

**MINUTES OF THE FLORENCE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, MARCH 16, 2015, 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 6:02 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:**

Present: Rankin, Walter, Woolridge, Hawkins, Guilin, Anderson  
Absent: Montañó

**ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

An Executive Session will be held during the Council Meeting for legal matters pursuant to A.R.S. Section 38-431.03(A)(3) and (4) as follows:

1. For the purpose of discussion and consultation with the Town's attorneys for legal advice and to consider the Town's position and instruct its attorneys in regard to pending consolidated litigation: Hollins v. Town of Florence, et al; Pinal County Superior Court Case No. CV2014-02265/02266; Dantico v. Town of Florence, et al; Pinal County Superior Court Case No. CV2014-02327.
2. For the purpose of discussion and consultation with the Town's attorneys for legal advice and to consider the Town's position and instruct its attorneys' in regard to a claim involving Johnson Utilities.
3. For the purpose of discussion and consultation with the Town's attorneys for legal advice and to consider the Town's position and instruct its attorneys in regard to pending litigation in Pinal County Superior Court: Association of Florence Fire Fighters, International Association of Fire Fighters Local 4512 v. Town of Florence, et al; Pinal County Superior Court Case No. CV2015-00235.

The Executive Session was moved to the end of the meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**MOMENT OF SILENCE**

Mayor Rankin called for a moment of silence.

**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.**

Dr. Amy Fuller, Superintendent of the Florence Unified School District, stated that children will benefit from having the signs at the Library and Aquatic Centers horizontally as that is how they read. She stated that she hopes that Council will revisit the signage plans and review the benefits of horizontal lettering.

Ms. Ruth Harrison, Florence resident, stated that she was presenting to Council a petition of 70 signatures from residents and Town visitors in favor of signage that reads in a horizontal manner. She requested that Council revisit the signage plans for the Library and Aquatic Centers and take into consideration the positive impact horizontal lettering would have to all ages.

Ms. Betty Rieffer, Florence resident, stated that it is easier to read horizontal signs and would like to see Council revisit the signage plans for the Library and Aquatic Centers.

## **PRESENTATION**

**Presentation by the Greater Florence Chamber of Commerce recognizing Holiday Inn Express and Suites as the Business of the Month for February 2015, and Pinal County Historical Museum as the Business of the Month for March 2015.**

Mr. Peter Koulouris, Greater Florence Chamber of Commerce Vice-Chairman, recognized the Holiday Inn Express and Suites as the business of the month for February, 2015. He stated that the Holiday Inn Express has been an active contributor to the community providing the use of their ballroom for events and fundraisers.

Ms. Carmen, Holiday Inn Express and Suites Representative, accepted the award on behalf of Mr. Damon Anderson.

Mr. Jim Gilloon, Office Manager, Greater Florence Chamber of Commerce, recognized the Pinal County Historical Museum as the business of the month for March 2015. He stated that the Pinal County Historical Museum, through the efforts of volunteers, has been preserving the history of Florence since 1959.

Ms. Betty Rieffer, Florence resident and Museum volunteer, accepted the award on behalf of the Pinal County Historical Museum.

**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.**

**Appoint K. Natasha Schmidt to the Historic District Advisory Commission with a term to expire December 31, 2015.**

**Appoint Kenneth Wallace to the Florence Industrial Development Authority Board, with a term to expire December 31, 2020.**

**Favorable recommendation to the Arizona Department of Liquor Licenses and Control on the Greater Florence Chamber of Commerce's Special Event License to host their First Thursday event on April 2, 2015 at Padilla Park.**

**Approval of a contact with Overton Builder, LLC, for the construction to expand the Finance Department cashier window in an amount not to exceed \$28,065.**

**Approval of the February 2, February 17, and February 23, 2015 Town Council minutes.**

**Receive and file the following board and commission minutes:**

- i. December 17, 2014 Joint-Use Library Advisory Board minutes.**

**Approval of accepting the register of demands ending January 31, 2015, in the amount of \$3,042,019.43.**

Mayor Rankin requested the removal of item 9c from the consent agenda.

On motion of Councilmember Woolridge, seconded by Councilmember Hawkins, and carried to approve the Consent Agenda, as written, with the exception of item 9c.

**Favorable recommendation to the Arizona Department of Liquor Licenses and Control on the Greater Florence Chamber of Commerce's Special Event License to host their First Thursday event on April 2, 2015 at Padilla Park.**

Mayor Rankin inquired if the Chamber of Commerce had been contacted to participate in this event.

Mr. Bryan Hughes, Parks and Recreation Director, stated that the Chamber of Commerce has been contacted and will be participating in the event.

On motion of Councilmember Anderson, seconded by Vice-Mayor Walter, and carried to forward a favorable recommendation to the Arizona Department of Liquor Licenses and Control on the Greater Florence Chamber of Commerce's Special Event License to host their First Thursday event on April 2, 2015 at Padilla Park.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Discussion/Approval/Disapproval to authorize the Town Manager to execute the Salt River Project Municipal Aesthetics Program Funding Agreement(s) that will allocate The Town's current \$500,000 funding allotment and up to \$100,000 of the Fiscal Year 2016 funding allocation for masonry wall improvements at the Salt River Project Abel Substation in Florence, Arizona.**

Mr. Mark Eckhoff, Community Development Director, stated that the Municipal Aesthetics Program provides municipalities with the opportunity to conduct aesthetic improvements to existing and new SRP water and power distribution, transmission and substation facilities. Annual allotments of funds are based upon several criteria including the jurisdiction's percentage share of total electric facilities revenue and the total cost of electric system work accomplished during SRP's prior fiscal year period. He stated that SRP Municipal Aesthetics Program funding can only be utilized on SRP infrastructure and under the direction of the municipal aesthetics program administrator.

Mr. Eckhoff stated that the Town of Florence and Pinal County have SRP Aesthetic funds that need to be assigned to an aesthetic project in order to meet the SRP schedule for allocation of those funds. He stated that Town staff, SRP and Pinal County have worked together to identify the SRP Abel Substation as the ideal candidate for the Town's very first SRP Aesthetic Funds project. The improvements to the substation will consist of attractive masonry screen walls along the southwest, south and southeast sides of Able Substation site and will include one rolling gate on the southwest side of the station.

Mr. Eckhoff stated that the project will improve the appearance of the SRP Abel Substation for residents of Florence and in unincorporated Pinal County. He stated that SRP will prepare plans, collect bids, and hire the contractors to complete the project.

Vice-Mayor Walter requested clarification on the funding request of \$100,000 in the Fiscal Year 2015-2016.

Mr. Eckhoff stated that the \$500,000 funding allotment this year is what the Town has incurred to date. The \$100,000 will be drawn from the SRP funding the Town is allotted in 2016 from the SRP Municipal Aesthetics Program.

Vice-Mayor Walter inquired if the funds will be affected by the special election in May 2015.

Mr. Eckhoff stated that the SRP funds will not be impacted either way by the special election as they are SRP funds and the Town is only assisting SRP in identifying and utilizing their funds to improve SRP facilities within the Town limits.

On motion of Councilmember Guilin, seconded by Vice-Mayor Walter, and carried to authorize the Town Manager to execute the Salt River Project Municipal Aesthetics

Program Funding Agreement(s) that will allocate the Town's current \$500,000 funding allotment and up to \$100,000 of the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 funding allocation for masonry wall improvements at the Salt River Project Abel Substation in Florence, Arizona.

Ms. Lisa Garcia, Deputy Town Manager/Town Clerk, read Resolution No. 1504-15 by title only.

**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF FLORENCE, PINAL COUNTY, ARIZONA, APPROVING A MODIFICATION TO THE BUILDING PERMIT FEES SECTION OF THE TOWN OF FLORENCE SCHEDULE OF FEES.**

Mr. Eckhoff stated that the building plan review and permit fees are based on the value of the proposed project as defined by the International Code Council (ICC) Valuation Tables. These tables are regularly updated based on fluctuations in costs for labor and construction materials. He stated when you combine the standardized value tables with the adopted plan review and permit fee table used by the Town, which is also from the ICC, which provides consistency in how fees are charged in comparison with other communities. He stated the fees that are paid cover the local government's costs for reviewing the plans, processing permits, and performing inspections.

Mr. Eckhoff stated fee structures generally work. There are occasional concerns that the fees for smaller residential projects such as remodels, garages, and patios are too high and are hindering homeowners from pursuing certain home improvement projects. He stated in response to these concerns, two options for how valuations could be determined for remodels, garages, patios and similar projects are being proposed. He stated the first option applies to projects that are being completed by a licensed contractor. With this option, the Building Safety staff can refer to the written estimate of the project materials and labor for the valuation figure. He stated option two is for when a permit is pulled under an owner-builder scenario, where the homeowner is completing the work themselves. Staff would use the homeowner's material estimates for that option and add a labor factor of 30%. Staff would still have the option of using the ICC Valuation Tables if the fees would be the lesser of the two options.

Mr. Eckhoff stated that the new options would be limited to residential projects only and would not apply to new home construction.

Councilmember Anderson inquired who makes the determination which ICC fees will be charged.

Mr. Eckhoff stated that the ICC Valuation Tables take into consideration the type of project being permitted, the occupancy of the project and the square footage. It is staff that will identify this information and pull from the tables the fee amounts that need to be charged.

Mayor Rankin inquired as to what the anticipated loss of revenue will be.

Mr. Eckhoff stated that staff anticipates that the revenue loss per project will be off-set by an increase in the number of projects being submitted for permitting that may not have been pursued before with the higher fees. He stated that based on the economy today, the revenue loss could be up to \$30,000.

On motion of Councilmember Guilin, seconded by Councilmember Woolridge, and carried to adopt Resolution No. 1504-15.

Ms. Garcia read Ordinance No. 626-15 by title only.

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF FLORENCE, PINAL COUNTY, ARIZONA, AMENDING TITLE III OF THE TOWN CODE ENTITLED ADMINISTRATION: SECTION 30.23 SPECIAL MEETINGS, AND SECTION 30.25 ORDER OF BUSINESS EFFECTIVE MAY 1, 2015. (First Reading of Ordinance No. 625-15)**

Ms. Garcia, Deputy Town Manager/Town Clerk, stated that the ordinance is tied to the Rules of Procedure as well as the Invocation Policy. She stated that this ordinance will codify the Rules with the Code, with all changes effective May 1, 2015.

Councilmember Anderson inquired if the Rules of Procedure should speak to the order in which an Executive Session is called.

Ms. Garcia stated that the Rules of Procedure speak to regular meetings of the Council and that executive sessions are called when needed and are scheduled either before the regular meeting or at the end of a regular meeting based on who needs to attend the meeting.

Ms. Garcia read Ordinance No. 627-15 by title only.

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF FLORENCE, PINAL COUNTY, ARIZONA, AMENDING TITLE III OF THE TOWN CODE ENTITLED ADMINISTRATION: SECTION 30.73 DATE OF ELECTIONS.**

Ms. Garcia stated that based on the recent passing of the consolidation election law, the Town's election law needs to be modified to be consistent with the State law. She stated that primary elections will be held in the month of August and general elections will be held in the month of November when required. She stated that the ordinance does not require a first reading as it is a regulatory ordinance.

Mayor Rankin inquired if the Town has the ability to not follow the guidelines in the consolidation election law.

Ms. Garcia stated that charter cities are being allowed to set their own election dates; however, charter cities are required to have their voters vote on every charter amendment which is not required for a general law city, such as Florence. She stated

that general law cities are being required to be in compliance with the consolidation election law.

On motion of Councilmember Woolridge, seconded by Councilmember Hawkins, and carried to adopt Ordinance No. 627-15.

Ms. Garcia read Ordinance No. 628-15 by title only.

**First reading of AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF FLORENCE, PINAL COUNTY, ARIZONA AMENDING SECTIONS OF CHAPTER 32: TOWN ORGANIZATIONS. (First Reading of Ordinance No. 628-15)**

Ms. Garcia stated that based on the work session that was held to discuss the Administrative Chapter of the Town Code; the following requested changes are being made:

- Add the Arts and Culture Commission to the list of Council appointments.
- Provides that no member of any board, commission or committee may concurrently serve on any other board, commission or committee of the municipality.
- Allows officers to serve more than two consecutive years. Removes the Florence Unified School District language for the Library Advisory Board.
- Appoints the Town Council as the Redevelopment Commission.
- The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board shall hold monthly meetings.

**Discussion/Approval/Disapproval of the Town Council Argument to be placed in the 2015 Special Election Publicity Pamphlet.**

Ms. Garcia stated that on May 19, 2015, the Town will hold a Special Election and per State Statute, the Town is required to prepare and publish a publicity pamphlet. She stated that the Town is required to submit a 200 word argument in favor of the proposition.

Mayor Rankin inquired how the pamphlet will be distributed.

Ms. Garcia stated that the pamphlet will be mailed to all registered voters on approximately April 23, 2015. She stated that an invitation to the public to submit an argument for or against the proposition was published in the paper.

On motion of Councilmember Anderson, seconded by Councilmember Guilin, and carried to approve the Town Council Argument to be placed in the 2015 Special Election Publicity Pamphlet.

**MANAGER'S REPORT**

Mr. Charles Montoya, Town Manager, stated that the legislative update of March 12, 2015 has been provided to Council.

Councilmember Anderson requested that Mr. Montoya highlight the report on the specific items that pertain to the Town as the report is lengthy.

### **CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

**There were no public comments.**

### **CALL TO THE COUNCIL**

Councilmember Guilin stated that Ms. Clara Jimenez passed away.

Vice-Mayor Walter thanked those in attendance who spoke on behalf of the concerns regarding the signs for the Library and Aquatic Centers.

Councilmember Hawkins requested that the topic of signs for the Library and Aquatic Centers be placed on the next Council agenda.

Mr. Montoya stated that he needed to contact Mr. Eckhoff to determine the current status of the signs to ensure the vendor has not moved forward with the previously approved layout. He stated he would contact Council directly to see if the topic can be redirected.

Mayor Rankin thanked Parks and Recreation for a very successful soccer season. He stated that he supports the recent decision of Council regarding the signs for the Library and Aquatic Centers. He stated that there are many meetings coming up to speak with the members of the community regarding the Special Election that is coming up in May. He encouraged all members of Council to attend as many meetings as possible.

### **ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**An Executive Session will be held during the Regular Council Meeting for legal matters pursuant to A.R.S. Section 38-431.03(A)(1) to review applications received for the position of Town Attorney and possible discussion of extending or modifying outside counsel contract.**

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

Vice-Mayor Walter recused herself from item 3 of the Executive Session, as she has a family member who is a firefighter.

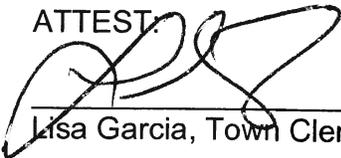
### **ADJOURNMENT FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION**

On motion of Councilmember Anderson, seconded by Councilmember Guilin, and carried to adjourn from Executive Session.

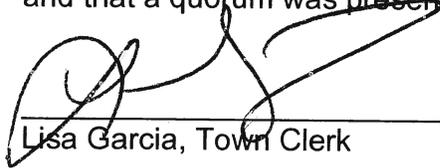
**ADJOURNMENT**

On motion of Councilmember Anderson, seconded by Councilmember Hawkins, and carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 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 March 16, 2015, and that the meeting was duly called to order and that a quorum was present.

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