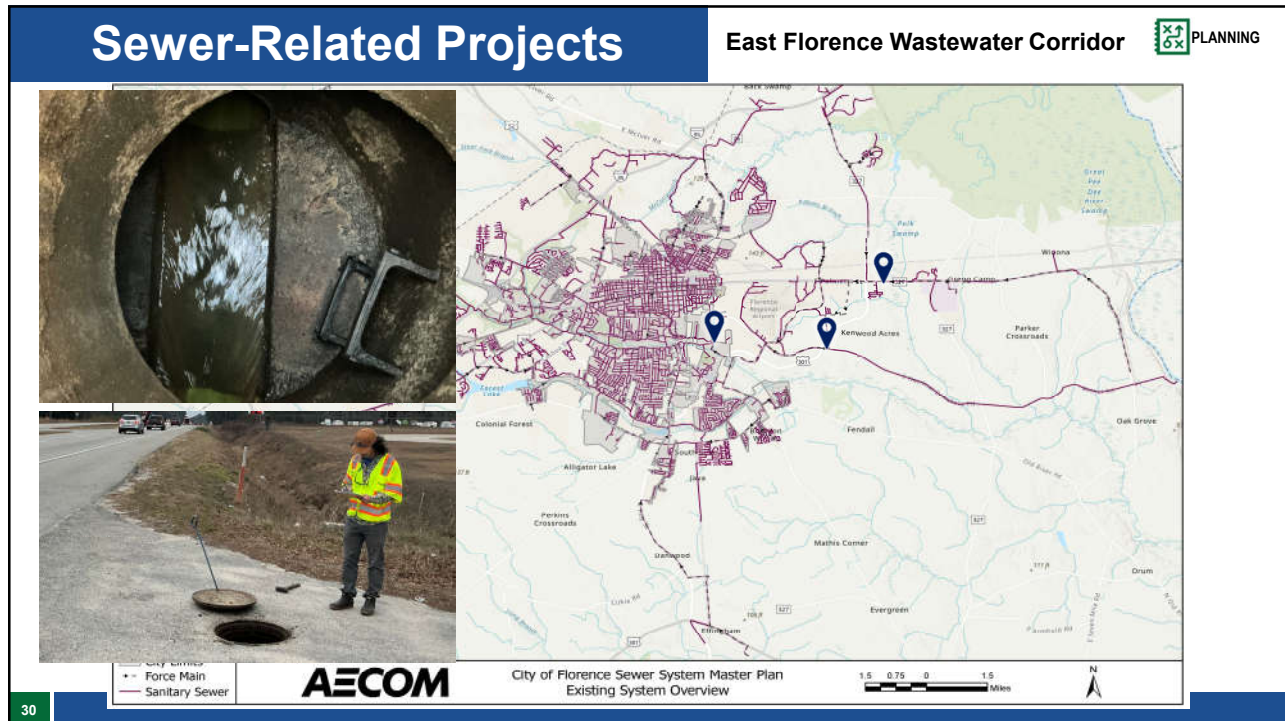
City of Florence Sewer System Master Plan Existing System Overview

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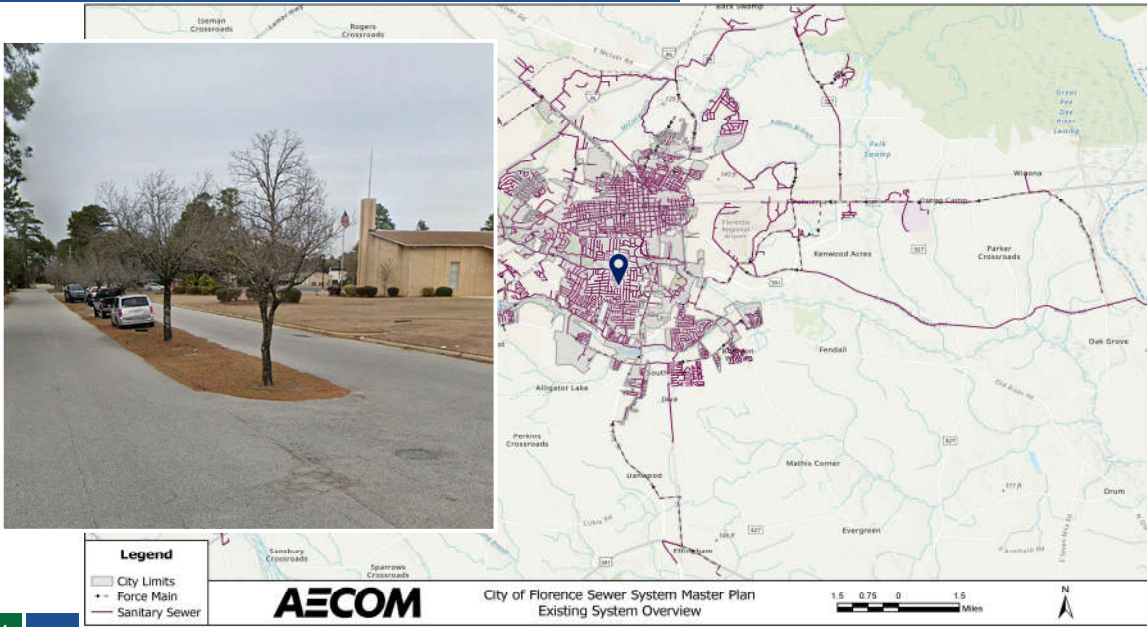


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Sewer-Related Projects

Malden FM Extension

→ UPCOMING



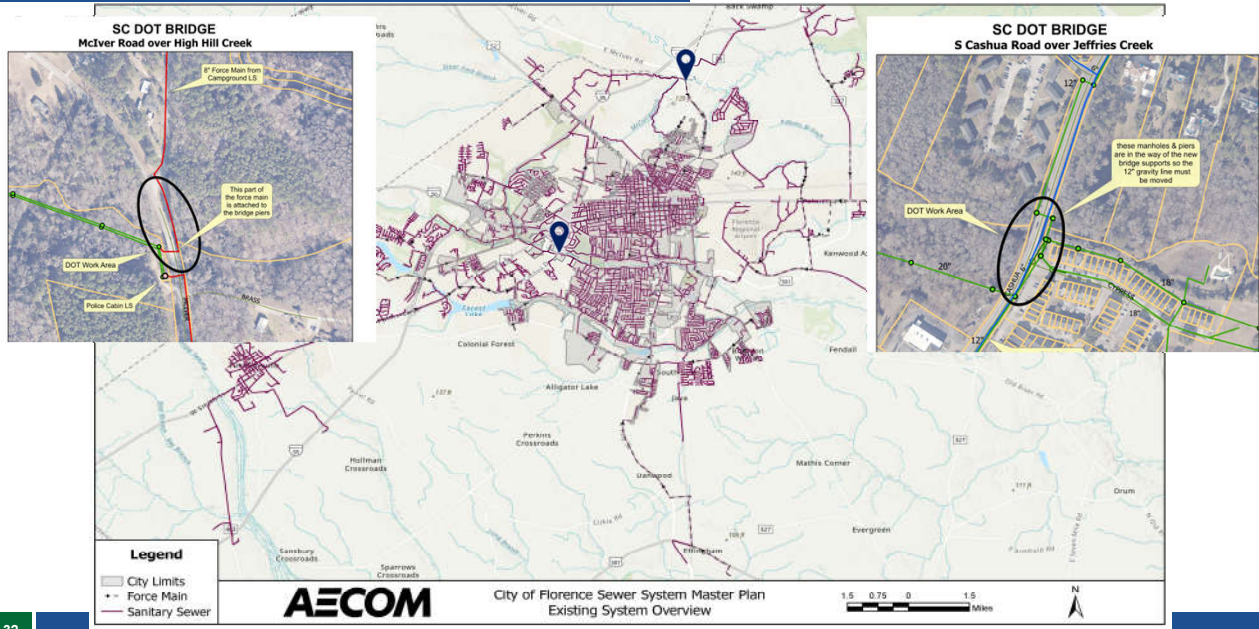
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Sewer-Related Projects

SCDOT Bridge Utility Relocation Updates

PLANNING



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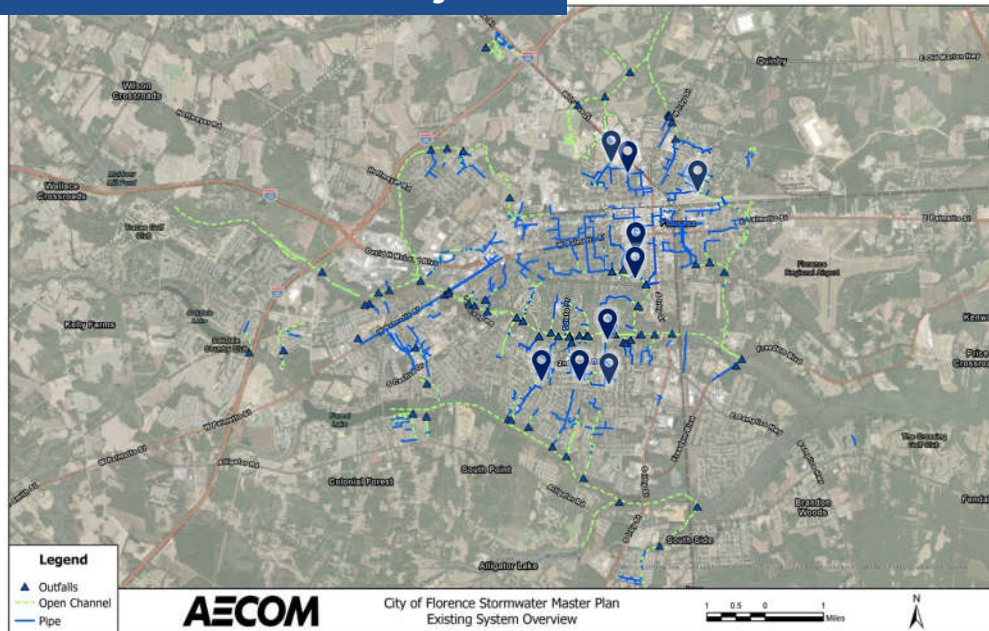


Stormwater Distribution Master Plan

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Stormwater-Related Projects



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Stormwater-Related Projects

Storm Drain Cleaning Project COMPLETED

Legend

- ▲ Outfalls
- Open Channel
- Pipe

AECOM City of Florence Stormwater Master Plan Existing System Overview

1 0.5 0 1 Miles

35

35

Stormwater-Related Projects

Cedar & McQueen Street CONSTRUCTION

City of Florence Stormwater Master Plan Existing System Overview

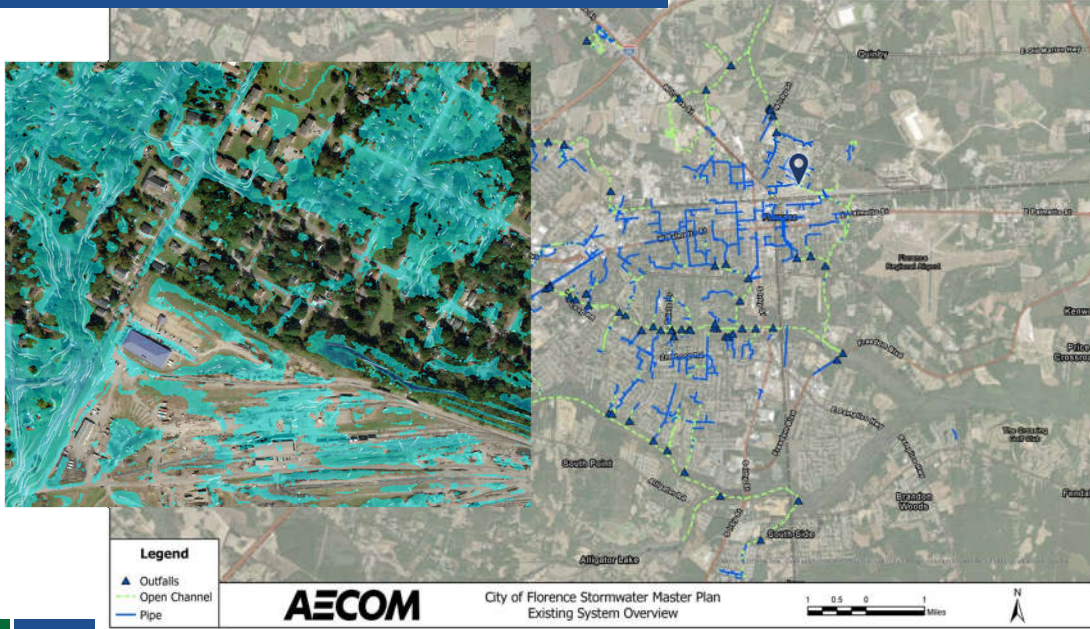
1 0.5 0 1 Miles

36

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Stormwater-Related Projects

Church and Oakland Stormwater Improv.

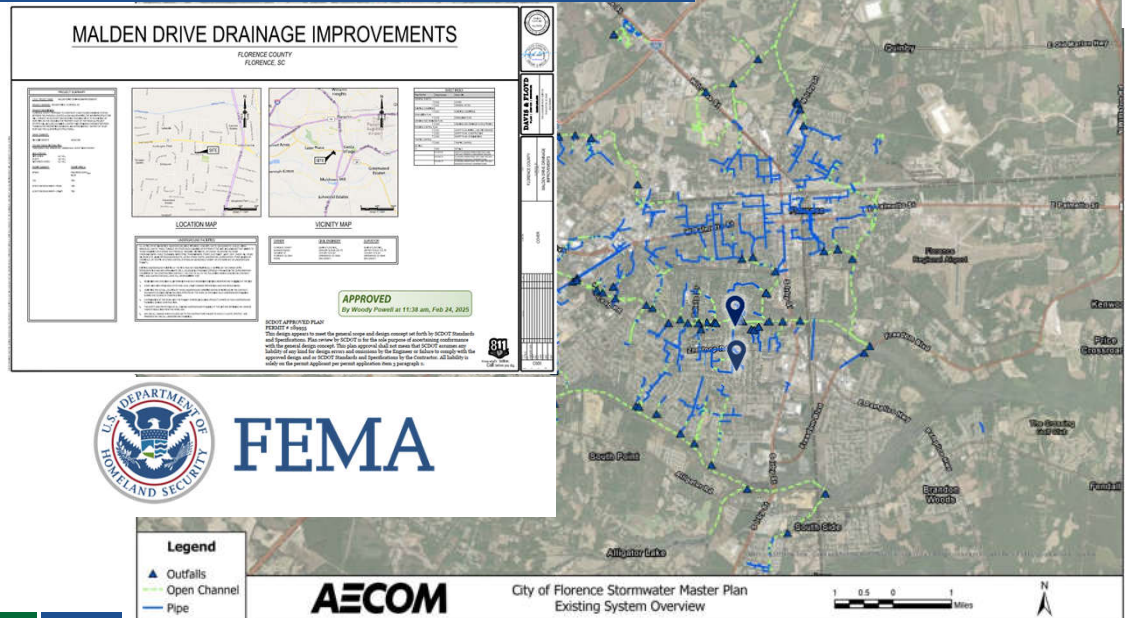


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Stormwater-Related Projects

Malden Stormwater Improv.



40

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Stormwater-Related Projects

Cannon Street Outfall

City of Florence Stormwater Master Plan Existing System Overview

1 0.5 0 1 Miles

xj 6x PLANNING

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City of Florence, South Carolina
Water Distribution Master Plan

City of Florence, South Carolina
Sewer Collection System Master Plan

City of Florence, South Carolina
Stormwater Master Plan

Questions?

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