

MINUTES OF THE FLORENCE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2013, AT 5:00 P.M., IN THE CHAMBERS OF TOWN HALL, LOCATED AT 775 NORTH MAIN STREET, FLORENCE, ARIZONA.

CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Mayor Smith called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Rankin, Smith, Celaya, Hawkins, Walter, Woolridge
Absent: Montañó

ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

For the purpose of discussion of the public body to receive legal advice from the Town Attorney regarding the use of power of eminent domain pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03 (A)(3).

On motion of Councilmember Walter, seconded by Councilmember Hawkins, and carried to adjourn to Executive Session.

ADJOURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

On motion of Councilmember Walter, seconded Councilmember Celaya and carried to adjourn from the Executive Session.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Rankin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion regarding if the Town of Florence desires to pursue membership in the Maricopa Association of Governments Metropolitan Planning Organization or the Sun Corridor Metropolitan Planning Organization.

Resolution No. 1383-13:

Ms. Lisa Garcia, Deputy Town Manager, read Resolution No. 1383-13 by title only.

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF FLORENCE, PINAL COUNTY, ARIZONA, SEEKING ADMITTANCE IN AND PARTICIPATION AS A FULL MEMBER OF THE MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION.

Resolution No. 1384-13:

Ms. Lisa Garcia, Deputy Town Manager, read Resolution No. 1384-13 by title only.

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF FLORENCE, PINAL COUNTY, ARIZONA, IN SUPPORT OF THE CREATION OF THE SUN CORRIDOR MPO WITH THE CITY OF CASA GRANDE, CITY OF ELOY, CITY OF COOLIDGE, AND PINAL COUNTY, AND STATING ITS INTENT TO BECOME AN ORIGINAL MEMBER OF THE SUN CORRIDOR MPO.

Charles A. Montoya, Town Manager, stated on January 22, 2013, Town Council passed a resolution in support of entering into the Sun Corridor MPO, along with Coolidge, Eloy, Casa Grande, and Pinal County, as long as Superstition Vistas and the San Tan Valley are included in the Sun Corridor MPO. He said a week after the resolution was passed, staff found out from the Arizona Department of Transportation and the Federal Highways Administration that the San Tan Valley is part of the Maricopa Association of Governments MPO (MAG MPO). Staff is seeking direction from Council because Casa Grande has to submit their MPO to the State in the coming week. Florence has an option of joining the Sun Corridor MPO, MAG MPO, or staying with CAG.

Mayor Rankin stated that Council passed a resolution with the understanding that that San Tan Valley could be part of the Sun Corridor MPO. The Council was later advised that San Tan Valley had been given to MAG in the 2010 Census. In all the meetings staff has attended it was never discussed that San Tan Valley was part of MAG until two weeks ago. The Town was advised by ADOT and the City of Casa Grande that San Tan Valley could not be part of the Sun Corridor MPO.

Mr. Jess Knudson, Deputy Town Manager, stated that up until two weeks ago, the Town was informed that San Tan Valley could be included in the Sun Corridor MPO. ADOT and the City of Casa Grande informed the Town two weeks ago that San Tan Valley could not be included in the Sun Corridor MPO. He said the delegation from Casa Grande came to visit Florence and it was indicated that San Tan Valley was not something that Casa Grande would like to include in the MPO. City of Coolidge, Eloy, and Pinal County all indicated that they wanted San Tan Valley included in the MPO. He said their resolutions stated they wanted San Tan Valley included in the MPO; however, their resolutions were not stated as clearly as Florence's was.

Mayor Rankin stated that as long as San Tan Valley became part of the MPO he was alright with moving forward.

Mr. Knudson stated that Casa Grande will be making a determination on what their final MPO packet will look like and will identify who will be part of their MPO at their first meeting in March 2013.

Discussion occurred on the MPO map for Casa Grande.

Discussion occurred on Florence's planning area.

Mr. Knudson stated that a large part of the Town's Planning area is not included in the Sun Corridor MPO, and this is concerning for the Town of Florence. Magic Ranch is in the Town's planning area, but not in the Sun Corridor MPO. He said that portion of the planning area is included in MAG's MPO. He said no city or town can be in two MPOs. After the Town annexes a parcel of land within the planning area that is included in a different MPO, a second step will be necessary to take that parcel of land out of one MPO and bring it into the other MPO.

Mayor Rankin stated that if Florence joins the MAG MPO, it will be for transportation and environmental quality only. He said the Town is concerned about San Tan Valley and Superstitions Vistas project. He inquired when the Town was informed that San Tan Valley could not be included.

Mayor Rankin stated that he felt that San Tan Valley will be the largest community incorporated in Pinal County. He is very disappointed in whoever had the responsibility of notifying the Town that San Tan Valley could not be part of the Sun Corridor MPO. At this time no money had been taken out of the CAG Region when the San Tan Valley was assumed by the MAG MPO.

Mr. Eric Anderson, MAG Transportation Director, stated that they always assumed that San Tan Valley was in the MAG MPO ever since the Bureau of the Census released their urbanized areas definition. He said what the Bureau of the Census did after the 2010 Census was redefine all the urbanized areas in the United States. The Phoenix Mesa urbanized area included San Tan Valley. Under Federal Transportation Law, the law is very clear, which states an MPO boundary shall include all of the area defined to be urbanized by the Bureau of the Census. He said their assumption all along has been if their urbanized area included San Tan Valley then their MPO area had to be extended to include that area. The Bureau of the Census released the urbanized area definition in mid-2012.

Discussion occurred on the previous discussions that took place regarding San Tan Valley be included in the Sun Corridor MPO.

Mr. Anderson stated that there may be ways to waive the requirement but no discussions have been held on that. MAG was a stakeholder on the Superstition Vistas Project, but they were not directly involved. MAG along with Pinal County, in 2002, did a comprehensive look at the Southeast Maricopa Northeast Pinal County Transportation Study. They did a plan for that particular area that laid out the higher capacity roadway facilities.

Councilmember Hawkins inquired if the Pinal County Board of Supervisors made the decision for San Tan Valley to join MAG MPO.

Mr. Anderson stated that MAG has been working with the Federal Highway Administration and ADOT. He is not sure if Pinal County Board of Supervisors weighed

in on the San Tan Valley area. He said they have had meetings at MAG regarding boundary issues. Representatives from Pinal County, Maricopa, Casa Grande, and possibly Florence attended the meetings. He said they had their Regional Transportation Plan updated, and had the Transportation Improvement Program underway, so MAG needed to know what boundaries to include.

In October 2012, they received guidance that they could use the boundary, as indicated by the expanded urbanized area, which included San Tan Valley. The plan is under production and they will include it in the plan.

Councilmember Celaya inquired the amount of members that MAG has.

Mr. Anderson stated there are 26 cities and towns, the County, and three Native American communities that are members of MAG.

Councilmember Celaya stated that he recognizes where the growth is going to come from. San Tan Valley is very important to the Town of Florence because of the approaching growth. He has a feeling that we will connect with San Tan Valley before the Town connects with the area in the other MPO. He inquired what would happen if the Town were to join the Sun Corridor MPO and have areas that the Town is interested in annexing in another MPO.

Mayor Rankin inquired if the Town were to join with MAG MPO, what kind of transportation studies can the Town look forward to.

Mr. Anderson stated that some of the items they are currently working on include:

- Hunt Highway
- Corridor Plans including Grand Avenue
- Working with Queen Creek on traffic issues
- Rail issues within six jurisdictions plus the County
- Coordinate various activities
- Traffic flow reviews
- Signalization issues
- North South Freeway (referred to Picacho Vista Freeway)

Mr. Anderson stated that they are looking to have the Picacho Vista Freeway built sooner than later because it is a critical facility that is a vital link to central Arizona. They use creative financing to push projects forward. They have social economic capabilities for projects. Transportation modeling has a staff of thirteen who look at how to improve the forecasting capabilities for the region. They are working on economic development as well. The Town is in the PM10 Non-Attainment area, which qualifies for CMAC funds, which they have \$50 for congestion mitigation. He explained what the monies can be for paving dirt roads and purchasing PM10 equipment such as sweepers. He said dust control will have to be implemented in the near future. Biking and peg projects also can use funding. MAG has many programs and many areas of

expertise. MAG is in five ADOT Districts. ADOT has an urban program and are combining the Phoenix and Tucson engineering specialties.

Mayor Rankin inquired how much will it cost for Florence to join MAG.

Mr. Anderson stated that the dues and assessments range from \$6,000 to \$7,000 annually. He said the Town would only pay the assessments for the programs that they would be taking advantage of. He said MAG does the 208 planning for Maricopa County, and Pinal County does their 208 for Pinal County. Florence would not participate in MAGs 208 planning. He said MAG also does domestic violence and the Florence could participate if they wanted to. Maricopa, Queen Creek and Apache Junction are members of both MAG and CAG.

Mr. Anderson stated that MAG will work with the Sun Corridor MPO to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding to work with adjacent areas. MAG has not taken a position of the North South Freeway Corridor; it would be up to the local communities to request the placement. MAG works with the communities to represent their communities' interests. MAG weighed in on the 303 because the communities they represent voted to have MAG weigh in.

Councilmember Walter stated that she is disappointed that Florence did not have the information that San Tan Valley was part of the MAG MPO.

Mr. Duane Eitel, Traffic Engineer, City of Casa Grande, stated that Florence needs to do what is right for Florence. He said from the very beginning, Casa Grande thought that San Tan Valley belonged with MAG, and up until two weeks ago, the firm ruling came out from the FHWA and ADOT that it needed to go with MAG.

Councilmember Celaya stated that he appreciates Casa Grande's offer and the opportunity to join the Sun Corridor MPO.

Mr. Eitel stated that they will continue to work with the Town of Florence. He said whichever MPO Florence decides to join will not affect the relationship that Casa Grande and Florence have.

On motion of Mayor Rankin, seconded by Councilmember Walter, to adopt Resolution No. 1383-13.

Roll Call Vote:

Mayor Rankin: Yes

Councilmember Walter: Yes

Councilmember Hawkins: Yes

Councilmember Woolridge: Yes

Councilmember Celaya: Yes

Vice-Mayor Smith: Yes

Motion Passed: Yes: 6; No: 0

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Ms. Denise Kollert, Resident, stated that she hopes the Council makes the best decision for Florence and its residents.

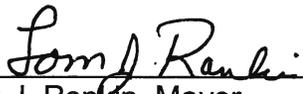
CALL TO THE COUNCIL

Councilmember Walter thanked staff for the report that they put together. She appreciates that all the pros and the cons were included as well as the way it was outlined.

Mayor Rankin invited everyone to attend Country Thunder.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Councilmember Woolridge, seconded by Vice-Mayor Smith and carried to adjourn the meeting 7:10 p.m.



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 February 25, 2013, and that the meeting was duly called to order and that a quorum was present.



Lisa Garcia, Town Clerk