

**MINUTES OF THE FLORENCE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, JANUARY 7, 2013, AT 5:30 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 5:30 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**For the purpose of discussion of the public body regarding Town Manager selection process, in accordance with A.R.S. §38-431.03 (A)(1).**

On motion of Councilmember Woolridge, seconded by Councilmember Celaya and carried to adjourn to Executive Session.

**ADJOURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION**

On motion of Councilmember Hawkins, seconded by Vice-Mayor Smith and carried to adjourn from Executive Session.

**INVOCATION PERFORMED BY PASTOR WAYNE DOUGLAS, GILA RIVER COMMUNITY CHAPEL.**

Pastor Wayne Douglas, Gila River Community Chapel performed 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 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.**

Ms. Ruth Harrison, Resident, stated that she is submitting petitions signed by residents and business owners requesting the Council rescind its December 3, 2012, decision to install an electronic message center on the northeast corner of Main Street and Butte Avenue. They are requesting Option A be considered, which more properly reflects the historic character.

Ms. Harrison said a poll was published on December 27, 2012, in the Florence Reminder, asking the public opinion about putting a multi-color bulletin board at the entrance to the Florence Downtown Historic District. She said the poll results stated that 57.9% of those who responded thought it was a dreadful idea. She said a recent study done by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, focused on the increase in the number of pedestrian traffic fatalities found throughout the country. The study concluded that drivers and pedestrians are increasingly distracted by electronic devices. She said drivers entering the intersection at Main and Butte, need to avoid any distractions, and must drive the area with caution, or it could prove deadly. She said this is why it would be better to install a simple monument sign.

Ms. Elizabeth Kizer introduced herself to the Council as she is on the Redevelopment Commission. She stated that she is a doctoral student at the University of Arizona, with an emphasis on public health. She is facilitating a project in the Town of Florence and explained that public health looks for solutions on issues that affect the general public, such as obesity. She explained various diseases and their precursors affected by diet. She is forming a coalition to ask the Florence residents the following:

- Do you feel the environment in Florence offers healthy alternatives?
- Do you feel that the food environment is adequate?

Ms. Kizer will host meetings to get the public onboard. She will survey the public and identify and consolidate the result in a report that will be available to the public. She provided a flyer to the Council.

Mr. Jim Knapp, spoke on behalf of Congressman Paul Gossar, who is proud to continue to serve for Florence, under Arizona's 4<sup>th</sup> Congressional District. He said their office can assist with the following:

- Social Security benefits
- Veteran's Affairs benefits
- Passports
- Can assist with those who are having issues with Federal agencies

Mr. Knapp provided his contact information to the Clerk's Office.

## **PUBLIC HEARING AND PRESENTATIONS**

### **Public Hearing on ORDINANCE NO. 590-13:**

Ms. Lisa Garcia, Interim Town Manager, read Ordinance No. 590-13 by title only.

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF FLORENCE, PINAL COUNTY, ARIZONA, AMENDING THE TOWN OF FLORENCE CODE OF ORDINANCES, TITLE XV LAND USAGE, CHAPTER 150 DEVELOPMENT CODE, SECTIONS 150.059 DOWNTOWN COMMERCIAL (DC) AND 150.047 DISTRICT USE REGULATIONS TABLES (B) (First Reading).**

Mr. Mark Eckhoff, Community Development Director, said the DC Zoning District encompasses the historic area. Staff is proposing multiple text changes to the DC

Zoning District to improve reinvestment opportunities and enhance economic development in the District. These include: eliminating the prohibition of a drive through for banks; changes to allow hotels, bed and breakfast facilities, movie theaters and grocery stores as principally permitted uses in the DC Zone; providing consistency in setback requirements for commercial and residential uses; and eliminating most parking requirements in the District.

Mr. Eckhoff said the setback requirements for commercial and residential uses are not consistent in the DC Zoning District. Since the District is intended to be mixed use—with both residential and commercial uses ideally existing within the same building—it is not necessary to differentiate setbacks between commercial and residential uses. This text amendment proposes the same setbacks for commercial and residential uses in the DC Zoning District.

Mr. Eckhoff said the properties within the DC Zoning District are built up to or close to the property line. Properties within the DC Zoning District are generally unable to provide on-site parking. The DC Zoning District currently requires on-site parking which makes it difficult for a new business to locate within the District because they often cannot meet the parking requirement. This amendment proposes to eliminate the parking requirement, with the exception of ADA requirements and some loading requirements, within the DC Zoning District. Such can be done since the supply of nearby public parking is adequate within and surrounding the District.

Mayor Rankin opened the Public Hearing, there being no comment, and Mayor Rankin closed the Public Hearing.

**Introduction and acknowledgement of promotions within the Police Department:  
David Peterson, Sergeant and Steve Geib, Lead Dispatcher.**

Daniel Hughes, Police Chief, introduced Steve Geib and David Peterson. He said both will provide coaching and mentoring for the staff and will be good additions to the Department. They are both being promoted into supervisor positions.

**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.**

**\*Reappointment of Sheree Berger and Eugene Horan to the Library Advisory Board with a term to expire December 31, 2014.**

**\*Reappointment of Don Pinson to the Parks and Recreation Board with a term to expire December 31, 2015.**

**\*Reappointment of Barry Reed, James Petty, and Larry Putrick to the Planning and Zoning Commission with a term to expire December 31, 2015.**

**\*Reappointment of Elizabeth Kizer and Sharon Speck to the Redevelopment Commission with terms to expire December 31, 2016.**

**\*Reappointment of Jorganne Cochran, Chris Reid, Lynn Smith, and Betty Wheeler to the Historic District Advisory Commission with a term to expire December 31, 2015; Appointment of Cathy Adam to the Historic Advisory Commission with a term to expire December 31, 2014.**

**\*Authorization to forward a favorable recommendation to the Arizona Department of Liquor Licenses and Control regarding the Caliente Casa De Sol's application for a Special Event Liquor License for the following dates: February 15, 19, 20, 22, and 24, 2013 for the 2013 Spring Fling Events.**

**\*Authorization to forward a favorable recommendation to the Arizona Department of Liquor Licenses and Control regarding the Florence Gardens Mobile Home Association's application for a Special Event Liquor License for Three Parks Wine and Micro Brew Fund Raiser on January 29, 2013.**

**\*Acceptance of the public improvement for the Anthem at Merrill Ranch Subdivision Units 17B and 18.**

**\*Approval of the December 3, 10, and 11, 2012 Town Council Meeting minutes.**

**\*Receive and file the following Board and Commission minutes:**

- September 19, and November 28, 2012 Joint-Use Library Advisory Board minutes**
- August 16, 2012 Planning and Zoning Commission minutes**
- October 30, 2012 Redevelopment Commission minutes**

On motion of Vice-Mayor Smith, seconded by Councilmember Montañó and carried to approve all items on the Consent Agenda, excluding Item F.

Mayor Rankin stated that he understood that an organization is allowed a maximum of three events per year.

Ms. Lisa Garcia, Interim Town Manager, stated that the organization is allowed a cumulative total of ten events per calendar year. She stated they are using five of their days, and will have five days remaining.

On motion of Councilmember Montañó, seconded by Councilmember Hawkins and carried to approve Item F on the Consent Agenda.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Reconsideration (Discussion/Approval/Disapproval) of the Design Review application for a Town of Florence downtown historic district monument sign located at the northeast corner of Main Street and Butte Avenue in Florence, Arizona, (HDAC-08-12-DR).**

Mr. Eckhoff stated that five options for a monument sign have been presented to Council for consideration. He provided a detail description of each of the signs. He said the Council previously chose Option F. There is momentum happening in Florence

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and the sign would continue to keep the momentum moving. He said each of the options presented to Council will be acceptable. Public Works made a mock-up of the sign to provide a visual to ensure it will be viewable from all areas.

Councilmember Walter said she has received phone calls and requested that it be brought back before the Council. She has heard that an electronic message center might be better on State Highway 79, and for the downtown area to maintain its historical nature.

Vice-Mayor Smith inquired if the Council had the option to choose a different sign.

Ms. Garcia said the intent is to allow the Council to discuss the monument sign further and to choose whichever option they would prefer.

Vice-Mayor Smith said he would prefer this item be brought back to Council at a later time so that the Council may consider the other options because the electronic message center and the height of the sign do not comply with the Historic District Advisory Commission's guidelines. The Town should comply with the codes that they have approved and not allow something for themselves that they didn't allow a business to do, such as rejecting True Value's request for a digital sign.

Councilmember Celaya asked for clarification on the Code with regards to the electronic message center and height of the sign.

Mr. Eckhoff stated the height of the Option F sign is 6 ½ feet. He said per HDAC guidelines, the sign cannot exceed four feet.

Vice-Mayor Smith said he can understand a variance for a non-digital sign because of the entrance into the downtown historic area. He can also understand not doing a digital sign and opting to do two signs on both ends of the downtown historic district, specifically because of the cost of the electronic message sign.

Mr. Eckhoff said the height of the sign for Option A is 5 ½ feet. He said because the sign will be placed at a key intersection, they wanted to ensure that the sign would be visible. With regards to the cost, Option A would be included with the streetscape improvements that National Bank will do. The Town is obtaining bids to do an Option A type sign for the opposite entrance into the downtown area to be placed on the Silver King property. The Town would have funds to do the second sign.

Vice-Mayor Smith said the electronic message center sign is costly.

Councilmember Celaya said the intent of the electronic message center sign was for public announcements to the community. He said with regards to comparison of the True Value sign and Option F sign, there is no comparison. True Value is an already existing historic building that should hold its historical integrity, where the National Bank building will be a newly erected building with no historical value. He said the intersection is a transitional point on Main Street.

Councilmember Montañó said that a motion needs to be made to rescind the previous vote that the Council previously made if the Council chooses to look at other options.

Councilmember Hawkins said the Council may need to reconsider other options.

Mayor Rankin said that there were 19 votes casted on the Florence Reminder's poll regarding the sign.

Councilmember Woolridge stated that there are no members from the Historic District Advisory Commission present.

Councilmember Walter said that one resident questioned the visibility and who they are trying to communicate with. They said one option may to place the sign on State Highway 79, as it may be more appropriate location for an electronic message center with all the commuters that come to and leave from our community each day. She said it can promote tourism and have more people come into the Historic District.

Vice-Mayor Smith stated that staff needs to comply with its guidelines and codes.

Mayor Rankin stated that there are things to consider: cost of the sign; which is expensive, ability to advertise the Historic District on a new sign with a new building, and electronic signs on Main Street. He said there are lit/neon signs within businesses on Main Street. He said that businesses are allowed to put up the signs because they received variances.

Mr. Eckhoff stated that National Bank will incorporate their sign on the building so they will not need a free standing sign.

Mayor Rankin stated that he made a mistake in voting for the sign when it was against the Town Code. He suggested that the Code be changed to reflect what is needed.

On motion of Vice-Mayor Smith, seconded by Councilmember Montañó and carried to rescind the Design Review application for a Town of Florence Downtown Historic District monument sign located at the northeast corner of Main Street and Butte Avenue.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Mayor appointment of Chair Elizabeth Kizer and Vice Chair Anne Cartier-Bresson to the Redevelopment Commission with a term to expire December 31, 2013.**

Mayor Rankin appointed Elizabeth Kizer as Chair, and Ann Cartier-Bresson as Vice-Chair to the Redevelopment Commission with a term to expire December 31, 2013.

## **CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

There were no public comments.

## **CALL TO THE COUNCIL**

Councilmember Celaya expressed his appreciation to all of the Town's volunteers.

Councilmember Montaña stated the Council has done a great job for 2012, and he looks forward to 2013.

Councilmember Walter stated the Library has new e-readers and has a great selection of e-books available. She also thanked the volunteers.

Vice-Mayor Rankin invited everyone to the Pinal County Historical Museum on Sunday, January 13, 2013, at 2:00 p.m. They will have a guest speaker who will discuss foods in Arizona.

Mayor Rankin wished everyone a Happy New Year. He said the work session for January 14, 2013 has been postponed. He said they will have an Executive Session on January 14, 2013 for the Manager position. He said the Town has tough decisions coming in the near future and requests everyone's supports. The Council is dedicated in improving the quality of life for its citizens. He said they want to improve shopping opportunities in Florence. He said he doesn't plan to run for re-election and would like to accomplish a few things during this term.

#### **ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**For the purpose of discussion of the public body with the Town Attorney regarding contract negotiations relating to the Sunaire Ranch and Majestic Ranch development agreements in accordance with A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(4).**

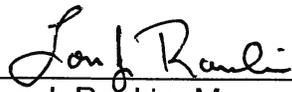
On motion of Councilmember Hawkins, seconded by Councilmember Walter and carried to adjourn to Executive Session.

#### **ADJOURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION**

On motion of Vice-Mayor Smith, seconded by Councilmember Montaña and carried to adjourn from Executive Session.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

On Motion of Councilmember Celaya, seconded by Councilmember Walter and carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

  
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Tom J. Rankin, Mayor

#### **ATTEST:**

  
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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 January 7, 2013, and that the meeting was duly called to order and that a quorum was present.



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Lisa Garcia, Town Clerk