

MINUTES OF THE FLORENCE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 1, 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 6:08 pm.

ROLL CALL:

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice-Mayor Smith led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC/COUNCIL RESPONSE:

Call to the Public for Public Comment on issues within the jurisdiction of the Town Council. 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.

Ms. Adrianna Lahr, Florence Resident, stated that the Florence Dog Park is in need of routine maintenance including the repair of the water fountain that has been broken for three years. She stated she would like to see the park taken better care of and inquired which department is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the facility.

Mayor Rankin acknowledged Ms. Lahr's concerns and asked the Parks Department to follow up and report back to him in two weeks.

Mr. James Mannato, Town Attorney, stated that he was leaving his position with the Town. He stated the position has been challenging, yet rewarding, providing him the opportunity to work with highly talented and dedicated Town employees. He thanked Ms. Lisa Garcia for her continued support and professional advice throughout his tenure with the Town. He advised the Council to be skeptical of those who try to undermine the Council as they are doing great things for the Town.

Mr. Dave Downey, Florence Resident, stated that he believes Councilmember Walter would be the right person to be elected as Vice-Mayor. He stated that she is a civic-minded person who recently was promoted to Vice-Principal of Walker-Butte Elementary. He stated that she is committed to her family, neighbors and community, and represents the Town of Florence well.

Ms. Denise Kollert, Florence Resident, thanked Councilmember Celaya and Vice-Mayor Smith for their service to the Town. She thanked the Parks and Recreation Department for the Junior Parada parade on Saturday and was happy to see so many participants

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and attendees at the event. She stated that Alison Feliz, Recreation Programmer, is doing a great job with the Concert in the Park series and hopes it continues.

Ms. Micky McGraw, Florence Resident, stated she has not received any communication from the Town Manager regarding the zero-usage water and sewer fees charged to part-time residents that she brought to Council at their last regular meeting. She stated that collectively, Caliente RV Park, Florence Gardens and Tierra Del Sol, with an estimated 1758 RV spots of which 1540 are seasonal, pay approximately \$65,957.30 in zero-usage fees for water and sewer monthly. She stated she would like to understand why the fees are so high and would like to have the billing protocol reviewed for a more equitable fee for zero-usage times.

Mayor Rankin requested Mr. Charles Montoya, Town Manager, to meet with Ms. McGraw in the next 24 hours.

Mr. Montoya stated he would collect the information and contact Ms. McGraw.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Discussion/Approval/Disapproval of the November 3, November 17 and November 21, 2014 Council Minutes.

On motion of Councilmember Montaña, seconded by Vice-Mayor Smith and carried to approve the Council Meeting minutes of November 3, November 17 and November 21, 2014.

CALL TO THE COUNCIL

Councilmember Walter stated that the Junior Parada parade and rodeo were amazing. She thanked the following:

- Councilmember Celaya and Vice-Mayor Smith for their service.
- Mr. Mannato for his legal guidance over the years. He will be missed.
- Ms. Garcia, for all her hard work and for everything she does for Council and for the Town of Florence.

Councilmember Walter welcomed the newly seated Councilmembers and looks forward to working with them.

Councilmember Montaña stated he wished Councilmember Celaya and Vice-Mayor Smith a wonderful life away from Town Council and appreciated their hard work and service. He congratulated the new Councilmembers and looks forward to working with them. He stated that he appreciated Mr. Mannato's work with the Town.

Councilmember Woolridge stated it was a pleasure working with Councilmember Celaya and Vice-Mayor Smith. She stated Mr. Mannato has done a great job over the

year, performing his duties with integrity and honesty, and will be missed. She stated that she was pleased to see Ms. Garcia being recognized for her hard work and service to the Town.

Councilmember Celaya stated that it has been an honor to serve the community. He stated serving on the Town Council has provided him the opportunity for personal and professional growth. He stated over the past 10 years he has seen the Town grow and develop completing multiple projects. He thanked staff for teaching him, providing integrity and honesty to the process, and providing a strong foundation for the Town and Council. He expressed his appreciation to all the Councilmembers, past and present, and wished the new Councilmembers success in their new positions.

Vice-Mayor Smith stated the Town has the best departments he has seen. He stated the service level they provide the community is outstanding. He thanked staff for their commitment and support to the Council and Town, and to the past and current Councilmembers who have served the community well. He reminded the current Councilmembers and the newly seated members that the Town Council is made up of elected members and as such they need to listen to the voters.

Mayor Rankin stated he is sad to see Councilmember Celaya and Vice-Mayor Smith leave Council. He stated that that he agrees with Councilmember Celaya regarding the numerous accomplishments of the Town over the years and those accomplishments came to be through the efforts of the Town Council, staff and the voters of Florence past and present. He stated the Town will continue to grow and move forward making Florence better. He thanked Councilmember Celaya and Vice-Mayor Smith for participating in those efforts.

Mayor Rankin expressed his appreciation for the patience and understanding of the spouses and family members of those who serve or have served on the Town Council. He stated that he understands that the needs of the Town can take time away from family and appreciates their support of this commitment to the community.

Mayor Rankin stated that he would like to send best wishes to Mr. Wayne Costa, Public Works Director, and hopes he gets well soon.

SWEARING IN OF THE NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIALS

Honorable Steven J. Fuller swore in new Councilmembers: Rebecca Guilin, John Lee Anderson and re-elected Councilmember Valerie Woolridge.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Rankin, Woolridge, Hawkins, Walter, Montaña, Guilin, Anderson

PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Tom Rankin recognizes former Vice-Mayor Smith for his dedication and service to the community.

Mayor Rankin presented a pocket watch to Mr. Smith in gratitude for her service to the Town. He expressed his appreciation for Mr. Smith's service as Vice-Mayor and looks forward to continuing to work with Mr. Smith throughout the Town in various activities.

Mayor Tom Rankin recognizes former Councilmember Celaya for his dedication and service to the community.

Mayor Rankin presented a gift certificate to the Painted Guitar to Mr. Celaya in gratitude for his service to the Town.

Presentation of Service Award to Lisa Garcia, Deputy Town Manager/Town Clerk.

Mayor Rankin presented to Ms. Garcia a plaque representing her loyal dedication and commitment to the Town of Florence for 20 years. He stated that Ms. Garcia joined the Town of Florence in 1994 as the Executive Secretary/Deputy Town Clerk. She was promoted to Town Clerk in 1997 and in 2011 added to her position, Deputy Town Manager. He stated that Ms. Garcia earned her Master Municipal Clerk designation in 2006 and was elected twice as President of the Arizona Clerks Association.

Mayor Rankin stated that Ms. Garcia graciously performs her duties providing guidance to Council and staff, representing the Town of Florence, its history and its community atmosphere with genuine love and compassion for the Town.

Ms. Garcia stated that it has been a pleasure working for the Town and with staff. She has enjoyed working for the community and looks forward to the opportunity to work for the Town for another 10 years.

Ms. Garcia's family presented to her with a balloon and flowers.

Public Hearing on Resolution No. 1486-14: A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF FLORENCE, ARIZONA, PROPOSING A ONE-TIME SPECIFIC AMOUNT IN EXCESS OF THE STATE-IMPOSED EXPENDITURE LIMITATION AND SETTING A SPECIAL ELECTION FOR MAY 19, 2015.

Mr. Michael Farina, Finance Director, stated that with the failure of the Home Rule Option in August 2014, the Town is now subject to the state-imposed expenditure limitation which will significantly reduce the Town's budget for the next two fiscal years.

Mr. Farina stated that the Arizona State Constitution gives the voters of Florence the ability to regain local control over the development of the budget rather than being restricted by the state. He stated if the voters authorize a specific amount in excess of the state-imposed expenditure limitation, the voters would be providing the ability to develop a budget that will maintain the current level of services that the citizens of Florence Town Council Meeting

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Florence have come to expect in the areas that include, police, fire, economic and community development, parks and recreation, water, wastewater and sanitation services. He stated that staff is recommending the Florence voters authorize to exceed the state-imposed expenditure limitation for Fiscal Year 2015-2016 by \$15,000,000, allowing the Town to adopt a budget no greater than the amount that was adopted for Fiscal Year 2014-2015.

Mr. Farina stated that the Town is required to hold two public hearings, this being the first one. He stated the second public hearing will be December 15, 2014. Immediately following the second hearing, Council must convene in a special meeting and vote on the proposed excess expenditure special election. He stated if approved, a record of the vote and the purposes of the excess expenditure special election must be published in the newspaper. He stated on January 5, 2015 Town Council will call for the special election to be held on the third Tuesday in May 2015.

Councilmember Montaña inquired the following:

- What will occur to the funds that are collected and are not spent under Home Rule?
- Will the spending limitation reduce tax payer's obligations, and if so, when would that occur?

Mr. Farina stated that the funds that are collected through taxes, that are not able to be spent based on the Home Rules limitations, will be left in the Town's bank accounts. He stated that tax payers will not see a reduction in their taxes but a reduction in services only.

Councilmember Montaña stated that the proposed election in May is then asking to spend the money the Town will be collecting and to continue services at our current levels.

Mayor Rankin opened the Public Hearing, being no comments, closed the Public Hearing.

CONSENT: All items on the consent agenda 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.

- a. ***Approval of a utility easement between the Town of Florence and Arizona Public Service Company.**
- b. ***Approval of the acceptance of public infrastructure for maintenance into the Town of Florence within dedicated rights of way. Pulte Home Corp. has completed the public improvements necessary for the acceptance of:**
 - I. **Hunt Highway Phase I (partial) and Phase IV from STA 60+62.97 Phase I northerly to STA 22+50 Phase IV.**

- II. **Franklin Road from STA 32+97.05 (west of Hunt Highway) to STA 36+23.58 (east of Hunt Highway).**
- III. **Spirit Way Phase III from STA 24+00.05 to STA 42+00**

***Recommendation to the Arizona Department of Liquor Licenses and Control to approve a Special Event Liquor License to the Florence Gardens Mobile Home Association for a January 25, 2015 3Parks Wine and Micro Brew Fund Raiser.**

On motion of Councilmember Hawkins, seconded by Councilmember Walter, and carried to approve the Consent Agenda, as written, with the exception of item 10b.

- b. **Approval of the acceptance of public infrastructure for maintenance into the Town of Florence within dedicated rights of way. Pulte Home Corp. has completed the public improvements necessary for the acceptance of:**
 - IV. **Hunt Highway Phase I (partial) and Phase IV from STA 60+62.97 Phase I northerly to STA 22+50 Phase IV.**
 - V. **Franklin Road from STA 32+97.05 (west of Hunt Highway) to STA 36+23.58 (east of Hunt Highway).**
 - VI. **Spirit Way Phase III from STA 24+00.05 to STA 42+00**

Councilmember Walter inquired as to the location of the property.

Mr. Dan Bonow, Pulte Homes Corp., stated that the property in question starts on Merrill Ranch Parkway going north to Franklin Road.

Councilmember Anderson inquired if the area has been fully landscaped including the area north of the school.

Mr. Bonow stated there is an area north of the school towards Franklin Road that is owned by the LDS church that will be landscaped when the property is developed.

On motion of Councilmember Walter, seconded by Councilmember Anderson, and carried to approve item 10b.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion/Approval/Disapproval of nomination and election of a Vice-Mayor.

Mayor Rankin provided a brief description of the duties of the Vice-Mayor that include running meetings when the Mayor is not in attendance, attending out-of-town meetings, and public appearances when the Mayor is not available.

Councilmember Montañó nominated Councilmember Walter as Vice-Mayor.

Councilmember Walter accepted the nomination.

Councilmember Hawkins nominated Councilmember Woolridge as Vice-Mayor.

Councilmember Woolridge accepted the nomination.

Roll call vote to elect Councilmember Walter as Vice-Mayor:

Councilmember Montañó:	Yes
Councilmember Walter:	Yes
Councilmember Hawkins:	No
Councilmember Anderson:	Yes
Councilmember Guilin:	No
Councilmember Woolridge:	No
Mayor Rankin:	Yes

Motion passed Yes: 4; No: 3

Councilmember Walter is elected as Vice-Mayor.

Announcement of the Mayor's appointments to the following liaison positions:

- Anthem Area**
- Budget Committee**
- Central Arizona Association of Governments**
- Emergency Operations Center**
- Greater Florence Chamber of Commerce**
- Industrial Development Authority of the Town of Florence, Inc.**
- Florence Unified School District**
- Four Parks Area (Florence Gardens/Caliente/Casitas)**
- Historic District Advisory Commission**
- Leagues of Cities and Towns Resolution Committee**
- Joint Use Library Advisory Board**
- Parks and Recreation Advisory Board**
- Pinal County Government Alliance**
- Pinal Partnership**
- Planning and Zoning Commission**
- Public Safety Retirement (Police and Fire)**
- Maricopa Association of Governments**
- Native American Community Tribes**
(Tohono O'odham Village and Gila River Indian Community)

The Mayoral appointments were tabled to the December 15, 2014 Town Council meeting.

CALL TO THE COUNCIL

Councilmember Hawkins congratulated Councilmember Walter for being elected Vice-Mayor.

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Councilmember Montañó congratulated Councilmember Walter for being elected Vice-Mayor and Councilmember Woolridge for being nominated.

Councilmember Guilin congratulated Councilmember Walter for being elected Vice-Mayor. She stated that she is sad that Mr. Mannato is leaving the Town as he has been a tenacious and outstanding Town Attorney.

Mayor Rankin stated that the next meeting of Council will be on December 8, 2014.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Councilmember Hawkins, seconded by Councilmember Montañó, and carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 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 December 1, 2014, and that the meeting was duly called to order and that a quorum was present.



Lisa Garcia, Town Clerk