

**MINUTES OF THE FLORENCE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, APRIL 21, 2014, AT 6:00 P.M, IN THE CHAMBERS OF TOWN HALL, LOCATED AT 775 NORTH MAIN STREET, FLORENCE, ARIZONA.**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Mayor Rankin called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm.

**ROLL CALL:**

Present: Rankin, Smith, Celaya, Hawkins, Montañño, Walter, Woolridge

**INVOCATION**

Councilmember Woolridge led the Invocation.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Rankin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

**Call to the Public for public comment on issues within the jurisdiction of the Town Council. Council rules limit public comment to three minutes. Individual Councilmembers may respond to criticism made by those commenting, may ask staff to review a matter raised or may ask that a matter be put on a future agenda. However, members of the Council shall not discuss or take action on any matter during an open call to the public unless the matters are properly noticed for discussion and legal action.**

Mr. Peter Koulouris, Owner, Mount Athos Restaurant, stated that Councilmember Hawkins said at the March 17, 2014, Town Council Meeting, that the Town is not business friendly. He said that he agrees with Councilmember Hawkins and said there are things that can be done better. He believes the Council is business friendly. He came before the Council regarding the sign code approximately two years ago, and at that time, Council directed staff to have a work session. The work session still hasn't happened. He has reviewed the many pages of the Town Code and believes the Code can be simplified and more accessible for new businesses.

Mr. Koulouris said he has a friend who was interested in starting a business in Florence and was provided a pamphlet from the Community Development Department. The pamphlet is bulky and not easily understandable. He said the new division that is being created to assist new businesses is a good start. He understands that staff is busy. He said the process and hoops that one must jump through gives the impression that Florence is not business friendly.

Mr. Randy Rosane, River Bottom Grill, Business Owner, provided the definition of due diligence, and stated that the Council needs to do its due diligence. He said the

Community Development staff has worked hundreds of man hours on the medical marijuana dispensary applications. He said they followed the direction of the Council, and on four occasions, the Council voted against a medical marijuana dispensary. River Bottom Grill, LLC, was the applicant for the last medical marijuana dispensary. He said he has done his due diligence by visiting dispensaries and doing further research. He has spoken with several dispensaries in various communities and found that the Councils' for those communities gave the directive to adopt the State guidelines with minor modifications.

Mr. Rosane said he was led to believe that the application for his dispensary would pass, and as a result, he has lost customers because they thought the business closed. He had also told his employees that they need to find other jobs and some did. He said the Fireman's Bike Run was rerouted to Queen Creek instead of Florence, which resulted in an approximate \$10,000 - \$15,000 loss in revenue for them.

Mr. Rosane said opinions were provided at the meeting, and the votes cast were not based on the qualifications. He said the mechanic shop on the end of Main Street has closed down, and that is another loss for Florence. He said he would like to attract business owners to run for the Council. He said the Council is like the Board of Directors for the community and suggested that Council consider giving themselves a pay increase, starting with \$1,000 in benefits. He appreciates what the Council does and they do not get paid enough for what they do.

Mr. Art Buckley, Florence Resident, discussed impact fees on infill lots. He said he has corresponded with Mr. John Murphy, CEO, for an investment firm. In one of Mr. Murphy's responses, he wrote: "... that another aspect on the Town of Florence's position on impact fees is the effect of slowly creating a ghost Town. The heart of many towns has moved nearby because the old town was unwilling to create an attractive atmosphere for itself. Florence Gardens was the last suburb of the Town before the creation of Anthem. If Florence Gardens is forced to atrophy by impact fees it will die. As homes outlive their usefulness faster than new home rejuvenate the development. The same is true of the old town. Abandoned buildings are dead unless there is a new life created around them, they will stay dead. This will cause the neighborhood to descend into a ghost town. Florence will become another town without a heart and values will be worth a lot less."

Mr. Buckley said developers go to where they have the best opportunity.

Mr. David Bustillos, Florence Resident, stated that he is interested in researching grant funding to install solar at the municipal buildings. He said it is important to be able to restore power and water services during economic or natural disasters.

Ms. Cindy Sills, Florence Resident, stated that she agrees with Mr. Buckley. She has several businesses wanting to come to Florence and as soon as they realize the cost of the impact fees, they leave. She said businesses along Main Street are closing and the existing businesses are in the hands of the Council. She said the work that was done

on Main Street narrowed Main Street and people cannot see the signage for businesses. She said something needs to be done to save Florence.

Ms. Sills referred to a comment made at the April 14, 2014, Town Council meeting regarding Ms. Jennifer Evens' discussion regarding the one stop shop for new businesses being located in the Brunenkant Building; and Mr. Montoya stating that the building has been stabilized; however, the Town must limit the amount of foot traffic. She said that they may consider moving the one stop shop to a different location if foot traffic has to be limited. She said if the Town is going to bring businesses to Town, they need to have someone who lives in Florence and is interactive with the community to understand what the residents are going through.

Mayor Rankin responded to Ms. Sills comments. He stated that Mr. Montoya was not referring to keeping people out of the Brunenkant Building, but was discussing the difference between heavy foot traffic and foot traffic. He said with regards to Ms. Evans, and the person having to live in Florence, Ms. Evans takes Florence to heart. He said he disagrees with Ms. Sills on those two points.

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS AND PRESENTATION**

### **Public hearing on proposed Alternative Expenditure Limitation – Home Rule Option (First Public Hearing held April 14, 2014).**

Mr. Mike Farina, Finance Director, stated that the 2014/2015 Fiscal Year is the final year that the Town can operate under the Alternative Expenditure Limitation - Home Rule Option for budget purposes. The Town must seek voter approval to continue to use the Alternative Expenditure Limitation - Home Rule Option for the 2015/2016 Fiscal Year. He said the Town is required to hold a second public hearing to hold a primary election in the fall that will ask the voters if the Florence Town Council can continue to use the Alternative Expenditure Limitation as part of the budget process, which is what will happen at this meeting. He said if the Town were required to follow the State imposed limitation, it would need to reduce the budget by approximately \$17,000,000.

Mayor Rankin opened the public hearing. There be no public comments, Mayor Rankin closed the public hearing.

### **Public hearing on an application received from Joseph Patrick Nolan Jr., McNolan, Inc., LB Cantina, 695 S. Main Street, Florence, Arizona, for a new Series 12 restaurant license; and for Council recommendation for approval or disapproval of said license to the Arizona Department of Liquor License and Control.**

Ms. Lisa Garcia, Deputy Town Manager/Town Clerk, stated that the Clerk's Office received the application for the Arizona Liquor License and Control and posted the application at the LB Cantina for twenty days prior to this public hearing. The Clerk's Office did not receive any positive or negative comments from the public before this

hearing. Staff is recommending to Council that the application be approved and the recommendation be sent to the Arizona Department of Liquor License and Control.

Mayor Rankin opened the public hearing. There being no public comment, Mayor Rankin closed the public hearing.

On motion of Councilmember Hawkins, seconded by Councilmember Montaña, and carried to approve the application from Joseph Patrick Nolan Jr., McNolan, Inc., LB Cantina, 695 S. Main Street, Florence, Arizona, for a new Series 12 restaurant license.

### **Presentation by Arizona Department of Transportation on the Passenger Rail Study.**

Mr. Carlos Lopez, Rail Planner, Multi-Modal Planning Division, Arizona Department of Transportation, provided an update on the Passenger Rail Study from Tucson to Phoenix. He discussed the study process overview and stated that they are working with the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA). This feasibility study will determine the most feasible route between Phoenix and Tucson, taking into consideration passenger trips and commuter trips with communities in between the metro areas. He said they have three main deliverables: develop an alternative analysis which documents the process where all potential connections are identified between Phoenix and Tucson; develop a Tier 1 Environmental Impact Statement which will identify the impacts on the proposed corridor alternatives; and develop a service development plan which will identify how the plan will be implemented. He said they anticipate having a draft environmental document for public review and comment in the fall of this year. They will also have public hearings in Maricopa, Pinal and Pima counties. They will have a preferred selected corridor by calendar year end.

Mr. Lopez said the study started in 2011 with 140 routes, and through the screening process and outreach, they have narrowed it to final 3 routes. He explained the various corridors and said the alignments follow different corridors. He said the first alternative is a common corridor, which would go from the Tucson International Airport, through downtown Tucson towards Picacho Peak following the I-10 corridor. He said the three alignments follow different corridors. The green alternative would follow the I-10 corridor. There is a need for additional capacity, so this alignment would run adjacent to the I-10 to the Phoenix area. The yellow alternative would follow the Union Pacific Railroad corridor from Eloy to the Metro Phoenix area. The orange alternative would be from the transition point, near Eloy, moving northward towards San Tan Valley, and would follow the North – South Freeway that is currently under study. It is a multi-modal corridor and would include highway and rail. It would have access to the Phoenix – Mesa Gateway Airport and follow existing corridors such as US 60 into the Phoenix area. All of the alignments would join in Tempe and go towards the downtown Phoenix area and west valley.

Mr. Lopez said in this last year they have been developing technical analysis on the final routes. He said they are developing ridership numbers and anticipate

approximately 3 million riders, with 16,000 riders per day. They have been able to identify the magnitude of difference and are able to compare their plan with existing systems in other communities. They are also developing cost estimates, which range between \$3.5 billion to \$10 billion. The rail system would be approximately 120 miles. The yellow alternative would be the least expensive and the orange will be the most expensive.

Mr. Lopez said they have been measuring the criteria to rank each alternative. There are six major criteria that are measured. One of criteria's is the financial feasibility and public outreach has been a key component. They attend community events and festivals and distribute passenger rail booklets at these events. The booklets are very informative and include such information such as travel times, cost, and ridership. Their outreach has been successful. They have not been able to attend any events in Florence, but are open to suggestions. Their public outreach timeframe is from March through May. Since the start of the public outreach on the three final alternatives, they have received 2,300 surveys. He said they have an online tool and have hard copy surveys with them at the events they attend. He said based on the surveys received, the preferred alternative is the yellow alternative.

Mr. Lopez provided an overview of the questions posed on the survey and discussed the attribute questions. He said they are also doing agency outreach. They will develop the environmental document at the end of the fall and will ask for input and comments on the environmental document. At the end of 2014, they will have the final EIS which will identify the preferred alternative between Tucson and Phoenix. They will be seeking FRA and FTA approval with a record of decision.

Councilmember Montañó inquired if he has looked at the number of employees who work at Arizona Department of Corrections and commute from the Mesa area, and if so, did they consider that number as one of the statistics.

Mr. Lopez said they have considered travel demands and travel patterns. He said demand patterns were done for commuters from the Town of Florence and Pinal County traveling to Maricopa County and to Pima County. The travel demand patterns are in the travel demand model that is part of the study in developing ridership numbers.

Councilmember Montañó inquired if they have received the numbers of vehicles that travel from US 60 to SH 79 and into Florence.

Mr. Lopez responded that those figures are part of the travel demand model and those commuters have been accounted for.

Vice-Mayor Smith inquired if growth is considered. He said growth is anticipated in the Superstition Vistas area.

Mr. Lopez stated growth is a big element. They are looking at existing travel demands and the future demands of 2035. The orange alternative loops and connects to the

Mesa Gateway Airport. He said the Superstition Vistas Corridor is near the San Tan Valley and the airport, which the orange corridor would follow.

Councilmember Celaya inquired how they give weight to the areas to allow for fairness in such areas where there is no population, such as the Superstition Vistas area, when taking into consideration the routes.

Mr. Lopez stated they have a three pronged approach:

- They have a technical analysis where they look at environmental, financial feasibility, ridership, and technical criteria.
- They also have public outreach where they may want the fast route, regardless of any other factors or considerations.
- They have agency input where they voice their preferences.

Councilmember Hawkins said Mesa Gateway is one of the three major airports and he can't imagine it not having a stop there.

Mayor Rankin said the orange alternative is closest to Florence. He asked Mr. Mark Eckhoff, Community Development Director, if it follows the Town's preferred location of where the North - South Corridor should be.

Mr. Eckhoff stated their North – South Corridor alignment follows an aggregate assumption of where the North – South Corridor is. He said ADOT has not finalized its exact location.

Mayor Rankin stated that the green and yellow alternatives will go through populated areas, and the orange alternative will go through county land and areas that have little commercial and little residential. He said it would seem that purchasing vacant land rather than eminent domain or altering freeways would be more cost effective. He inquired how many of the surveys come from Maricopa County, Pinal County, and Pima County. He also inquired if those submitting surveys from the metropolitan areas are swaying the decision.

Mr. Lopez stated he can provide the total of surveys from each county. He said they are one month into the three month outreach period. The totals are preliminary. He said the outreach will be completed at the end of May and they will have a better picture from the public. The outreach is one part of the analysis.

Mayor Rankin inquired how much emphasis ADOT has put in Pinal County at this time.

Mr. Lopez said they were very limited on community events in the area as they were not able to identify events in the Pinal County area. He said for this phase, they have only attended one event and that was at the Gila River Indian Community. They have also attended an event in Marana, which is in Pima County. In 2012, they attended events in Casa Grande, Maricopa, Coolidge, and Central Arizona College.

Mayor Rankin said ADOT may want to consider extending the period through the July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend where a lot of communities have planned events to allow for public participation and community involvement.

Mr. Lopez said ADOT will have their hearings in the fall for the environmental document for the final alternatives. He said that is another opportunity for public and agency standpoint.

Mayor Rankin said there needs to be more consideration for public participation from Pinal County and ADOT needs to extend the participation period. He said the Superstition Vistas is on State Land.

Vice-Mayor Smith said the orange alternative would go through the Superstition Vistas, which is on State Land. He said State Land should be setting aside land for right of ways for the North – South Corridor and the rail. The alternative may be longer but would cost less if State Land and ADOT can work together.

Discussion occurred on costs for the various alternatives.

Mr. Lopez said one of the reasons for the high cost for the orange alternative is the Tempe and Mesa areas have grade separations due to following certain corridors, which cost more.

Councilmember Celaya said ADOT needs to recognize the votes of the people. He said the people in the middle of the area need to be considered, not only at the start and stop points.

Councilmember Montaño said ADOT needs to consider those who work in corrections during shift changes between 8:00 pm and 10:00 pm. He said those commuters could be potential riders and they need to be considered. He said the amount of traffic that comes and leaves Florence is quite a bit, and it happens three times each, every day.

Councilmember Hawkins said the green alternative does not have many places of where they can pick up riders since there is nothing in the area. He said the orange alternative would have more ridership because they go through more communities. The yellow alternative would still have more ridership than the green alternative.

Councilmember Walter inquired if he will be sharing the total number of surveys received from each county.

Mr. Lopez said he would be providing those figures.

Councilmember Walter said the timeframe that ADOT chose to conduct the survey was not conducive to Florence, nor in the Town's favor, as the winter visitors have left.

Mayor Rankin asked Mr. Lopez to forward the Council's recommendation to ADOT.

**Presentation of service award to Debbie Frias for 15 years of service to the Town of Florence.**

Mayor Rankin presented a service award to Debbie Frias for 15 years of service to the Town of Florence. He thanked her for her service and commitment to the Town.

Mr. Ernie Feliz, Grants and Assessment Manager, stated that Ms. Frias does a great job with assessments and goes the extra mile to ensure the assessment program runs smoothly. He acknowledged her great customer services skills, especially in dealing with customers who are upset. He said that those who work with her speak kindly of her and listed her admirable qualities.

**Presentation of service award and retirement gift to Jose Viola for 30 years of service to the Town of Florence.**

Mayor Rankin presented a service award and retirement gift to Jose Viola for 30 years of service to the Town of Florence. He said that Mr. Viola began his employment with the Town on April 25, 1984. He provided an overview of his employment history with the Town. He said that Mr. Viola transferred to the Utilities Department because the Town contracted out the sanitation services, where Mr. Viola had worked throughout his tenure with the Town. He thanked Mr. Viola for his service and wished him the best in his retirement.

Mr. Wayne Costa, Public Works Director, thanked Mr. Viola for his contributions to the Public Works Department and wished him the best, health, happiness, and a long life in his retirement.

Mr. John Mitchell, Utilities Department, stated that Mr. Viola has been a joy in the department. He appreciates Mr. Viola's hard work, diligence, and leadership that he has brought to the Utilities Department. He wished him the best.

**Presentation by Greater Florence Chamber of Commerce recognizing Total Concept as the Business of the Month.**

Ms. Judy Hughes, Executive Director, Greater Florence Chamber of Commerce, stated that they are recognizing Total Concept Salon and Boutique. She said they have been in business for over 30 years and hold the distinction of being the longest standing building located on Main Street. They are very active in the community and give to civic organizations as well as school fund raising efforts. They have three full time stylists that bring over 54 years of experience. The owner, Suzanne Simons, has 30 years experience doing pedicures and manicures as well and stated that they are the 'Steel Magnolias of Florence' and have been the hub of the Town to hang out and see what's going on.

Ms. Hughes presented the Business of the Month Award to Total Concepts.

Ms. Simon thanked everyone for the award and thanked all of their clients.

## **Presentation of the Greater Florence Chamber of Commerce's Annual Report**

Mr. Damon Anderson, Chairman, Greater Florence Chamber of Commerce, provided a presentation, which he outlined the following accomplishments:

- New logo
- 2013 Membership
  - Early in the year 2013, the Chamber took a hard look at its system and identified the need to revamp the system to be able to identify and track its members. In March, they eliminated all members who were outside of 30 days overdue for membership dues, which reduced its member total to 125 paid members.
  - As of March 31, 2014, the membership total is 165. They have grown 24% in one year and now have an accurate system for tracking membership.
    - The majority of these new members were signed by Judy Hughes, the new Executive Director, who started in December 2013, and made it her number one goal to be present in the community and and meet the public.
- Florence Leads Group
  - Launched on February 5, 2014, to help area businesses and businesses that provide services to the Town of Florence develop strong community relationships through the exchange of business referrals and marketplace information.
  - Has its own Facebook page and logo
  - Conducts weekly meetings at Mount Athos Restaurant, where a continental breakfast and drink are served for a nominal fee
  - Allows one business per industry category
  - Guests are encouraged to attend two consecutive meetings prior to applying for membership
  - Membership is \$35.00 and is non-refundable
  - Quarterly dues are \$30.00, commencing at the time of application acceptance
- Structure of Florence Leads
  - Mission Statement
    - The purpose of the Florence Leads group is to establish a consistent structured meeting environment conducive for businesses located in Florence; and for those businesses who conduct business within the town limits of Florence, to come together for the sole purpose of exchanging business referrals, marketplace information, and leadership training. Membership is limited to 30 people.
  - Eligibility
    - Prospective members must be able to demonstrate a high standard of quality, ethics, professionalism, and reliability. Submitted applications will be voted on by membership and the Vice President by way of silent vote and is at the discretion of the committee.
    - One representative per industry classification will be admitted to the group. When a position becomes available notification to community will be provided and applications will be accepted.

- 2013 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Casino Night update
  - Held on July 28, 2013, at the Holiday Inn Express and Suites
  - Peter Koulouris and the chamber team organized an event that has been raved about all year.
  - Financial revenue breakdown:
    - We hosted 275+ locals.
    - Bar Sales \$ 1,695
    - Sponsorship funds \$ 6,300
    - Ticket Sales \$ 7,600
    - Additional chips sold to players \$ 420
    - 50/50 tickets \$ 80
    - Total revenue: \$16,095
  - Expenses for event:
    - Food costs \$ 5,133
    - Dealers and tables cost \$ 2,195
    - Total Expense \$ 7,328
  - Total profit for even: \$ 8,767
- First Thursday events
  - Held at McFarland State Park to drive foot traffic into the downtown area
  - 2013 totals
    - 282 participants
    - Total profit \$ 941.50
  - 2014 totals to date (February – April)
    - No event in January
    - 127 participants
    - Total profit \$ 392.00
    - 8 months remaining
- McFarland State Park
  - Article written about them in Sunset Magazine
  - Number of visitors in March 2013: 1082
  - Number of Visitors in March 2014: 1868
  - Increase of 786 visitors in one year; primarily due to write- ups in various articles
  - Donations in March 2013 \$197.00
  - Donations in March 2014 \$439.00
  - Increase in donations of \$242.00
- McFarland Park Gift Shop
  - Opened in September 2013
  - Supplies cost: \$5,671.64
  - Revenue generated: \$9,208.31
  - Net profit: \$3,536.67
- Chamber Nation
  - In January 2014, the Chamber was granted a \$5,000 sponsorship from the Florence IDA, which allowed the Chamber to purchase a new internet platform to offer our members a more cutting edge internet tool. This tool has become the driving engine behind our new and improved Chamber.
  - Benefits of this new platform consist of:

- A webpage presence for all members of the Chamber through Chamber Nation
- Each member has the ability to create online coupons and discount campaigns to promote their business online to other members
- Ability to pay membership dues directly online
- A more enhanced search engine to find members and services that are needed
- Members have access to Google analytics that provide the number of visitors to the website and what pages were visited throughout any given month
- Full access to an event calendar where members can add their own special events to the calendar and promote themselves to the entire Chamber and to the greater internet world.
- The Chamber of Commerce is extremely proud to have Chamber Nation as its new engine to drive new opportunities and tools to its members and look forward to further expanding this platform to its growing membership.
- Provides a monthly report with critical data to show how the webpage is being used.
- Chamber luncheons
  - Will book lunches calendared for the entire year
  - Will have high impact speakers
- Budget
  - July 2014 – March 2014 Budget \$84,850.87
  - Florence's contribution \$32,500.00
- Marketing expenses
- Chamber NOI
  - \$16,135 in the positive
  - Explained savings and have been conservative in spending
  - Explained operating expenses
- Variables
  - The Chamber saved \$6,500 in labor by not employing an Executive Director for from mid-September through November 2013.
  - The Chamber reduced employee hours from July through October 2013, as its first and second quarter checks were not received until October 2013, saving approximately \$6,000 in labor that they had budgeted to spend.
  - The Chamber had not budgeted to receive a \$5,000 sponsorship from the Florence IDA that would cover all costs for its migration to Chamber Nation for the entire first year. This covered the initial set up fees as well as the fees for all members each month to maintain the platform
  - The Chamber is very pleased to see the success of its gift Shop but have made far more profit than it had anticipated and look forward to seeing more growth in the future.

## **Presentation of the 2014 Citizen Survey**

Mr. Jess Knudson, Assistant Town Manager, stated 1100 surveys were sent to Florence households in December 2013 and 466 surveys were returned, which exceed the national average of 25%. He said the results represent the response of approximately 914 residents. The margin of error is +/- 4% and the the past survey results are available on the Town's website. He said the handout also provided the results from previous years. He provided an overview of the following:

- Survey Structure
  - Page 1 of survey
    - Questions that reflect how the residents generally feel about Florence
    - What they see as the positives/negatives
  - Page 2 of survey
    - Services that Florence provides
  - Page 3
    - Demographic information questions
    - Policy type questions
  - Page 4
    - Demographic information questions
    - Resident can provide their comments and other feedback

Mr. Knudson provided the results to the following questions:

- How would you describe Florence as a place to live?
  - 69% Above average
  - 23% Average
  - 8% Below average
- Do you feel safe and secure in your neighborhood?
  - 88% Above average
  - 2% Below average
- Amount of crime in Florence
  - 52% Above average
- What the top likes are for Florence
  - Climate
  - Quiet, friendly people
  - Historical character
  - Small town feel
- What are the top dislikes are for Florence
  - Shopping opportunities
  - Job opportunities
- Best Service Levels
  - Fire
  - Professionalism of Library employees
  - Professionalism of Senior Center employees
- Worst Service Levels
  - Scores fell within average; however, they were scored the lowest
    - Water Taste
    - Street repair and maintenance
    - Maintenance of downtown Florence
    - Channel 11

- Recreation facilities
  - Stormwater drainage
  - Variety of recreational programs
- How would you rate the services of the Town, in comparison with Pinal County, the State, and Federal government?
  - 1<sup>st</sup> - Florence ranked first
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> - Pinal County
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> - State
  - 4<sup>th</sup> - Federal
- Had the resident had contact with a Town employee within the last six months?
  - 62% - Yes
    - 83% said the employees were above average in being responsive
    - 84% said the employees were above average in being knowledgeable
    - 85% said the employees were above average in being courteous
  - 85% indicated an overall above average impression
  - 4% indicated below average impression
- How you rate the actions of the Town Council?
  - Majority of response said not sure
  - Good to average was the next highest scores
- Are you satisfied with the services provided by Right Away Disposal (RAD)?
  - 77% Satisfied
  - 11% Not satisfied
  - 12% Not sure
- Do you support the annexation of Magic Ranch, Crestfield Manor, and Wild Horse Estates?
  - 32% Yes
  - 17% No
  - 51% Undecided
- Should the Town support the incorporation efforts of San Tan Valley?
  - 24% Yes
  - 21% No
  - 56% Unsure
- Should a medical marijuana dispensary be allowed to open in the Town of Florence?
  - 21% Yes
  - 60% No
  - 19% Not Sure
- Should the Town spend money on the restoration of historic buildings in the downtown?
  - 67% Yes
  - 15% No
  - 18% Not sure
- Are you in favor of the Florence Fire Department providing ambulance service?
  - 37% Yes
  - 23% No
  - 40% Need more information
- Do you support the North End Framework Vision Plan (Territory Square)?

- 14% Yes
- 8% No
- 78% Not sure
- Where do you get the majority of your information about Florence?
  - 49% Word of Mouth
  - 30% Newspaper
  - 34% use Facebook or Twitter
- Demographics
  - High percentage of respondents are retired
  - 77% of respondents are married
  - Equal split between male and females
  - 57% are full time residents
  - 43% are part-time residents
  - Average age of respondents is 67 years old
  - Average length of time that people lived in Florence is 10 years

Mr. Knudson stated the comments were included in the survey results exactly as they were submitted, including grammatical errors.

Mr. Hawkins said 81% of the respondents are retired. He would like to get feedback from younger residents and those who are currently employed.

Mr. Knudson said it is a challenge with surveys. The surveys were sent out randomly to the Town residents and those that are retired generally have more time to fill out surveys.

Councilmember Celaya agreed with Councilmember Hawkins. He said that there was previous discussion on asking how comfortable the responders were with the understanding of the issue that they were giving their opinion on.

Mr. Knudson said the survey included an option to choose "not sure" if they did not have an understanding of the subject. He said it may indicate that educating the public is important.

Councilmember Hawkins stated a schedule of programming needs to be added to Channel 11 to let the viewers know when the various meetings will be aired.

Councilmember Walter said the Town Code needs to be updated and the Town has to look at ways to attract businesses, since they will generate revenue. The Town is also looking at annexation, since rooftops bring in businesses. She would like staff to research using HURF funds for work in the Florence Gardens area for road paving, and Impact Fees for the infill lots. It will be helpful if staff would respond to the Council regarding the issues.

Mayor Rankin suggested that the surveys be sent to those on the registered voter by area. It would provide for a more diverse response. It is disappointing that only 8% of the responses received were from the core.

Mr. Knudson said that an equal number of surveys were sent to all areas.

Mayor Rankin said he felt some of the questions seemed irrelevant, such as the type of televisions that the residents have.

Mr. Knudson explained the rationale for the television question and stated it is in relationship with the type of equipment upgrades that the Town will be doing in the near future and how it will affect Channel 11 and those who view the channel.

Mayor Rankin does not like the automated telephone system and would prefer that a live person answer the telephone. He said he agrees with the comments regarding RAD and believes there are issues with bulk trash pickup that need to be addressed. He said there are comments that he does not agree with; however, he accepts them.

Councilmember Celaya asked that the following question be added to the next questionnaire: Are you willing to accept a tax increase in order to provide some of the services that you are requesting?

#### **ADJOURN TO A SPECIAL MEETING**

On motion of Councilmember Woolridge, seconded by Councilmember Walter, and carried to adjourn to a Special Meeting.

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 1434-14:**

Ms. Lisa Garcia, Deputy Town Manager/Town Clerk, read Resolution No. 1434-14 by title only.

#### **A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF FLORENCE, PINAL COUNTY, ARIZONA, PROPOSING AN EXTENSION OF THE ALTERNATIVE EXPENDITURE LIMITATION.**

Mr. Mike Farina, Finance Director, stated that two public hearings have been held, as required. The resolution is before Council for approval, which would place the question on the primary election ballot asking for voter approval to extend the use of the Alternative Expenditure Limitation as part of the budget process.

On motion of Councilmember Walter, seconded by Councilmember Hawkins, and carried to adopt Resolution No. 1434-14.

#### **ADJOURN FROM A SPECIAL MEETING**

On motion of Councilmember Woolridge, seconded by Councilmember Walter, and carried to adjourn from a Special Meeting.

**CONSENT: All items indicated by an (\*) will be handled by a single vote as part of the consent agenda, unless a Councilmember or a member of the public objects at the time the agenda item is called.**

**Resolution No. 1433-14:**

Ms. Lisa Garcia, Deputy Town Manager/Town Clerk, read Resolution No. 1433-14 by title only.

**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF FLORENCE, PINAL COUNTY, ARIZONA, AUTHORIZING AN AMENDMENT TO THE FLORENCE FIREFIGHTER'S PROFIT SHARING PLAN.**

**Resolution No. 1436-14:**

Ms. Lisa Garcia, Deputy Town Manager/Town Clerk, read Resolution No. 1436-14 by title only.

**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF FLORENCE, PINAL COUNTY, ARIZONA, ORDERING THE ABANDONMENT OF RIGHT-OF-WAY EASEMENTS ADJACENT TO THE CCA PROPERTY IN FLORENCE, ARIZONA AS DESCRIBED WITHIN THE ATTACHED EXHIBITS 1, 2 and 3.**

**\*Approval of Sun West Contractors for improvements at Well 3B, in an amount not to exceed \$1,576,264.67.**

**\*Approval of the resignation of Barry R. Reed from the Planning and Zoning Commission.**

**\*Approval of the March 3, March 17, and March 26, 2014 Town Council Minutes.**

**\*Receive and file the following board and commission minutes:  
November 20, 2013 Library Advisory Board minutes  
October 24, 2013 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board minutes.**

On motion of Councilmember Walter, seconded by Councilmember Montaña, and carried to approve the Consent Agenda, as written, with the exception of Item 9a.

**Resolution No. 1433-14:**

Ms. Lisa Garcia, Deputy Town Manager/Town Clerk, read Resolution No. 1433-14 by title only.

**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF FLORENCE, PINAL COUNTY, ARIZONA, AUTHORIZING AN AMENDMENT TO THE FLORENCE FIREFIGHTER'S PROFIT SHARING PLAN.**

Mr. Scott Barber, Human Resources Director, stated the resolution will amend the Town of Florence, Part-time Firefighters' Profit Sharing Plan. The Town of Florence Part-time Firefighters' Profit Sharing Plan has been in existence for a very long time, having been initially established to provide a benefit to volunteer firefighters. When the Town moved to a Fire Department staffed with both full-time and part-time employees, the Plan evolved and has been maintained to provide a benefit for part-time firefighters. The program required a six year membership vesting period. In 2010, it changed to a two year 100% vesting period. He said discussions have occurred with representatives who have served on the pension board to change to 100% vesting schedule immediately. The Town fills their full time vacancies from the part-time group and makes the tenure of the part-time individuals in that group shorter. They also want to maximize the benefit for the employee.

Councilmember Walter asked what the percentage is that the Town will be contributing to the part time profit sharing plan.

Mr. Barber said the percentages don't change. Participants contribute 5.25% of gross wages, and the Town contributes 5%. This will not impact the Town financially.

Councilmember Walter inquired if they are not part of the Arizona Public Safety Retirement System.

Mr. Barber said the part-time firefighters are not part of the Arizona Public Safety Retirement System.

Councilmember Walter said there are other issues with social security, percentages into retirements, and other items. She stated that it may be best if this item were tabled.

Mr. Barber said those issues have no bearing on the item at hand.

Councilmember Hawkins said the social security and retirement issues have already been addressed.

Councilmember Walter said that it needs to be further discussed.

Mr. Charles A. Montoya, Town Manager, stated the direction from Council and Human Resources was to follow the rules under State Statute that was given to the Town for municipalities for fighters that should have been in place previously. The Town is in the process of moving forward on this.

Councilmember Celaya inquired if the two items are intertwined.

Mr. Barber said the social security issue and the Part-time Firefighter Profit Sharing Plan are separate items.

Mayor Rankin inquired how many employees this will affect.

Mr. Barber said there are 12 new part-time firefighters.

Mayor Rankin inquired if the proposal benefits both the Town and employees.

Mr. Barber said that it doesn't benefit the Town, except for the perspective that it recognizes the value that the individuals bring to the department and to the citizens. He said the Town could not do constant manning without the contribution of the part-time firefighters, and this is one way to recognize the value of the contribution.

Mayor Rankin inquired if the employees will receive a benefit to the part-time staff over the existing program that the Town currently has.

Mr. Barber stated yes, they become vested immediately upon their membership.

Mayor Rankin inquired what happens to the money that is in the fund.

Mr. Barber said the money that is in the trust for the profit sharing plan is used exclusively for those purposes only.

Councilmember Montaña inquired if the firefighter can withdraw both their contribution and the Town's contribution when they resign.

Mr. Barber said they would be able to withdraw both.

Mayor Rankin inquired if they have met with the Board regarding this matter.

Mr. Barber said they did meet with the pension board and discussed the vesting schedule.

Mayor Rankin inquired if there are any other departments with employees who are 100% vested upon employment with the Town.

Mr. Barber stated other employees are not similarly situated. He said the other employees are covered by Statute under the Arizona State Retirement System or Public Safety Personnel Retirement System.

Mayor Rankin inquired if this item is time sensitive.

Mr. Barber said the item is not time sensitive; however, there is no reason to delay.

Councilmember Hawkins said that it seems beneficial to the employees.

On motion of Councilmember Woolridge, seconded by Councilmember Hawkins, and carried to adopt Resolution No. 1433-14.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**Ordinance No. 607-14:**

Ms. Lisa Garcia, Deputy Town Manager/Town Clerk, read Ordinance No. 607-14 by title

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF FLORENCE, PINAL COUNTY, ARIZONA, EXTENDING AND INCREASING THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE TOWN OF FLORENCE, PINAL COUNTY, STATE OF ARIZONA, PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF TITLE 9, CHAPTER 4, ARTICLE 7, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES AND AMENDMENTS THERETO, BY ANNEXING CERTAIN TERRITORY CONTIGUOUS TO THE EXISTING TOWN LIMITS OF THE TOWN OF FLORENCE, ARIZONA, AND PROVIDING FOR A RESCISSION OF SUCH ANNEXATION IF THE ANNEXATION IS CHALLENGED (REDSTONE RANCH ANNEXATION NO. 2013-03) (First reading held April 7, 2014).**

Mr. Mark Eckhoff, Community Development Director, stated that the three items on the agenda pertain to the the Redstone Ranch annexation. The area consists of approximately 30 acres and is located adjacent to Johnson Ranch estates. He said the second item is to apply the comparable zoning, which is required by State Statute. The third item is to change the zoning to R-16, which is single family residential zoning district. The property owner is Perry Mathis.

On motion of Councilmember Walter, seconded by Councilmember Montaña, and carried to adopt Ordinance No. 607-14.

**Ordinance No. 608-14:**

Ms. Lisa Garcia, Deputy Town Manager/Town Clerk, read Ordinance No. 608-14 by title only.

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF FLORENCE, PINAL COUNTY, ARIZONA, AMENDING THE "TOWN OF FLORENCE ZONING MAP" BY CHANGING THE ZONING CLASSIFICATION OF A CERTAIN PARCEL OF LAND FROM PINAL COUNTY GENERAL RURAL (GR) ZONING DISTRICT TO TOWN OF FLORENCE SINGLE- RESIDENTIAL RANCHETTE (R1-R) ZONING DISTRICT (REDSTONE RANCH ANNEXATION INITIAL/COMPARABLE ZONING) (First reading held April 7, 2014).**

On motion of Councilmember Walter, seconded by Councilmember Hawkins, and carried to adopt Ordinance No. 608-14.

**Ordinance No. 609-14:**

Ms. Lisa Garcia, Deputy Town Manager/Town Clerk, read Ordinance No. 609-14 by title only.

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF FLORENCE, PINAL COUNTY, ARIZONA, APPROVING A ZONE CHANGE FROM SINGLE- RESIDENTIAL RANCHETTE (R1-**

**R) ZONING DISTRICT TO SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL (R1-6) ON THE REDSTONE RANCH PROPERTY LOCATED IN A PORTION OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 7, TOWNSHIP 5 SOUTH, RANGE 10 EAST, GILA AND SALT RIVER MERIDIAN, PINAL COUNTY, ARIZONA, AKA, APN 206-01-0230 (PZC-41-13-ZC) (First reading held April 7, 2014).**

On motion of Councilmember Walter, seconded by Councilmember Montaña, and carried to adopt Ordinance No. 609-14.

### **MANAGER'S REPORT**

There was no Manager's Report.

### **CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

Ms. Denise Kollert, Florence Resident, said that she and her husband Larry have been appointed to report back to Florence Gardens what transpired at the Council meetings. She will include written reports to the Florence Gardens Board.

### **CALL TO THE COUNCIL**

Councilmember Celaya thanked the Utilities Department for their assistance in a water break at the Pinal County complex.

Councilmember Montaña said Florence was presented very well at Country Thunder. He said Florence had a good opportunity as to what Florence is and what it can offer.

Councilmember Walter thanked Mr. Knudson for his presentation and the residents who submitted the surveys. She asked staff to provide to Council the percentages that the Town contributes to all departments/classification retirements prior to the upcoming budget work session. She said the reason that she wanted to postpone the retirement item is because there are issues going on pertaining to the 218 Agreement. She said there are employees who had 5.2% of their wages withheld for years and they will not get their contributions returned. She said there are classifications where some earn a percentage and others earn a stipend. Stipends are pensionable and are required by FSLA law to be paid an overtime rate, but yet it is separate from the salary. She said due to the concerns, she felt that it would be best to address them at the public work session. She thanked those who were recognized.

Councilmember Hawkins said the Main Street Park looks very nice.

Vice-Mayor thanked the Parks and Recreation staff for the Eggstravangza event.

Mayor Rankin said the Easter event was great and had a great turnout. He said there was an accident on SH 287. He said ADOT needs to do something. Florence has to be in prevention mode. He said the area is busy and he will be attending ADOT meetings to let them know what is happening.

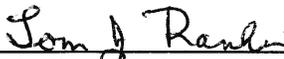
Councilmember Hawkins asked the status of the Pinal County building that burned down on Main Street. He inquired if they can move forward on the demolition of the building.

Councilmember Celaya provided an update and said a contractor will be demolishing the building. He said paperwork has been forwarded to the Pinal County Finance Department. He suggested that the Easter Egg Hunt be separated by age groups.

Councilmember Walter said there is a Magma Dam tour on April 30, 2014 and asked that the information be placed on the website.

**ADJOURNMENT**

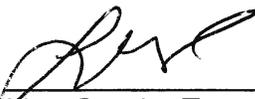
On motion of Councilmember Hawkins, seconded by Councilmember Walter, and carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:33 pm.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Tom J. Rankin, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Lisa Garcia, Town Clerk

I certify that the following is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Florence Town Council meeting held on April 21, 2014, and that the meeting was duly called to order and that a quorum was present.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Lisa Garcia, Town Clerk