

AGENDA
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, MILITARY
AFFAIRS & INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS
CONFERENCE ROOM, ROOM 802
180 NORTH IRBY STREET
FLORENCE, SOUTH CAROLINA
THURSDAY, JULY 1, 2021
10:00 a.m.

Councilman Alphonso Bradley (Council District 3), Chair
Councilman Jerry W. Yarborough, Jr. (Council District 4), Member
Councilman Frank J. “Buddy” Brand, II (Council District 8), Member

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:**
- II. **INVOCATION:**
- III. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**
- IV. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES: SEPTEMBER 1, 2015 MEETING**
- V. **DISCUSSION:**
- VI. **OTHER BUSINESS:**
- VII. **ADJOURN:**

**Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, Military Affairs
& Intergovernmental Relations**

July 1, 2021

AGENDA ITEM: Minutes

DEPARTMENT: Administration

ISSUE UNDER CONSIDERATION:

The Committee is requested to approve the minutes of the September 1, 2015 meeting of County Council's Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, Military Affairs & Intergovernmental Relations.

OPTIONS:

1. Approve minutes as presented.
2. Provide additional directive, should revisions be necessary.

ATTACHMENTS:

Copy of proposed Minutes.

COMMITTEE OF THE FLORENCE COUNTY COUNCIL ON AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, MILITARY AFFAIRS & INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2015, 8:00 A.M., IN THE COUNCIL CONFERENCE ROOM, ROOM 804, OF THE COUNTY COMPLEX, FLORENCE, SOUTH CAROLINA

PRESENT WERE:

Alphonso Bradley, Committee Chairman
Jason M. Springs, Council Committee Member
K. G. Rusty Smith, Jr., County Administrator
D. Malloy McEachin, Jr., County Attorney
Connie Y. Haselden, Clerk to Council

PRESENT WERE:

Mitchell Kirby, Council Committee Member

ALSO PRESENT WERE:

Roger M. Poston, Council Chairman
James T. Schofield, Council Vice Chairman
Waymon Mumford, Council Member
Kent C. Caudle, Council Member
Kevin V. Yokim, Finance Director
Gavin Jackson, Morning News

The notice of the meeting and copies of the meeting Agenda were posted in the lobby of the County Complex and provided to the media in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act requirements for notice of meetings.

Committee Chairman Bradley called the meeting to order. County Council Chairman Poston provided the invocation and Committee Member Springs led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Springs made a motion to approve the Minutes of the March 18, 2014 meeting, which was approved unanimously.

DISCUSSION OF ORDINANCE NO. 10-2015/16

Chairman Bradley stated the purpose of the meeting was to discuss Ordinance No. 10-2015/16: An Ordinance Establishing The Developing Communities Commission, Providing For Appointment Of The Members Of The Commission, Setting Forth The Duties Of The Commission, And Other Matters Relating Thereto. Councilman Springs provided an overview/background of the purpose and intent of the Ordinance. He stated the intent was to give small towns a voice to foster economic growth in the community.

Included in the packet was a revised Ordinance to include nine (9) members, one from each municipality with two (2) members from Lake City (City of Florence was not included). The focus was to be on commercial and small retail, not so much on industrial because the economic development partnership does a great job in that category. The smaller towns were seeking a means to encourage/entice smaller retail and restaurants, etc. to locate in those communities. Councilman Schofield asked who would make the appointments to this commission. Councilman Springs responded that he envisioned that each municipality would make recommendations to County Council and Council would either confirm or decline the recommendations.

Councilman Mumford suggested an eleven (11) member board with one (1) from each Council District and two (2) from Lake City. Councilman Springs responded that the purpose of the commission was to provide each municipality with a 'voice.' That configuration would eliminate some of the small towns, for instance, if Councilman Poston was only allowed one appointment, he would not have a representative for either Pamplico or Johnsonville and Councilman Springs would not have an appointment for either Olanta or Scranton, which negated the purpose of the commission. Councilman Schofield stated he would have an appointment that would represent the City of Florence and not benefit the smaller communities. Councilman Caudle stated he agreed with the need for each municipality to have representation. Councilman Mumford stated this was one County and he just wanted to ensure there was equal representation for the entire County and not just one specific area.

Councilman Caudle stated his thought was that this commission should be ancillary to the economic development partnership and work in concert with that organization to further enhance economic opportunities throughout the County. Councilman Springs stated one of his proposed revisions to the original Ordinance was the insertion of language in Section 3.b. that adds "The Project Manager will report directly to the County Administrator *with harmonious consultation with Florence County Economic Development Partnership, NESAs, and the South Carolina Department of Commerce.*"

County Administrator Rusty Smith stated that rural development across the nation was in dire need. There exists a need to identify potential properties to develop for industrial or business parks or commerce centers. The group interested in fostering this was interested in developing data bases in the area to assist in recruitment and support of retail businesses, which was an area in his opinion that the County needed to invest more effort into because it was losing out on a lot of potential business. The Mayors want to take a proactive step to further enhance those communities by creating economic opportunities for their constituents. Council helping to develop water/sewer systems and helping to ensure the provisions of those services to the rural areas was one way Council helped to effectuate change by developing infrastructure to meet those needs.

Councilman Schofield stated the County needed to be pushing for smaller retail/commercial businesses throughout the County and not focus so much on the bigger 'smokestack' industry. An effort to create 15 to 20 jobs through a small business investment would be beneficial to the smaller, more rural towns.

Councilman Caudle stated the only thing he wanted to add was that it appeared the County was creating the definition of bureaucracy by forming almost another board that reports to someone else that should work under the auspices of the economic development partnership. He stated he wanted it to be a great return on the investment.

Council Chairman Poston stated the only comment he would make was that the right person needed to be selected as the Project Manager because the right person in that position could be a great help to all the small towns. He said as good as the Mayors were in each of the municipalities, they did not have the expertise to grow the economy by recruiting businesses to those areas.

After additional discussion, Councilman Springs made a motion that the Committee make a recommendation to Council to move forward with second reading of the Ordinance with the proposed revisions. Councilman Bradley seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously by the Committee members present.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At the request of Councilman Caudle, Councilman Springs made a motion the Committee enter Executive Session to discuss a personnel/contractual matter pertaining to Ordinance No. 10-2015/16, which was approved unanimously.

The Committee entered Executive Session at 8:45 a.m. The Committee reconvened at 8:54 a.m.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, Councilman Springs made a motion to adjourn, which was approved unanimously.

THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:54 A.M.