

**SPECIAL MEETING OF FLORENCE CITY COUNCIL
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13, 2025 – 9:00 A.M.
SURFACE 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, Councilman J. Lawrence Smith, II and Councilman Zach McKay

MEMBERS ABSENT

Councilwoman LaShonda NeSmith-Jackson

ALSO PRESENT

Mr. Scotty Davis, City Manager; Mr. Ronald Scott, City Attorney; Mrs. Casey Moore, Municipal Clerk; Ms. Patrice Rankin, Assistant City Clerk; Mr. Clint Moore, Assistant City Manager of Development; Chief Allen Heidler, Florence Police Department; Mr. Jerry Dudley, Director of Utility Operations; Mr. Josh Whittington, Director of Utility Operations; Mr. Michael Hemingway, Director of Utility Planning and Economic Development; Mrs. Victoria Nash, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Sports Tourism; Mrs. Amanda Pope, Director of Marketing/Communications and Municipal Services; Mr. Adam Swindler, Director of Public Works and Mr. Glenn Bodenheimer, Interim Finance Director

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.

OTHERS PRESENT

Mr. George Simon, Mr. Jonathan Treadway and Mr. John Epting with CDM Smith.

Mr. Michael Henry, Jr., Mr. Brandon Bichler, Mr. Keiran Ryan, and Mr. Porter Rivers, with AECOM.

Mr. John White with John B. White, Jr. Law Firm and Mr. Jerome Tarpley with Cory Watson Attorneys.

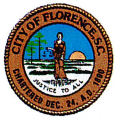
CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Barnes called the August 13, 2025 Special Meeting of Florence City Council to order at 9:51 a.m.

[Councilman McCall via telephone.]

INVOCATION

Mayor Barnes gave the invocation for the meeting. The pledge of allegiance to the American Flag followed the invocation.



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EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Barnes said Council will be entering into Executive Session to receive legal advice regarding the PFAS lawsuit.

Councilman Smith made a motion to enter into Executive Session and Councilman Braddock seconded the motion. The motion carried. Council entered into Executive Session at 9:53a.m.

[Councilman McKay arrived at 10:32 a.m.]

Councilman Smith made a motion to resume open session and Pro tem Jebaily seconded the motion. The motion carried. Council resumed open session at 11:51am and took the following action:

Pro tem Jebaily made a motion that the City adopts the objective to select the technology resulting in the lowest concentration of PFAS and further moved that Council authorize the City's engineering team and consultants to develop the plans needed to move the water system to MCLG status, for the purposes of PFAS, recognizing that MCL compliance is necessary and must be accomplished by 2031 in accordance with federal regulatory requirements and as financially feasible and Councilman McKay seconded the motion.

Council voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried unanimously (5-0), with Councilman McCall and Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson being absent from the meeting.

Mayor Barnes made a motion to recess at 11:53am and the motion carried unanimously (5-0).

[Councilman Smith left the meeting at 11:53am.]

[Councilman McCall arrived at 12:00pm.]

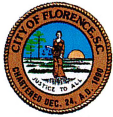
Councilman Braddock made a motion to resume the Special Meeting and Councilman McKay seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (5-0), with Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson and Councilman Smith being absent from the meeting.

The Special Meeting resumed at 12:47 p.m.

WATER DISTRIBUTION MASTER PLAN

Mr. Porter Rivers and Mr. Keiran Ryan presented the City of Florence Drinking Water System Program and Water Distribution Master Plan to Council. Mr. Rivers gave an overview of the agenda:

1. Background
2. Challenges
3. Scope
4. Findings
5. Projects
6. Capital Improvement Program



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Background

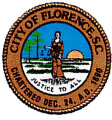
Mr. Rivers began the presentation by providing a background on the City's water system. The City of Florence originally relied on groundwater as its source for drinking water. The system evolved with the addition of new wells and the acquisition of other systems to include Quinby, Florence County, private developers and Timmonsville. In 1999, the City of Florence constructed the Surface Water Treatment Plant to treat water from the Pee Dee River. Today, the City of Florence operates a dual source system, treating water from both groundwater and surface water. The current water system serves 75,000 people through 33,600 connections. It consists of 690 miles of water lines, 14 elevated storage tanks, and 2 booster pump stations. On average, the system produces 23.5 million gallons per day (MGD), with approximately 60% (13.5 MGD) sourced from groundwater and 40% (10 MGD) from surface water, reaching a maximum daily capacity of 34.5 MGD. The City of Florence's water system is ranked among the top 15 in South Carolina.

Challenges

Mr. Rivers provided the challenges of the city's water distribution system. Challenges are detailed below.

- Reliable Distribution
 - Source Locations (Groundwater at 60% of demand, Surface Water at 40% of demand)
 - Transmission Lines
 - Williston Road to National Cemetery (36 and 30 inch)
 - Old Marion Highway to Otis Way (30 inch)
- Adequate Sources
 - Regional cone of depression (congested well field) impacts well productivity and ground water capacity may be overallocated.
 - Regulatory constraints on groundwater
 - No increase in well withdrawal capacity until 2030
- Improving Efficiency
 - Aging infrastructure (some facilities have been around 50+ years)
 - Meeting projected demands
 - High non-revenue water losses
 - Storage capacity limitations
- Consistent High Quality
 - Water quality challenges include consistent removal of iron, ability to avoid problems before they occur, flushing plans to address issues when they occur (iron levels should be less than 0.1) and focus on continuous improvement.

There was a discussion regarding high non-revenue water loss. Mr. Rivers noted that approximately 40% of the water entering the distribution system is classified as non-revenue water, which is considered excessive. If this issue is not addressed, future demand could increase by as much as 50%, potentially requiring the City to invest in significant infrastructure upgrades and resulting in a loss of water-generated revenue. Mr. Davis said that city staff have identified certain sources of non-revenue water loss and acknowledged the need for improved tracking of water usage, particularly when filling wash trucks and other heavy equipment. He also pointed out that unauthorized water use by contractors, water leaks, and other related issues are contributing factors to the high levels of non-revenue water loss.



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Mr. Rivers reported that the City has responded to water quality challenges by investing in the Asset Management Program, the Groundwater System Condition Assessment, the Water Distribution Master Plan and a Water Quality Initiative.

Mr. Ryan provided an overview of the Groundwater System Condition Assessment. The assessment was completed by AECOM to determine improvements to the City's groundwater plants. Below are some of the findings of the Groundwater System Condition Assessment.

Well Production

- City groundwater inventory (>40 MGD)
- 18 of 31 groundwater wells were in service
- 17 of the 31 wells were installed over 30 years ago
- 11 wells have lost 20% or more of their original capacity
- Monthly operational data revealed most wells run 16 hours per day or more

Groundwater Plants

- 5 active multi-well plants only have one well in service
- 4 active plants produced majority of the groundwater in 2022
- 7 high service pumps need replacement

System Control

- Only a portion of the City's critical distribution system components are on a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA)
- 4 water treatment plants are not SCADA controlled
- 10 water treatment plants that are controlled, can't alternate wells
- Several of the elevated storage tanks do not have SCADA for monitoring or control
- Water treatment plants don't have the ability to monitor iron levels remotely

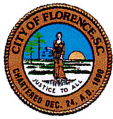
Treatment

- 31 wells sending water to 15 water treatment plants
- Inconsistent removal of iron
- GE Plant previously removed from service; South Carolina Infrastructure Investment Program (SCIIP) funding intends to reactivate these facilities
- Raw groundwater wells serving the inactive plants were found to have good water quality with moderate iron levels

There was a discussion regarding the treatment process. The primary treatment involves adding lime for pH adjustment, aeration to oxidize iron, and filtration using anthracite and sand media. The secondary treatment includes chlorination for disinfection and an additional lime dose for pH adjustment.

Mr. Ryan then provided an overview of the Water Quality Initiative. He said the Water Quality Initiative is a collaborative effort with the City and AECOM to establish a strategic plan towards improving the quality of groundwater entering the distribution system. Components of the initiative include increasing the ability to monitor and control water quality remotely, adding SCADA in central locations (ex. surface water treatment plant), increasing the ability to measure critical process parameters, upgrading the treatment process, and developing standard operating procedures and training operators on processes.

The first step of the initiative is to establish priority rankings for improvements. Mr. Rivers said the City will then need to determine what improvements can be self-performed versus contractor performed.



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Current city actions being self-performed include replacing customer meters, adding finished water meters to groundwater treatment plants, adding electronic control valves for elevated storage tanks, adding SCADA components to groundwater treatment plants and wells and upgrading treatment processes.

Scope

The scope of the master plan focuses on providing capacity over the next twenty years based on projected growth. Based on projections, surface water will be the largest water supply over groundwater by 2045 due to limitations in groundwater supply. Groundwater can then be used as a strategic asset to meet peak demands on the system.

Another part of the scope includes determining where growth will occur on the system and planning how to supply that demand in the future. AECOM is working with the City to update the hydraulic water model of the distribution system and to establish a level of service (LOS) criteria which can be used to monitor the performance of the system and develop projections. System deficiencies can be identified utilizing the LOS criteria and hydraulic water model which will identify necessary improvements that need to occur within short-term (5 year), intermediate (10 year) or long-term (20 year) planning horizons. Based on these findings, recommendations will be made along with cost estimates for a capital improvements program.

Findings

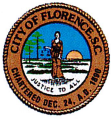
Mr. Rivers discussed the existing system and the need for additional transmission lines from the Surface Water Treatment Plant to help meet demands on the system and increase the Surface Water Impact Area coverage. Other considerations include additional elevated storage tanks to meet peak demands and increasing the emergency supply. The addition of a new groundwater treatment plant located in the southern part of Florence was also discussed.

Mr. Rivers discussed AECOM's recommendations from the Master Plan to include improving groundwater system efficiency, increasing the ability to distribute surface water throughout the system, enhancing the ability to control/manage storage capacity, measuring (metering) actual system production entering the system, utilizing the condition assessment and rehabilitation of older portions of the system, and developing flushing plans for the entire system.

Mr. Rivers then moved into a discussion of groundwater wells. He emphasized that various assessments and plans should be conducted to analyze the system's wells. These assessments include a Groundwater Inventory Assessment, a Wellfield Management Plan, a Groundwater Model Development, a Condition Assessment of Well Inventory, and a Localized Groundwater Model.

Mr. Rivers addressed some challenges facing the water distribution system. He noted that the Pee Dee Regional Surface Water Treatment Plant has a total capacity of 10 million gallons per day. In comparison, the combined capacity of the Groundwater Treatment Plants is 23 million gallons per day, though the largest individual groundwater plant has a capacity of only 2 million gallons per day.

Mr. Rivers highlighted the impact of the Surface Water Treatment Plant expansion on the water distribution system. The project will be completed in four phases.



Projects

Mr. Rivers highlighted current projects. Current projects include water line improvements, Phase I and II of southeastern transmission line, groundwater treatment plant improvements (GE, River Road, Oakdale, East Florence and South Florence), expanding monitoring and control capabilities, and the Water Quality Initiative.

Mr. Rivers then highlighted proposed projects, which include increasing emergency storage, completing the expansion of surface water distribution and continuing the rehabilitation of groundwater facilities.

Mr. Rivers said recommended projects include reducing non-revenue water, developing a groundwater model and developing and implementing a well management program.

Mr. Rivers highlighted a program designed to assist in the reduction of non-revenue water. This initiative aims to improve the efficiency of water use, potentially reduce costs, and recover lost revenue by identifying areas where water is being wasted. Additionally, the program will support the renewal of the groundwater withdrawal permit.

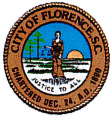
Capital Improvement Program (CIP)

Mr. Rivers provided an overview of the Capital Improvement Program (CIP), noting that distribution system enhancements are planned to take place over a 20-year period. The total projected cost estimate for proposed improvements is \$124,550,000. Included in the cost estimates are 17 water line projects, 5 new elevated storage tanks, 12 control valves, 11 SCADA units and 10 groundwater production rehabilitation projects that are remaining from the Groundwater Condition Assessment. The projects and/or improvements will be prioritized based on the following criteria: enhance water quality, address system deficiencies (based upon LOS criteria), capacity for growth (industrial and residential areas) and system resiliency. Below the phases are outlined.

- Short term (2025-2030)
 - Issues on concerns that need attention in the next 5 years
 - Cost estimate: \$12.32 million
- Intermediate (2030-2035)
 - Issues or concerns that need attention in the next 10 years
 - Cost estimate: \$35.45 million
- Long term (2035-2045)
 - Issues or concerns that need attention in the next 20 years
 - Cost estimate: \$19.85 million

Mr. Rivers concluded by emphasizing that the Water Distribution Master Plan is a living document that should be revisited at least every two to five years to reflect changes in conditions, costs and priorities. He also emphasized the city must remain proactive rather than reactive in water resource management and asset management. The Stormwater Master Plan will serve as the foundation for sustainable water management, with asset management playing a critical role in long-term success. Mr. Rivers also emphasized that strong collaboration and commitment from all responsible parties are essential for implementing a sustainable, resilient water distribution system. He noted that taking a proactive approach will help to mitigate risks and reduce costs in the future, as well as enhance overall resiliency.

[Break: 2:35pm – 2:48pm]



SEWER COLLECTION SYSTEM MASTER PLAN

Mr. Michael Henry, Jr., presented the City of Florence Sewer Collection System Master Plan to Council. Mr. Henry gave an overview of the agenda:

1. Background
2. Scope
3. Findings
4. Capital Improvement Program

Background

Mr. Henry explained the Sewer Collection System Master Plan was needed due to historic sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) during rain events, rapid projected growth in both population and industry, aging infrastructure and capacity limitations, unsustainable piecemeal fixes and deficiencies that were highlighted during the East Florence Capacity Evaluation.

Mr. Henry noted that the East Florence Capacity Assessment was initiated in 2021 due to the projected industrial growth from the Pee Dee Commerce Park, Technology Park and East Florence Park. High level assessments were conducted at the various pump stations to analyze the function and effectiveness.

The City of Florence Sewer System serves approximately 54,000 residents through 22,661 connections. The system consists of 469 miles of gravity pipe, 132 miles of force main, 130 pump stations and 7,000 manholes. The Wastewater Treatment Plant was commissioned in 1950, and the last upgrade increased the plant from 15 million gallons per day to 22 million gallons per day.

There was discussion regarding sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) and potential solutions for them including raising certain manholes.

Scope

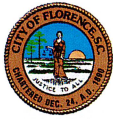
The Study Area for the Sewer Collection System Master Plan consisted of 132 miles of gravity pipe, 59 miles of force main, 51 pump stations and 1,381 manholes in the following sewer sheds: Beaverdam Creek, Canal Branch, Jeffries Creek North-West, South Irby Street, Jeffries Creek South, Middle Swamp, Pye Branch, and High Hill/McCall Branch/Two-mile Creek.

Exclusions to the Study Area include connections to the Darlington County sewer system and Timmons ville. Mr. Henry noted future discussion will be needed on the Timmons ville system, acknowledging that the city will eventually want to receive Timmons ville's waste and decommission that treatment plant.

[Councilman Smith arrived at 3:04p.m.]

Mr. Henry reviewed previous studies conducted to include the Jeffries Creek Interceptor Improvements and the Timmons ville Gravity Sewer Rehabilitation. The Jeffries Creek Interceptor Improvement project is included in the current bond funding and is slated to begin in 2026.

Mr. Henry discussed growth and flow projections. There are three types of sewer flows: industrial, commercial and residential. Considerations with projections include influent treatment plant data, average dry weather flow, maximum dry weather flow and the peak flow factor. Future flow growth indicates that



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sanitary flow will more than triple by 2045. Major drivers for flow growth include industrial and residential expansions.

Mr. Henry then discussed the Hydraulic Modeling Exercise, explaining that the model is designed to integrate seamlessly with the city's GIS and asset management systems. As data is refined, it can be easily incorporated into the model for more accurate analysis. He outlined the key steps in the modeling process which include data collection, field work and flow monitoring, sensitivity analysis, and level of service (LOS) development.

Findings

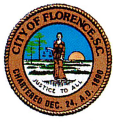
Mr. Henry reviewed the following findings from the Hydraulic Modeling Exercise:

- 91 flooded manholes predicted during 2-year storm in existing system
- Critical bottlenecks in Beaverdam Interceptor and Jeffries Creek Interceptor
- Several pump stations are at or near capacity
- Inflow and infiltration (I/I) is a significant contributor to sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs)

Capital Improvement Program (CIP)

Capital Improvement Program projects are prioritized into four planning horizons: early action, short-term, intermediate and long-term, and include 13 major conveyance upgrades and projects over 20 years. The Total Opinion of Probable Construction Cost (OPCC) over the next 20 years is \$224.9 million. Below are the projects outlined by planning horizon.

- Early Action (by 2027)
 - Flow Verification and Programmatic Review
 - North Jeffries Creek Interceptor
 - Total OPCC: \$13.72 million
- Short-Term (by 2030)
 - Highway 301 Pump Station Upgrades and Force Main
 - West Palmetto Street Pump Station and Second Loop Interceptor Upgrades
 - Lower South Jeffries Creek Interceptor
 - Total OPCC: \$59.10 million
- Intermediate (by 2035)
 - Beaverdam Creek Upgrades Phase I
 - I/I Reduction Program
 - East Palmetto Street Upgrades
 - Lower South Jeffries Creek Interceptor Upgrades Phase II
 - East Jeffries Creek Interceptor Upgrades
 - Total OPCC: \$66.86 million
- Long-Term (by 2045)
 - Beaverdam Creek Upgrades Phase II
 - I/I Reduction Program
 - Highway 327 Upgrades
 - Pye Branch Upgrades
 - South Irby/Timrod Park Upgrades
 - Upper South Jeffries Creek Interceptor Upgrades



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- Total OPCC: \$85.26 million

Mr. Henry concluded by emphasizing that the Sewer Collection System Master Plan is a living document that should be revisited at least every five years to reflect changes in conditions, costs and priorities. He also emphasized the city must remain proactive rather than reactive in system management, which will help to mitigate future risks and costs while increasing system resiliency.

[Break: 4:02pm- 4:20pm]

STORMWATER MASTER PLAN

Mr. Brandon Bichler presented the City of Florence Stormwater Master Plan to Council. Mr. Bichler gave an overview of the agenda:

1. Background
2. Challenges
3. Scope
4. Findings
5. Recommendations
6. Watershed-Based Plan

Mr. Clint Moore, Assistant City Manager of Development, took the opportunity to point out that, unlike the Water Distribution Master Plan and the Sewer Collection System Master Plan which are the sole responsibility of the City of Florence, the Stormwater Master Plan has multiple parties involved including the South Carolina Department of Transportation, Florence County and private property owners.

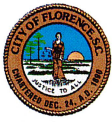
Background

The Stormwater Master Plan identifies several problem definitions to include: historical flooding events (five major hurricanes from 2015 to 2024), limitations of the current stormwater system (storm intensity and aging infrastructure as most systems are over 50 years old) and outdated design practices (reliance on roadways for temporary storage during storms, which is unsustainable due to the increased frequency of large rain events).

Mr. Bichler said this is not the first masterplan completed for the city and noted that the City of Florence completed historical drainage studies in 1960, 1974 and 1989. He provided a timeline of the city's Stormwater Program:

- 1997 – Creation of Stormwater Utility
- 2008 – Implementation of Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4)
- 2018 – Adopted the Unified Development Ordinance
- 2024 – Implementation of the Stormwater Master Plan (SWMP)

Mr. Bichler explained that the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) program requires compliance to both federal and state regulations. Key responsibilities include detecting and eliminating illicit discharges, controlling runoff from construction sites, implementing pollution prevention practices, and conducting public education and outreach. Additional duties involve maintaining a public reporting system for illicit discharges, conducting outfall monitoring, inspecting best management practices (BMPs), and performing seasonal monitoring for Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) to measure E. coli levels in Gully Branch, Jeffries Creek, and Middle Swamp. The MS4 program falls under the National



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Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES), regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which sets the program's standards. In South Carolina, the largest MS4 is the South Carolina Department of Environmental Services (SCDES). The state has three medium MS4s, serving the Columbia, Greenville, and Charleston areas, and 70 small MS4s. Within the urbanized area of Florence, there are three MS4s: Darlington County, the City of Florence, and Florence County.

Challenges

Mr. Bichler shared the unique challenges of the stormwater utility, which include multiple responsible parties/jurisdictions (City of Florence, Florence County, South Carolina Department of Transportation and private property owners), as well as the need for collaboration among stakeholders to effectively manage stormwater and maintain the utility.

The City of Florence has already invested in solutions for the stormwater program to include a Stormwater Capital Improvement Program (CIP), a Stormwater Master Plan, and Asset Management.

Scope

Mr. Bichler reviewed the scope of the Stormwater Master Plan which includes comprehensive data collection, stormwater modeling, findings and recommendations, and a watershed-based plan.

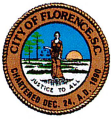
Comprehensive Data Collection establishes the existing conditions by looking at historical drainage studies, completing desktop reviews, conducting GIS mapping and completing infrastructure condition assessments. Public engagement was then initiated through public meetings and workshops in which there were 225 community identified issues from City staff and members of the public. Next, fieldwork was completed by updating stormwater infrastructure data, surveilling (CCTV) of existing infrastructure, identifying lack of or undersized infrastructure and filling in gaps from existing documentation. Once the results were received from public engagement and fieldwork, a system model (Stormwater Model) was able to be built.

Mr. Bichler explained that the Stormwater Model integrates data into a GIS-based hydrologic (overland flow) and hydraulic (pipe flow) stormwater model. As GIS is updated the stormwater model can be updated accordingly. This model focuses on critical system components that include major trunk lines in each watershed, lines 30 inches in diameter and larger, and drainage channels critical to stormwater conveyance throughout the city. The model assesses drainage capacity and predicts areas at risk during design storm conditions. The level of service criteria for the stormwater program is used to evaluate effectiveness and utilizes the 10-year and 25-year design storms.

Mr. Bichler compared findings from the model prediction and stakeholder feedback. 67% of modeled capacity restrictions were associated with known flooding locations, while 33% of modeled capacity restrictions were not associated with known flooding locations.

Findings

Mr. Bichler reviewed the findings of the city's stormwater system, which include undersized trunk lines, lack of stormwater infrastructure, inadequate maintenance (clogged culverts, overgrown open channels, jurisdictional conflicts), and homes constructed in low-lying areas or adjacent to floodways.



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Councilman McCall inquired on the status of the Oakland Avenue stormwater project. Mr. Moore replied the project is currently in permitting with the SC Department of Transportation. Currently, permitting is taking anywhere from a year to fourteen months. Following permitting, the project will need to be bid. The estimated start for bidding is March 2026.

Recommendations

Recommendations include 51 stormwater improvement projects at a total estimated cost of \$71.7 million dollars. The projects have been ranked in order of prioritization score with the following criteria: flood risk reduction, benefit cost analysis, impact on city resources (utilities, roads, etc.), phasing, areas with greatest need including low-to-moderate income areas.

Mr. Bichler highlighted stormwater projects that have already been completed to include city-funded cleaning projects at St. Anthony/College Park, Sandhurst West, Tarleton Estates, and the eastern portion of Malden Drive and the Timrod Park Stormwater Project funded by the 319 Grant.

Other ongoing projects include Cedar and McQueen, Pennsylvania Street, North Church and Oakland Avenue, Malden Drive and the Cannon Street Outfall Pond.

Watershed-Based Plan

The Watershed-Based Plan focuses on addressing water quality impacts and follows the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Nine Element Plan. It identified key areas of concern, including water quality impairments and sub-optimal stormwater control measures. To address these issues, the plan recommends 12 additional projects, totaling approximately \$4 million, aimed at reducing sedimentation and erosion to improve localized water quality. Priorities moving forward include utilizing feedback from stakeholder meetings and pursuing 319 grant funding to support water quality improvement efforts.

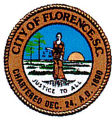
Mr. Bichler concluded by emphasizing that the Stormwater Master Plan is a dynamic, living document that should be reviewed regularly, at least every five years, to account for changes in conditions, costs, and the city's priorities. He highlighted the city's proactive approach to stormwater management, which has positioned it to better mitigate future risks and expenses while enhancing system resilience. The Stormwater Master Plan will serve as the foundation for sustainable stormwater management, with asset management playing a key role in long-term success. Mr. Bichler also stressed that strong collaboration and commitment from all responsible parties are essential to building and maintaining a sustainable, resilient stormwater system.

Councilman McCall asked Mr. Scotty Davis, City Manager, about potential funding sources and how upcoming projects will be financed. Mr. Davis responded that the city may need to consider raising the Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU) fee as a long-term solution, noting the total cost of the projects is estimated at \$71 million. He added that a similar approach was successful in the past, when a \$0.50 increase generated \$14 million for stormwater improvements.

Mayor Barnes praised Council, staff and the engineering team's efforts and emphasized that this is an ideal time for the city to advance and continue making progress.

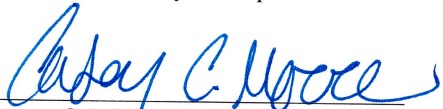
ADJOURN


Without objection, the August 13, 2025 Special Meeting of City Council was adjourned at 5:00p.m.



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Dated this 8th day of September 2025.


Casey C. Moore, Municipal Clerk


Lethonia Barnes, Mayor