

MINUTES OF THE FLORENCE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, AUGUST 3, 2015, AT 6:00 PM, 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 pm

ROLL CALL:

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

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.

There were no comments.

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. Proclamation of the Mayor declaring August 2015 as Drowning Impact Awareness Month.
- b. Approval of the the GIS Enterprise License Agreement Renewal and award the bid to Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$27,175.
- c. Appointment of Interim Town Manager Lisa Garcia to serve as one of the citizen members on the Public Safety Personnel Retirement System – Police and Fire Local Boards, with a term expiring in February 2017.

- d. Ratification of the emergency spill remediation work completed by Belfor Property Restoration, in an amount not to exceed \$31,476.93.**
- e. Approval of accepting the register of demands ending June 30, 2015, in the amount of \$7,403,089.76.**

On motion of Vice-Mayor Walter, seconded by Councilmember Anderson, and carried to approve the Consent Agenda, as written, with the exception of item 6d.

- d. Ratification of the emergency spill remediation work completed by Belfor Property Restoration, in an amount not to exceed \$31,476.93.**

Councilmember Anderson inquired if the failure to monitor was an equipment issue or a staff issue.

Mr. Wayne Costa, Public Works Director, stated that the spill was caused by human error, and as such, staff has been counseled and retrained. He stated that float levels have been added to each digester that will automatically shut off the equipment when they reach a predetermined level.

On motion of Councilmember Anderson, seconded by Vice-Mayor Walter, and carried to approve the ratification of the emergency spill remediation work completed by Belfor Property Restoration, in an amount not to exceed \$31,476.93.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion/Approval/Disapproval Authorize the Town Manager to Negotiate and Enter into a Farm Lease with Morning Star Farms for 94.6 Acres in the area known as the Giles Property.

Mr. Jess Knudson, Assistant Town Manager, stated that the Town solicited proposals from the public to enter into a farm lease for the Giles Property which is Town-owned land that includes the newly constructed aquatic center, library and the surrounding vacant farm land. He stated that the agreement is for Morning Star Farms to utilize the water allotment that the Town receives from the San Carlos Irrigation District and Drainage (SCIDD) for their farm land located in the area. The Town pays SCIDD \$6,905 for the annual water allotment and Morning Star Farms will reimburse the Town the \$6,905 for the water allotment. He stated a benefit of the lease agreement for the Town is that Morning Star Farms will take care of the removal of debris and weeds from the property, which is a savings to the Town.

Councilmember Anderson inquired about the water that will be needed to irrigate the soccer and play fields that are planned next to the aquatic center.

Mr. Knudson stated that potable water will be used for irrigation at this time. He stated that there is a current project that will connect the area with the wastewater treatment

plant that will allow the Town to use effluent water once the fields and landscaping are completed at Territory Square.

Councilmember Hawkins inquired if the contract was for one year.

Mr. Knudson stated that the contract is perpetual with a 60-day notice clause that allows either party to terminate the contract for any reason and at any time.

On motion of Councilmember Hawkins, seconded by Vice-Mayor Walter, and carried to authorize the Town Manager to negotiate and enter into a farm lease with Morning Star Farms for 94.6 acres in the area known as the Giles property.

Discussion/Approval/Disapproval of receiving and filing the 2014 Annual Police Report.

Mr. Daniel Hughes, Police Chief, stated that he was proud of the achievements accomplished by all members of the Police Department. The Department has seen a reduction of criminal offenses in almost all categories and an increase in traffic enforcement efforts leading to a decrease in the number of traffic crashes. He stated that dispatch received 29,000 calls for service, not all requiring an officer to be dispatched. He stated that the Town continues to be ranked in the top 100 Safest Cities in America, receiving the rank of 29th in 2014.

Chief Hughes stated that the Department is successful due to the dedicated officers, support staff and volunteers who are committed to providing the Town with professional, innovative and efficient police services. It is the objective of the Department to apply community oriented policing strategies making the most of their resources and utilizing the latest technology to deliver the best service possible.

Mayor Rankin thanked the Police Department on behalf of Council for their hard work and dedication to the Town.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Manager's Report

Mr. Garcia introduced Judge Roger Valdez, Magistrate to the Council. She stated that the Town entered into an agreement with the Town of Eloy, on July 27, 2015, whereas Judge Valdez has been working with the Town since July 1, 2015.

Mr. Roger Valdez, Town Magistrate, stated that he is a life-long resident of Pinal County, born and raised in Casa Grande and is looking forward to serving the citizens of the Town of Florence.

Mayor Rankin inquired as to what days Judge Valdez would be in the office.

Mr. Valdez stated that he would be in the Florence office on Mondays and Fridays.

Department Reports
Community Development
Courts
Finance
Fire
Library
Parks and Recreation
Police
Public Works

Councilmember Anderson requested that the Departments Heads spell out all abbreviations and acronyms to allow those who are not familiar with industry specific abbreviations to better understand what is being reported.

Vice-Mayor Walter encouraged all Departments to seek out grant opportunities and offered her assistance with the application process. She inquired if the SAFER Grant for the Fire Department was going to be continued.

Ms. Garcia stated that there are three requirements of the SAFER Grant; maintaining a pre-determined level of staffing, usage of the grant monies within a specified time period and the status of possible or occurring layoff of crew members. Currently, the grant is used to maintain the specified staffing levels at Station No. 2, which is four per shift, and that the monies are being used within the specified time period of the previously awarded grant. She stated that the Town has not laid-off Fire staff nor have said that they are going to lay-off Fire staff. She said that every effort is being made not to lay anyone off. Staff plans to continue to look at all grants including the SAFER Grant to ensure all opportunities are fully investigated and utilized.

Vice-Mayor Walter stated that she has located grant opportunities for Parks and Recreation that she has shared with Mr. Hughes. She inquired about the Gila River Indian Community dispatch console for the Police Department and if there will be additional staff needed to utilize the console.

Chief Hughes stated that the Department has the console and the grant money will be used for the additional equipment and technology needed to bring the console on-line. He stated the goal is to utilize the console for training opportunities and for times when there are heavy call volumes.

Vice-Mayor Walter inquired if the Police and Fire Department ever come together to combine efforts regarding grants and service needs for the community.

Chief Hughes stated the Police and Fire Departments meet that on a monthly basis with representatives from the various prison systems in Town along with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to work out various scenarios that could happen. He stated a recent scenario was a prison transport overturned and how the situation would be secured and resolved.

Councilmember Anderson stated that he has received concerns regarding the low speed limit on the Main Street extension and inquired as to why the speed is so low.

Mr. Costa stated that the road is eight feet wide and is considered a residential road and the speed limit reflects classification.

Councilmember Wall requested a construction update on the library.

Mayor Rankin requested that staff provide a complete update at the August 17th Council meeting and asked Mr. Hughes to speak with Councilmember Wall after the meeting.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

There were no comments.

CALL TO THE COUNCIL

Councilmember Anderson thanked staff for their departmental reports which are very informative.

Vice-Mayor Walter stated that she wanted to remind everyone that the month of August is Drowning Impact Awareness Month and encouraged all pool owners to make sure their pools are properly fenced and secured.

Mayor Rankin stated that drowning awareness is important as a child alone in water for two seconds can drown. He encouraged all adults to watch their children around water.

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)(3) and (4) as follows:

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.

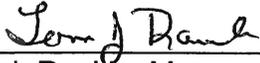
No Executive Session was held.

ADJOURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

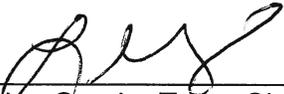
Council may go into Executive Session at any time during the meeting for the purpose of obtaining legal advice from the Town's Attorney(s) on any of the agenda items pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(3).

On motion of Councilmember Hawkins, seconded by Councilmember Woolridge, and carried to adjourn the meeting at 6:32 pm.



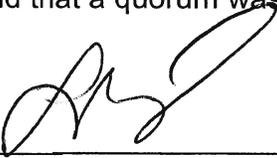
Tom J. Rankin, Mayor

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 August 3, 2015, and that the meeting was duly called to order and that a quorum was present.



Lisa Garcia, Town Clerk