



**BUDGET WORK SESSION OF FLORENCE CITY COUNCIL  
THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 2026 – 11:00 A.M.  
FRANK E. WILLIS PEE DEE RIVER REGIONAL WATER TREATMENT PLANT  
2598 FLORENCE HARLLEE BOULEVARD  
FLORENCE, SOUTH CAROLINA**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Mayor Lethonia Barnes, Mayor Pro Tempore George Jebaily, Councilman Chaquez T. McCall, Councilman Bryan A. Braddock, Councilwoman LaShonda NeSmith-Jackson, Councilman J. Lawrence Smith, II (arrived at 11:15am) 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 Angela Greene, Florence Police Department; Captain Stephen Starling, Florence Police Department; Chief Shannon Tanner, Florence Fire Department; Mr. Jerry Dudley, Director of Planning; Mr. Michael Hemingway, Director of Utility Planning and Economic Development; Mr. Joshua Whittington, Director of Utilities; Mrs. Amanda Pope, Director of Marketing/Communications and Municipal Services; Mrs. Jennifer Krawiec, Director of Human Resources; 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:**

Emmy Ribero with the Morning News was present for the meeting.

A notice of the meeting was sent to the media and individuals requesting a copy of the agenda, informing them of the date, time and location of this budget work session.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Barnes called the April 30, 2026 Budget Work Session of Florence City Council to order at 11:07 a.m.

**INVOCATION**

Mayor Barnes provided the invocation for the meeting. The Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag followed the invocation.

**BUDGET WORK SESSION**

Mr. Scotty Davis, City Manager, began by introducing the budget philosophy.



**Budget Philosophy:**

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

The following agenda items will be discussed:

- **Budget Totals by Fund**
- **Compensation/Benefits Changes**
- **External Factors**
- **Revenue and Expenditure Assumptions**
- **Water and Sewer Utilities Updates**
- **Water & Sewer Enterprise Fund**
- **Stormwater Utility Enterprise Fund**
- **Water/Sewer & Stormwater Utility Construction Funds**
- **Utilities Equipment Replacement Funds**
- **Community Programs Funding and CDBG Proposed Budget FY 2026-2027**
- **General Fund**
- **Hospitality Special Revenue Fund**

**BUDGET TOTALS BY FUND**

Total for all funds is \$157,995,410. The following chart illustrates the proposed FY 2026-27 budgets listed by fund:

<b>Proposed FY 2026-27 Budgets by Fund</b>	
General Fund	\$ 56,189,480
General Fund Debt Service Fund	694,000
Hospitality Fund	6,867,400
W/S Utilities Enterprise Fund	60,988,000
Stormwater Utility Enterprise Fund	2,128,260
W/S Utilities Construction Fund	28,431,900
Stormwater Utility Construction Fund	658,790
W/S Utilities Equipment Replacement Fund	1,820,000
Stormwater Equipment Replacement Fund	<u>217,580</u>
<b>ALL FUNDS</b>	<b>\$ 157,995,410</b>



**COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS CHANGES**

The following is a summary of FY 2026-27 compensation and benefits.

- ▶ Merit increase of 2% for employees meeting expectations and an additional 2% for exceeding expectations will be effective July 1, 2026.
- ▶ Cost of Living increase of 2.7% will be effective January 1, 2027, is included in the budget.
- ▶ Effective January 1, 2027, the City's Workers' Compensation premium is projected to increase 3% (\$28,500) for the City.
- ▶ The City's Health Insurance premium is not expected to increase. The City maintained a load factor of 1 at state rates.
- ▶ Retirement System contribution will remain the same:
  - ▶ SCRS: City contribution is 18.56%
  - ▶ PORS: City contribution is 21.24%

**Note:** The above rates assumes that the 1% pension employer contribution credit in the FY 2026 State budget is funded at the same level in the FY 2025 State budget. If this credit is not included in the state budget, both the SCRS and the PORS contribution will increase by 1%.

Mr. Davis discussed some external factors that will influence the budget as well as some revenue and expenditure forecasts. Below are external factors influencing the budget.

- Inflation – Average inflation rate for 2025 was 2.7%
- Labor Market – Florence County Unemployment Rate is 4.8%
- Borrowing Costs
- Residential Growth
- Economic Uncertainty
- Volatility in Sales and Property Tax Revenues
- Flexibility for Emergency Response
- Avoidance of Structural Budget Deficits

There was a discussion among Council and staff regarding the external factors influencing the budget.

Below are revenue forecasts:

- Property Tax Revenue will remain stable; no proposed millage increase.
- The Tax Increment Financing (TIF) bond backstop reduced from \$1,100,150 to \$500,000 with Water and Sewer funds
- Building permit revenue is up 2.6% from this time last year
- Business license revenue is up 4% indicating steady economic conditions
- Hospitality revenue is up 2.7%
- Water revenue is up 8.5%
- Sewer revenue is up 7.8%
- Water and sewer rates will increase by 9% for inside customers and 11% for outside customers for FY2027

Operational and Capital costs will continue to rise as a result of:



- Wage and benefits inflation
- Supply chain constraints
- Increased utility costs
- Fuel price fluctuations
- Materials and supply cost increases

Councilman McCall asked how many years are left on the water rate increases. Mr. Davis said rates will remain the same next year and then look to drop off in FY 2029-2030.

**WATER AND SEWER UTILITIES UPDATES**

Mr. Michael Hemingway, Utility Planning and Economic Development Director provided Council with a water and sewer utilities update, to include water distribution, water production, sewer utility improvement projects that have been completed and are currently in process.

Mr. Hemingway also provided an update on grants/funding the city has received to address water and sewer issues. Grants/funding received include: \$487,982-South Carolina Rural Infrastructure Authority to complete the water distribution project for Williamsburg Circle, Grove Park, and Tara Village; \$5,000,000- FY25 South Carolina Budget for the 30-inch water line extension along Freedom Boulevard by the local delegation; and \$500,000- PFAS Study South Carolina State Revolving Loan Fund. Mr. Hemingway said several grants/funding requests are still pending.

Councilman McCall referenced the installation of SCADA to the groundwater treatment plants and asked if a demonstration could be shown during a Council meeting to make the public aware of the SCADA technology that has been implemented to address water quality issues.

There was a discussion among Council and staff regarding the water and sewer updates.

[Recess for lunch: 12:11pm – 12:40pm]

**WATER & SEWER UTILITIES CONSTRUCTION FUND**

This is the water and sewer utilities construction fund. Total budget for this fund is \$29,431,900 and consists of the items listed below.

**FY 2026-27 Water & Sewer  
Construction Fund Revenue**

Projected Funds on Hand on July 1, 2026	\$10,181,900
2025-26 Transfer from W/S Operating Fund	2,100,000
Capital Construction Fund Transfer	5,000,000
Florence County Infrastructure Fund Reimbursement	100,000
ARPA Funds – (Lead & Cooper Compliance)	600,000
South Carolina State Proviso- Freedom Blvd Water Line Extension	3,000,000
SC Infrastructure Investment Program (SCIIP) Grant	5,500,000
Florence County Economic Development	2,900,00
Projected Interest Earnings	<u>50,000</u>
<b>Total W/S Construction Fund Revenue</b>	<b>\$29,431,900</b>





**WATER AND SEWER UTILITIES ENTERPRISE FUND**

The total Water and Sewer Enterprise Fund is \$60,988,000. This chart shows the Water and Sewer Revenues by Source. Other Revenue comes from reconnection fees, tap fees, etc.

**Water and Sewer  
 Revenues by Source**

Water Fees & Charges	40.3%
Wastewater Fees & Charges	45.4%
Other Revenue	14.3%

This chart shows the Water and Sewer Expenses by Department. Included in the non-departmental accounts is other employee benefits, general insurance/claims, IT expenses and economic development expenses.

**Water & Sewer Expenses  
 By Department**

Utility Finance	\$ 3,036,350
Engineering	1,946,300
WW Treatment	9,175,950
Water Production	7,956,600
Distribution Operations	4,314,900
Collection Operations	2,255,340
WW Compliance	595,500
WW Maintenance	1,095,470
Debt Service	18,638,600
Non-departmental	<u>11,972,990</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 60,988,000</b>

**STORMWATER UTILITY ENTERPRISE FUND**

The total Stormwater Utility Enterprise fund is \$2,128,260.

**Stormwater Revenues by Source**

Stormwater Fees (\$1,674,000)	94%
Other Revenue (\$125,600)	6%

**Stormwater Expenses by Category**

Operations (\$908,970)	50%
Debt Service (\$537,000)	25%
Nondept./Const. Fund Trf. (\$353,630)	20%

Mr. Davis informed Council that the proposed budget includes a \$0.75 increase in the stormwater fee per Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU), with one ERU defined as 1,500 square feet of impervious surface. He explained that the increase will help maintain the financial stability of the Stormwater Utility Enterprise Fund, support the completion of additional stormwater projects, and strengthen the City's ability to secure future financing for capital improvements.



There was a discussion among Council and staff regarding the Stormwater Utility Enterprise Fund.

**STORMWATER UTILITY CONSTRUCTION FUND**

This is the Stormwater Utility Construction Fund. Total budget for this fund is \$658,790 and consists of the items listed below. \$469,200 will be carried over from the previous year.

**FY 2026-27 Stormwater  
 Construction Fund Revenue**

Projected Funds on Hand on July 1, 2025	\$ 553,790
2025-26 Transfer from Stormwater Operating Fund	100,000
Projected Interest Earnings	<u>5,000</u>
<b>Total Stormwater Construction Fund Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 658,790</b>

This is a list of projects that are funded through the stormwater utility construction fund.

**FY 2026-27 Stormwater  
 Construction Fund Projects**

<b>Projects</b>	<b>Amount</b>
1. Stormwater Operations Division Pipe Projects	\$ 50,000
2. NPDES Phase II Compliance	50,000
3. Stormwater Engineering/Legal/Professional Services	20,000
4. Reserved for Other Projects	538,790
<b>Total S/W Construction Fund Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 658,790</b>

**Utilities Equipment Replacement Fund**

The Equipment Replacement Fund is a fund to replace utility equipment. This fund allows for the replacement of equipment when it is needed and does not require that the purchase be deferred. The General Fund currently does not have a replacement fund for equipment.

**W/S Equipment Replacement Fund  
 Budget by Department**

<b>Department</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Engineering	\$ 65,000
Wastewater Treatment Plant	850,000
Water Production	55,000
Distribution Operations	640,000
Collection Operations	<u>180,000</u>
<b>W/S Capital Equipment Fund Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,820,000</b>

There is \$217,580 in the Stormwater Equipment Replacement Fund.



**Stormwater Equipment Replacement Fund**  
**Budget by Department**

<b>Department</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Stormwater Operations	<u>\$217,580</u>
<b>Stormwater Capital Equipment Fund Total</b>	<b>\$217,580</b>

[Break: 1:43pm – 1:52pm.]

**Community Programs Funding**

The following chart indicates the appropriation requests for FY 2026-27. Community programs were funded in the amount of \$457,500 for the current fiscal year. The City received a total amount of \$907,000 in requests for FY 2026-2027. There are 5 programs that are not funded in the 2025-26 budget.

**Appropriation Requests by Agency/Event FY 2026-27**

<b>Agency/Project/Event</b>	<b>Funded FY 2026</b>	<b>Requested FY 2027</b>
Boys & Girls Club	\$ -	\$ 20,000
Pee Dee Regional Transportation Authority (PDRTA)	268,000	525,000
American Red Cross	-	10,000
Keep Florence Beautiful	10,000	*10,000
No One Unsheltered Program	75,000	80,000
My Brother's Keeper	15,000	40,000
Foster Care Clothing Closet	-	15,000
Pee Dee Coalition	5,000	20,000
Helping Florence Flourish	10,000	20,000
Florence Regional Airport	50,000	100,000
G-Lab Legacies	10,000	*10,000
Leatherman Senior Center	10,000	25,000
Powerful Advocates	-	6,000
Divine Acts of Kindness	-	5,000
Annie Mae Johnson Senior Citizens Foundation	2,000	11,000
ITV – It Takes A Village	2,500	10,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 457,500</b>	<b>\$ 907,000</b>
*Application for FY 2026-2027 not yet received.		
** In addition, Stadium Commission is funded at \$11,200, and utilities for the Boys & Girls Club is funded at \$21,000 in other departments' budgets.		



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The following programs are proposed to be funded from the FY 2027 CDBG budget:

<b>CDBG</b>	
My Brother's Keeper	\$ 30,000
Leatherman Senior Center	10,000
G-Lab Legacies	10,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>50,000</b>

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Councilman Smith made a motion to enter into Executive Session for a discussion regarding a proposed contractual agreement and Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson seconded the motion.

Council voted unanimously (6-0) to enter into Executive Session at 1:53pm, with Councilman McKay not being present for the vote.

Councilman McKay made a motion to resume open session and Councilman Smith seconded the motion. The motion carried. Council resumed open session at 2:27pm.

Mayor Barnes said no action was taken while in Executive Session.

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) proposed budget for FY 2026-2027 is \$352,512.

**CDBG Proposed Budget FY 2026-27**

<b>Department</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Planning and Administration	\$ 70,502
Emergency Rehabilitation	132,010
Down Payment Assistance	100,000
My Brother's Keeper	30,000
Senior Center (Meals on Wheels)	10,000
G-Lab Legacies	10,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 352,512</b>

Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson asked if the City is utilizing all funds allocated for down payment assistance. Mr. Davis responded yes.

**GENERAL FUND**

Mr. Davis began a presentation on the General Fund, the largest fund for the city. For the FY 2026-27 General Fund Budget, original expenditure requests were \$7,302,983 higher than the original revenue projections.

**Balancing the FY 2026-27  
General Fund Budget**

<b>Original Revenue Projections:</b>	<b>Original Expenditure Requests:</b>
\$54,534,900	\$61,837,883



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Difference:  
**\$7,302,983**

Final FY 2026-27 Balanced Budget  
**\$56,189,480**

Actions taken to balance the FY 2026-27 budget include: attrition savings adjustments and extended hiring timeline, revenue adjustments for growth assumptions, operational funding request adjustments, capital funding request eliminations and reduction of original planned capital replacement transfers.

Below are the revenue projection adjustments made in balancing the budget.

**General Fund Revenue Projection Adjustments Made In  
Balancing Proposed FY 2026-27 Budget**

	<b>Amount</b>
Property Taxes	\$ 688,940
Governmental Reimbursements	12,500
Permits and Fees	360,600
Reduced Capital Transfers	291,330
Interfund Transfers	<u>301,210</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,654,580</b>

The proposed budget assumes every position is funded every day of the year. Compensation and benefits cost reductions are projected at \$2,908,163.

**General Fund Compensation and Benefits  
Cost Reductions Made in Balancing Proposed FY 2026-27 Budget**

From 16-week salary & other compensation savings	\$ 1,112,508
From positions proposed by not funded	1,466,054
Fire Department Compensation Increases Reduced (5% to 2%)	150,116
Police Department Compensation Increases Reduced (5% to 2%)	90,223
No Increase in Health Insurance Premiums	<u>89,262</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 2,908,163</b>

The below chart illustrates Operational and Capital Funding reductions in balancing the proposed FY 2026-27 budget.

**General Fund Operational & Capital Funding Adjustments  
Made in Balancing Proposed FY 2026-27 Budget**

<b>Department</b>	<b>Operations</b>	<b>Capital</b>
City Council	\$ 24,900	\$ -
Legal Services	(900)	-
City Court	(1,900)	-
City Manager	(12,000)	-
Finance & Accounting	(3,750)	-



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Human Resources	(1,400)	-
Community Services	(4,350)	-
Police	(44,700)	(26,500)
Fire	(7,000)	(1,057,000)
Beautification & Facilities	(57,400)	(50,000)
Sanitation	(71,400)	(300,000)
Equipment Maintenance	1,700	-
Parks, Recreation, & Tourism	17,500	(120,000)
Planning, Research & Development	(6,600)	-
Building Permits & Inspections	(100)	-
<b>Departmental Subtotal</b>	<b>\$ (167,000)</b>	<b>(1,553,500)</b>
<b>Non-Departmental</b>		
General Insurance/Claims	(16,950)	-
Community Programs	(429,500)	-
Non-Departmental	(620,300)	-
<b>Non-Departmental Subtotal</b>	<b>\$ 1,066,750</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>OPERATIONS AND CAPITAL TOTAL</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>\$2,787,650</b>

There was a discussion among Council and staff regarding operational and capital funding adjustments for the General Fund.

This chart outlines the reductions that were necessary to balance the budget. The reductions totaled \$5,648,403 and are detailed below.

**Summary of Expenditure Adjustments  
To Balance General Fund Budget**

<b>Expenditure Increases/(Reductions)</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Compensation and Benefits Cost Reductions	\$ (2,908,163)
Operational Funding Reductions	(1,234,150)
Eliminated Capital Cost Reductions	(1,553,500)
Contingency Condition	<u>47,410</u>
<b>Reductions to Balance Budget</b>	<b>\$ 5,648,403</b>

Mr. Davis spoke of other items of interest in the budget. No millage increase will be proposed for the FY 2026-2027 budget. The budget also will fund a 2.7% cost of living increase, fully fund community funding initiatives, an additional commercial front loader for Commercial and Recycling Operations for Sanitation; and a downtown dumpster replacement for Sanitation.

This a recap of how the FY 2026-27 General Fund Budget was balanced. Revenue projections were adjusted by 1,654,580.

**Balancing the FY 2026-27  
General Fund Budget - Recap**

<b>GF REVENUES</b>		
Original Revenue Projections	\$54,534,900	
Revenue Adjustments	<u>+ 1,654,580</u>	
<b>FY 2026-27 Adjusted Revenues</b>		<b>\$56,189,480</b>



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**GF EXPENDITURES**

Original Expenditure Projections	\$61,837,883	
Expenditure Reductions	<u>- 5,648,403</u>	
<b>FY 2026-27 Adjusted Expenditures</b>		<b>\$56,189,480</b>

The below chart illustrates the millage rate increases from 2009 through 2027.

**Millage Rate Increases**

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Amount Raised</b>	<b>Amount Available</b>
2009	0.2 mills	1.7 mills
2014	0.8 mills	8.1 mills
2017	3.7 mills	3.7 mills
2018	0.7 mills	0.9 mills
2024	5.0 mills	9.6 mills
2026	5.0 mills	11.7 mills
2027	0.0 mills	<u>2.9 mills</u>

**Value of 1mil: 1mil = \$1 per \$1,000 of assessed value; Most recent assessment values are approximately \$79M for 4% property and \$137M for 6% property.**

**General Fund  
FY 2026 & 2027 Revenue Budget Comparison**

	<b>Original FY 2026</b>	<b>Budget for FY 2027</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>% Change</b>
Property Taxes	\$ 15,861,100	\$ 17,675,090	\$ 1,813,990	11.44%
Business Licenses	13,321,500	15,681,450	2,359,950	17.72%
Franchise Fees	4,72,400	4,533,800	(238,600)	(5.00)%
Govt Reimbursements	6,417,400	6,501,100	83,700	1.30%
Permits and Fees	3,239,500	3,265,100	25,600	0.79%
Fines & Forfeitures	247,000	220,400	(26,600)	(10.77)%
Other Revenues	1,323,900	1,443,850	119,950	9.06%
Interfund Transfers	<u>7,965,630</u>	<u>6,868,690</u>	<u>(1,096,940)</u>	<u>(13.77)%</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$53,148,430</b>	<b>\$56,189,480</b>	<b>\$3,041,050</b>	<b>5.72%</b>

This is a comparison between this year’s expenditures budget and last year’s expenditure budget.

**General Fund  
FY 2026 & 2027 Expenditures  
Budget Comparison**

	<b>Original FY 2026</b>	<b>Budget for FY 2027</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>% Change</b>
City Council	\$ 368,300	\$ 380,700	\$ 12,400	3.37
Legal Services	204,000	208,400	4,400	2.16
City Court	747,550	775,200	27,650	3.7
City Manager’s Office	1,193,200	1,278,100	84,900	7.12



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Finance	1,522,650	1,479,500	(43,150)	(2.83)
Human Resources	705,100	753,700	48,600	6.89
Community Services	705,600	724,000	18,400	2.61
Police	12,765,800	12,566,000	(199,800)	(1.57)
Fire	8,963,200	9,532,400	569,200	6.35
Beaut. & Facilities	3,397,500	3,667,200	269,700	7.94
Sanitation	5,751,900	6,531,600	779,700	13.56
Equip. Maintenance	860,150	870,400	10,250	1.19
Parks, Rec, & Tourism	5,441,800	5,983,800	542,000	9.96
Planning	666,300	746,350	80,050	12.01
Building Inspections	571,200	585,180	13,980	2.45
Debt Service	2,474,200	2,816,900	342,700	13.85
Other Emp. Benefits	750,600	907,070	156,470	20.85
General Insur/Claims	1,437,100	1,683,020	245,920	17.11
Community Programs	457,500	477,500	20,000	4.37
Non-Departmental	4,164,780	4,222,460	57,680	1.38
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$53,148,430</b>	<b>\$56,189,480</b>	<b>\$3,041,050</b>	<b>5.72</b>

**HOSPITALITY SPECIAL REVENUE FUND**

This is the 2% tax paid on prepared food and beverage purchases in the city. The Hospitality Fund is one of the city’s growth funds but it is also a restricted fund. South Carolina Code requires any revenue generated by the hospitality fee must be used exclusively for the following purposes:

- Tourism-related buildings including, but not limited to, civic centers, coliseums, and aquariums.
- Tourism-related cultural, recreational, or historic facilities.
- Beach access and re-nourishment.
- Highways, roads, streets, and bridges providing access to tourist destinations.
- Advertisements and promotions related to tourism development.
- Water and sewer infrastructure to serve tourism-related demand.

However, because at least \$900,000 in accommodations taxes are collected annually in Florence County, State law permits hospitality funds to be spent for operations related to the above stated purposes.

Below is the hospitality fees comparison from FY 2023 to FY 2027. There is a 1.89% increase proposed for FY 2027.

**FY 2023-2027  
Hospitality Fees Comparison**

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Collections</b>	<b>% Change</b>
2023	5,888,694	10.04
2024	6,120,314	3.93
2025	6,436,056	5.16
2026*	6,597,838	2.51
2027**	6,722,400	1.89

\* 2026 Estimated

\*\* 2027 Budgeted



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The amount projected for FY 2026-27 is \$6,867,400.

Hospitality Fees	\$ 6,722,400
Interest Earnings	145,900
<b>FY 26-27 Hospitality Fund Estimated Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 6,867,400</b>

This is the list of recommended expenditures for the Hospitality Fund for FY 2026-27.

**Hospitality Fund Expenditures**

Athletic Facilities Operations	\$ 2,200,000
Florence Museum	50,000
Florence Downtown Development Corporation	54,000
Florence Downtown Economic Development Incentives	12,000
Florence Downtown Promotions	35,000
Sports Complex Debt Service (through November 2035)	676,100
Recreation Facility/Gymnasium Debt Service (through June 2034)	314,640
Football Field Const./Pearl Moore Gym Expansion Debt Service (through June 2045)	1,097,670
2016 Special Obligation Bond Debt Service Appropriation (through Dec 2046)	300,000
Florence Historic District Street Lighting Operations	30,000
Florence Center (Debt Service effective through April 2040)	1,650,000
James Allen Plaza Restroom Facilities	9,000
Contingency	438,990
<b>FY 26-27 Hospitality Fund Estimated Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 6,867,400</b>

[Break: 3:49pm – 3:56pm.]

Councilman Smith left the meeting at 3:55pm.

**PROJECT UPDATES**

Mr. Clint Moore, Assistant City Manager of Development, provided an update on stormwater projects.

This is a list of the City’s current stormwater projects.

**Stormwater Projects**

<b>Project</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Cost</b>
St. Anthony/College Park	Completed	\$ 85,000
Sandhurst West	Completed	120,000
Tarleton Estates	Completed	113,000
Malden Drive	Surveying and Engineering phase – will need to review budget	1,900,000
Cannon Street	On hold- portions of work within Pennsylvania Street	337,000
Woodland Drive	Working with Florence County	450,000
Rebecca Street	On hold (2 years) – easement related	440,000
Pennsylvania Street	Under construction	5,800,000
Dargan and Elm Streets	Engineering to begin Spring 2026	125,000



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Cheves Street (underpass)	Engineering to begin Spring 2026	225,000
Wisteria Drive	Engineering Spring 2025	350,000
Cedar and McQueen Street	Under construction	5,900,000
N Church and Oakland	Permitting, bid – Jan/Feb 2026	3,000,000
Master Plan	Complete – City Council action	550,000

Mr. Moore provided an update regarding CPST III following the November 2020 referendum. It was noted that the bond was issued in the summer of 2021, with the City of Florence receiving \$40,000,000. Engineering firms were also selected during the summer of 2021, and approximately 170 total roadways/projects were identified as part of the program. Mr. Moore said that there are actually 181 projects involved. Of those projects, 42% are complete, 12% are currently under construction, 18% are in the design/permitting phase, and the remaining 28% have yet to begin.

There was a discussion among Council and staff regarding the CPST III referendum and projects.

Mr. Moore reported that approximately \$280,000 remains in the II Penny Sales Tax Program, which Florence County Council has reallocated to the Interstate 20/Interstate 95 Enhancement Project for landscaping, lighting, and gateway signage improvements.

Mr. Moore also updated Council on several ongoing projects, including the Carolina Theater renovation, 349 W. Evans Street, and the Rental Uniform Property. Phase I of the Carolina Theater renovation has been completed, with Phase II underway and overall completion anticipated by August 2026. Renovations at 349 W. Evans Street will create two commercial retail incubator spaces and are expected to be completed by May 2026. The City is continuing efforts to obtain ownership of the Rental Uniform Property, which may be used for evidence storage, Public Works and Utilities operations, other City divisions, and a future fire station site.

Mr. Moore informed Council that the CPST IV referendum is scheduled for November 2028, with project submissions to Florence County anticipated in 2027. Potential projects under the referendum include groundwater treatment plant rehabilitation, sewer interceptor improvements, water line rehabilitation, the Florence-Timmonsville Interceptor, a fire station and equipment, road and corridor improvements, trail improvements, and stormwater projects.

There was a discussion among Council and staff regarding the CPST program and proposed projects.

Councilman McCall requested that Council receive a progress report on the City's Comprehensive Plan.

**FLOCK SAFE CITIES PROPOSAL**

Captain Stephen Starling provided an update on the FLOCK Safe Cities proposal. Captain Starling acknowledged that this information was initially shared in November, and the initial cost of the contract was approximately \$500,000. The contract flexibility consists of renegotiation opportunities in Years 3 and 6. The contract may be canceled at any time, but a 30.44% discount repayment is required if the contract is canceled early. Captain Starling provided an overview of the included enhancements and capabilities and the equipment and infrastructure offered in the contract.

Ms. Angela Greene, Police Chief, spoke on the success of FLOCK cameras with the Florence Police Department, as well as throughout the country. Chief Greene and Captain Starling shared their excitement for potentially implementing this program, and how it would benefit the community.



**FLORENCE CITY COUNCIL  
WORK SESSION – APRIL 30, 2026**

There was a discussion among Council and staff regarding the FLOCK Safe Cities proposal.

**ADJOURN**

Without objection, the Budget Work Session of Florence City Council was adjourned at 4:58p.m.

Dated this 8<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2026.

Respectfully submitted:

Casey C. Moore  
Municipal Clerk