

MINUTES OF THE FLORENCE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, JANUARY 4, 2016, 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 6:00 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 public comments.

PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLIC HEARING

Presentation by County Manager Gregory Stanley on economic development in Pinal County 2015 in Review.

Mr. Gregory Stanley, Pinal County Manager, stated that Florence is the Pinal County Seat and it is important for Pinal County to assist with economic development to help Florence succeed.

Mr. Stanley introduced Mr. Travis Ashbaugh, Pinal County Senior Transportation Planner, and Ms. Stephanie Maack, Executive Assistant. He said Mr. Ashbabugh is assisting Mr. Tim Kanavel, Pinal County Economic Development Program Manager, with regards to economic development.

Mr. Stanley presented the following:

- Wants Pinal County to be a place where people want to work, live and play
- Estimated population is 406,625
- -3rd most populated county in Arizona with 1.78% growth rate
- Current workforce is 155,325
 - Approximately 78,000 of the workforce works in Maricopa County
 - Has impact on Pinal County's transportation system
 - Goal is to get that workforce to work in Pinal County
- Unemployment rate as of December 16, 2015 is 6%
- Unemployment rate in September 2008 was 13.2%
- Major assets
 - Aggressive and pro-economic development - "can do" leadership
 - Pinal County Board of Supervisors kicked off a strategic planning process a couple of years ago and it was an update to the existing Strategic Plan
 - Focus is how to get economic development and quality jobs in Pinal County.
 - Interstate-10 (I-10), Interstate-8 (I-8), (Interstate-11 (I-11) in federal legislation)
 - Union Pacific Railroad
 - Main southern U.S. line from Los Angeles to Texas runs through Pinal County
 - 8 rail-served industrial parks along I-8 and I-10
 - Pinal Airpark
 - Close proximity to Tucson International, Sky Harbor and Phoenix Gateway airports
 - WAATs, DOD, Military Parachute School, Apache Helicopters, Arizona Army National Guard
- 850,000 skilled, available, regional workforce within a 50 mile radius of the intersection I-10 and I-8 connection
- Pinal County is in the heart of the Sun Corridor
- Land is available and inexpensive
- Robust electrical power grid (Arizona Public Services, Salt River Project, etc.)
- Robust natural gas infrastructure
- Internal and external strategies
 - Pinal County has a Strategic Plan (five year plan for each department within the County)
 - Targeted business/job sectors: aerospace & defense, manufacturing, transportation & logistics, natural and renewable resources, health services
 - County departmental changes (combining of departments in order to streamline)
 - A member of Sun Corridor, Inc.
 - Member of MAG

- Assists in leverage of dollars into Pinal County
- Member of the Arizona Mexico Commission
- Partnership with City of Phoenix Foreign Trade Zone 75
 - Operates as a utility
 - Huge benefit to bring people into Pinal County
 - Do not have to pay duties and tariffs if they import/export through that facility
 - Arizona has reduced personal and property tax if they qualify and belong to the foreign trade zone
 - Members of foreign trade zone
 - Abbott Labs in Casa Grande
 - Tractor Supply Distribution Center
- Worked to establish better relationships with Pima County
- Dissolved WIB with Gila County – July 1, 2015
- Working with Pima County on various Sun Corridor issues
 - I -11, Union Pacific Classification Yard, Pinal Airpark, workforce development
- Studies
 - Planning Assistance for Rural Areas (PARA) Transportation Study (ADOT)
 - San Tan Valley Land Use/Economic Development Study
 - Pinal Airpark Master Plan Study (ADOT)
 - County-wide Workforce Skills Assessment Study (completed December 15, 2014)
 - Copper Corridor Broadband Infrastructure Study
 - Houston Industrial Park Improvement District Study
- Proposed and development business programs
 - Expedited permitting
 - Business Assistance Program, Tourism Grants Program
 - Veteran’s Business Assistance Program (economic gardening)
 - Our leadership, many assets, studies, new business assistance programs, internal and external relationships and departmental changes all enhance the County’s ability to attract many significant projects locating throughout Pinal County
- Resolution Copper Mine
 - Copper/precious metals mine
 - Will be largest underground copper mine in US – robotic miners
 - Deepest mine shaft in North America at 6973 feet
 - Estimated \$10 Billion capital investment
 - Estimated 60 year life cycle
 - 2000 FTEs - direct and 1500 estimated indirect

- Located in unincorporated Pinal County near Superior
- Currently 250 FTEs doing preliminary work
- Federal Land Exchange was passed in December 2014
- Three to seven years out to proposed mining operations begin
- San Carlos Apache Sky Casino
 - Casino hotel/golf resort
 - Twin to Apache Gold Casino in Globe
 - \$24 Million in capital investment
 - 350 - 400 FTEs
 - Located in unincorporated Pinal County on San Carlos
 - Apache Tribal Reservation land in eastern Pinal County
 - On 75 acres
 - Construction to start in late 2016
- Inland Port Arizona – IPAZ
 - 11,000 + acres of former City of Mesa property on State Route 87
 - Located on the Union Pacific’s Phoenix rail line
 - 1600 acres industrial, multi-modal rail/truck
 - Balance is mostly agriculture
 - Estimated 5000 FTEs
 - Annexed by Coolidge
 - In secondary planning stages
- Phoenix Mart
 - Currently under permitting process - some construction
 - Global product sourcing center
 - EB-5 Visa program/ACA
 - 1.6 million square feet under one roof with 4 million square feet of support facilities
 - 585 acre site in the City of Casa Grande
 - Estimated 4000+ direct FTEs/3500 indirect employees
- Tractor Supply Company
 - Began formal delivery operations on December 21, 2015
 - Southwestern US Distribution Center
 - 675,000 square foot (sf) warehouse (estimated)
 - Expansion possible for additional 300,000 sf
 - \$91 million in capital investment (estimated)
 - 175-250 FTEs (estimated)
 - Located in Southwest Casa Grande on Thornton Road and I-8
 - Applied for and received FTZ 75 designation

- Union Pacific Red Rock
 - Rail classification yard – “Hump Yard”
 - 950 acres located along I-10 southeast of Picacho Peak north of Park Link Road
 - \$300 million capital investment
 - 250-300 FTEs
 - Located in unincorporated Pinal County
 - Awaiting State Land Department approval for auction
- Case New Holland
 - R&D farm equipment facility (currently under construction)
 - CNH is a subsidiary of Fiat Manufacturing-the world’s largest heavy equipment manufacturer
 - 25 Technicians/engineers/mechanics
 - Located in unincorporated Pinal County at southeast corner of Curry and Randolph Roads
 - Completion in early 2016
- Urgent Care Extra
 - In full operation
 - \$5 million in capital investment
 - Located at the northeast corner of Gary and Empire Roads
 - One of two sites in San Tan Valley area
 - Company has locations in Phoenix, Tucson and Nevada
- Sheffield Lubricants
 - 80% completed
 - Industrial lubricants, greases and oils manufacturing
 - \$9 million in capitalization costs
 - 35 FTEs
 - Located in Casa Grande near TSC on UP rail
 - Canada/Colorado company
 - Uses oils from Jiffy Lube, Walmart, Sears, etc.
- Miscellaneous projects
 - AZ Zipline Tours in Oracle (January 2016)
 - Hunt Highway completion - San Tan Valley
 - Copper Filtering facility – Northeast Pinal County
 - Countywide Tourism program begins FY 2015-2016
 - Expansion of the ASARCO-Ray Mine near Kearny
 - 600,000 sf manufacturing plant in Casa Grande
 - New copper mine near Mammoth
 - 3.5 mile road course race track on I-8

- Green waste to energy project in West Casa Grande
- Bio Gas facility in Western Pinal Count
- Proposed hotel project in northern Pinal County
- Pinal County's valued partners
 - ADOT
 - Arizona Commerce Authority
 - Maricopa County
 - Pima County
 - Central Arizona College
 - Sun Corridor, Inc.
 - Greater Phoenix Economic Council
 - Access Arizona
 - MAG, CAG, PAG
 - Copper Corridor Economic Development Coalition
 - APS, SRP, TRICO, TEP, SCIP, SW Gas
- Planned for 2016
 - Road improvements: Ironwood Safety Program, Phase III Hunt Highway, Gantzel extension to Hunt
 - Pinal Air Park
 - County land sales (approximately 100 parcels)
 - Home Depot in San Tan Valley
 - Tourism
 - County Workforce
 - Red Rock/Union Pacific
 - Sun Corridor
 - ADOT does not have funding to build it
 - Will jump start growth if regional roads are completed
 - Considering ½ cent sales tax for 20 years
 - Passenger Rail Study
 - Need to look at options to get components of it completed

Mr. Brent Billingsley, Town Manager, thanked Mr. Stanley for what Pinal County does for the Town and said the Town will continue to work with Pinal County. He said that he has had a lot of success in working with Mr. Stanley on various projects and studies.

Presentation by Jamie White, Town GIS Coordinator, on the development of new Geographic Information System webpage tools for the use and benefit of internal and external customers.

Mr. Jaime White, Town GIS Coordinator, presented on the new Geographic Information System (GIS) webpage tool. He explained what GIS is and how it is used.

Mr. White stated that the Community Development planners had requested a web based tool to help obtain information on zoning and General Plan designations. In early 2015, the development of a web tool began and in July 2015, a preliminary tool was presented for review to the Community Development members. In August 2015, adjustments were made and Town employees were asked for input. The final changes were completed in late September and on November 18, 2015. The tool was presented to local Pinal County GIS professionals.

Mr. White presented the tool to the Council and provided a short tutorial of how the web tool works. He said that the Town of Florence zoning application is the first map you see when you open the web tool. Some of the navigation tools that can be used include address search, parcel search, survey location and the ability to click on the map to retrieve information for a specific parcel. There is also a link to the Pinal County Assessor's website. The tool was also expanded to include a General Plan search.

Mr. White said that the tool will be beneficial to developers who will now have instant access to information that they previously had to call for. The current tools available include a zoning search, general plan search, general address search and floodplain search.

Councilmember Anderson stated that he reviewed the tool in August and feels it is a great tool for the citizens of Florence. He stated the tool will help build the community.

Mayor Rankin inquired if Community Development has coordinated with Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) and Central Arizona Association of Governments (CAG).

Mr. White stated that they have met with MAG and the MAG staff has shown the Town's staff what they provide as well as offered their assistance. He said the next step will be to provide the tool to MAG; they have yet to coordinate with CAG.

Mr. Billingsley stated that GIS is a relational data base and is more than maps and a map making tool. He said there are tremendous opportunities for relational database tools to assist Fire, Police and other departments as well as the citizens and Council.

Mayor Rankin inquired as to what the plans were for updates.

Mr. White stated that the data itself is based on the live data stored on the internal servers and is always up-to-date providing that the information on the internal servers are updated. .

Public Hearing on Resolution No. 1568-15:

Ms. Lisa Garcia, Deputy Town Manager/Town Clerk, read Resolution No. 1568-15 by title only.

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 17, 2016.

Ms. Garcia stated the first public hearing was held on December 21, 2015 and this is the second public hearing. She said immediately following the public hearing the Council will adjourn into a Special Meeting, at which time Council will have an opportunity to vote on the item and a roll call vote is required. She said if the item passes by five members voting in favor of the item, a publication will be prepared for next week's local newspaper. She said this is pursuant to Arizona State Statutes and in accordance of having a special election for a one time specific amount over the expenditure limitation. The Town of Florence's one time specific amount over the expenditure limitation is \$15 million, which is the same amount that the Town proposed in the last election that was successful. There is also the stipulation included that the Town of Florence will not exceed the prior year's budget.

Mayor Rankin opened the public hearing.

Mayor Rankin stepped of the podium and spoke as a private citizen. He said it is important to have the election pass in order to keep up the work that is being done for the Town. He believes that what was accomplished last year is an improvement to the community. He said the Town lives within its means and has taken care of what needed to be taken care of. The Town has two other elections coming up this year and the Council and staff need to talk to the public and get the word out to support the Town. He asked the citizens to take a look at the library and aquatics center and see what the Town has been able to accomplish.

Mr. Rankin said there are other projects that are planned for as well. He said as a member of the public, he asked Council to get the word out so that they can have another successful election and have the money to continue with what the Town is doing. He said it would be nice if the home rule would pass. The Town if very fortunate to have great department heads that have stayed within their budgets and have presented ideas on how the Town can move forward.

Ms. Garcia stated that Council is required to provide an argument for the proposition. The argument was drafted and provided to Council for consideration and was reviewed at the last Council meeting. The proposition will be Proposition 408. She asked Council to forward their comments or requested changes to her.

Mr. Jim Tchida, Florence Resident, stated that the Council has done a tremendous job in providing amenities for its residents, and needs to continue to do so. Florence has a tremendous workforce; however, the workforce has chosen not to live in Florence. He

said there are approximately 5,000 people who commute to Florence on a daily basis. He emphasized that Florence needs to be a community in which people want to live. He said it is important to spend funds on amenities. He said he is in support of adoption of Resolution No. 1568-15.

Mayor Rankin closed the public hearing.

ADJOURN TO A SPECIAL MEETING

On motion of Councilmember Woolridge, seconded by Councilmember Guilin, and carried to adjourn to a Special Meeting.

Resolution No. 1568-15:

Ms. Lisa Garcia, Deputy Town Manager/Town Clerk, read Resolution No. 1568-15 by title only.

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 17, 2016.

On motion of Councilmember Woolridge, seconded by Councilmember Guilin to adopt Resolution No. 1568-15.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilmember Woolridge: Yes
Councilmember Guilin: Yes
Councilmember Hawkins: Yes
Councilmember Wall: Yes
Councilmember Anderson: Yes
Vice-Mayor Walter: Yes
Mayor Rankin: Yes

Motion passed: Yes: 7; No: 0

ADJOURN FROM A SPECIAL MEETING

On motion of Councilmember Woolridge, seconded by Councilmember Hawkins, and carried to adjourn from a Special Meeting.

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.

Approval of an application and to accept funds, if awarded, from the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program to pay for EMT-Paramedic training for firefighters.

Approval of Change Order No. 1 with Kimbrell Electric, Inc., for installation of a new traffic signal at Fire Station No. 2, located at 2035 N. Hunt Highway, increasing the contract price by \$1,820.84, to \$200,902.46.

Approval of an application to the Arizona Department of Liquor License and Control for a Special Event License for the Assumption of Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, to hold a festival on February 13, 2016, from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Approval of accepting the register of demands ending November 30, 2015, in the amount of \$1,926,682.61.

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

9b. Approval of Change Order No. 1 with Kimbrell Electric, Inc., for installation of a new traffic signal at Fire Station No. 2, located at 2035 N. Hunt Highway, increasing the contract price by \$1,820.84, to \$200,902.46.

Councilmember Anderson stated that the change orders are continuing. He inquired what caused the increase of the contract price and why was there no contingency in place for the overage.

Mr. Wayne Costa, Public Works Director, stated that the overage is to pay for the installation of the new location of an Arizona Public Service meter pedestal to accommodate future development to the west and also to relocate the signal cabinet. He said the Town acquired the easement in May 2015 in order to address the access control into the future development on the west side, which is owned by Southwest Value Partners. He said the second item is due to the proximity of the wiring of the feed from the controller. The Town was able to provide lighting power to the monument in the southeast corner of the traffic signal. He said this was necessary during the course of the project. He said it was a unit price contract and all of the additional units are conveyed by the MAG standards.

Mr. Costa stated that he is unable to respond as to why a contingency was not included in the contract.

Councilmember Anderson inquired why the items were overlooked in the original engineering.

Mr. Costa stated that the lighting of the monument was not overlooked. This came about due to the installation of the the monument sign. The contract identified that it would be installed in close proximity and it was during installation of the feeder in that location. He said there is no defined access, right-of-way or easement on the west side

of Hunt Highway at this location. Southwest Value Partnership came forward because they share engineers with Pulte and the Town addressed the issue with them. It was agreed that the Town would pay for the fourth leg of the signal when it is installed and expand it across rather than not have the design finalized or the curve return in place prior to the installation of the APS meter at the proper location.

Councilmember Anderson inquired where the fourth leg would go under the original design.

Mr. Costa said the fourth leg will be located in the median on the east side and it controls traffic from the west in the future access off of Southwest Value Partnership.

Mr. Brent Billingsley, Town Manager, stated that he has heard the concerns of the Council with regards to going over budget on projects and contingencies not being included in the contract. He said, with his experience in project and contract management, he is aware of the difficulties in managing large projects. He stated aid from this point forward, owner contingency will be added as part of the design and construction contract. He said Council will not see many change orders come before them and staff will strive to ensure that everything is included in the contract; however there may be instances when a change order may be necessary because there are instances when things go very far array.

On motion of Councilmember Anderson, seconded By Councilmember Guilin, and carried to approve Change Order No. 1 with Kimbrell Electric, Inc., for installation of a new traffic signal at Fire Station No. 2, located at 2035 N. Hunt Highway, increasing the contract price by \$1,820.84, to \$200,902.46.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution No. 1574-16:

Ms. Lisa Garcia, Deputy Town Manager/Town Clerk, read Resolution No. 1574-15 by title only.

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF FLORENCE, PINAL COUNTY, ARIZONA, ORDERING AND CALLING A SPECIAL ELECTION TO BE HELD ON MAY 17, 2016, IN AND FOR THE TOWN OF FLORENCE, ARIZONA, TO SUBMIT TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE TOWN THE QUESTION OF SHALL THE TOWN OF FLORENCE REGAIN LOCAL CONTROL AND EXCEED THE STATE-IMPOSED EXPENDITURE LIMITATION FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017 BY \$15,000,000, TO ALLOW THE TOWN TO ADOPT A BUDGET NO GREATER THAN THE AMOUNT THAT WAS ADOPTED FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015-2016?

Ms. Garcia stated this is the official call to the election, and by doing so, it does the following:

- States the Town's election will be held on May 17, 2016 and will be a ground election. She stated that unless a voter has submitted a form to the State that they want to participate in elections by all mail ballots all of the time, they have to come to their designated polling site to vote.
- Gives a designation of election to allow the Clerk to be authorized to conduct the election and to expend all expenditures necessary to conduct that election.
- Designates the purpose and sets the ballot language.

Ms. Garcia read the ballot language for the record. She stated that one of the requirements by State Statutes is to do a call for arguments, for: in favor or against, which she will be doing. She said the Town must allow people to submit an argument in favor of or against to be included in the publicity pamphlet. She said a \$200 deposit must be included with the submission. The deposit covers the cost for the printing and translation into Spanish. She said anyone who wishes to vote in the election must be registered by April 18, 2016. She said she will ensure all advertisements are placed in the local newspaper announcing the call to the public and they will be translated in both English and Spanish, pursuant to the law.

Councilmember Woolridge stated that the Town may want to consider using another word aside from deposit, as it implies that they may receive the money back.

Ms. Garcia explained that the word deposit is per Town code. If the total cost is less than the \$200 deposit, the difference is refunded to the individual. If the total cost exceeds the \$200 deposit, the individual will receive a bill for the overage.

Mayor Rankin requested that Ms. Garcia meet with the local newspaper to disseminate as much information as possible. He suggested adding a newsletter or flyer in the residents' utility bills from both the Town and Johnson Utilities.

On motion of Councilmember Woolridge, seconded by Councilmember Anderson, and carried to adopt Resolution No. 1574-16.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Billingsley thanked the Council and staff for their support. He is looking forward to the things that will be done for the community. He said several items have transpired since his report last week, which include:

- The Town has been awarded a Homeland Security Grant for Operation Stone Garden. Paperwork associated with the grant will be forthcoming. This is the second year that Florence has been awarded this grant.
- The Police Department will be working with Border Patrol to combat the flow of drugs coming into Pinal County. The grant is for \$81,726 in overtime funds and \$10,000 in mileage costs. There is also an opportunity to purchase a four-wheel drive vehicle for the Police Department.

- Police Chief Hughes has announced that he will start a Citizens Police Academy this year. His goal is to do two academies per year, with the first starting in mid-March. The academy will run for six weeks and will be held in the evenings. Discussions will include how the Town operates as well as the contributions that the Police Department makes to the community. The hope is to get the community engaged, bring an understanding as well as to get volunteers.
- Diversion Dam Road Street Widening Project: The project is scheduled to start this month. The project is located on Diversion Dam Road between State Route 79 and Bowling Road. The project will entail street widening as well as intersection improvements. The road will remain open throughout the project.
- Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) conducted an inspection of the south wastewater treatment plant. The Town of Florence is under a State imposed letter, called a Consent Order, regarding challenges that the Town has had with the disinfection and de-chlorination systems at that plant. He stated that there have been several changes at that plant, including the changes with de-chlorination and pumping. He said a new disc filtration project has been implemented and an existing UV process has been upgraded and is back online. ADEQ is happy with the progress and the Town has four more months to complete the remaining paperwork, but everything is up and running. There was a challenge this weekend where the headworks went down and the the staff did a fine job of getting the repairs done over the weekend.
- Southwest Gas will start upsizing multiple gas mains in Florence on portions of Florence, Bailey, Granite, Willow, Central and Butte Avenue in the upcoming months. He stated that a lot of the older lines are undersized and need to be replaced. He stated that there will be directional boring. The project is anticipated to take three months to complete but may take up to six months to complete. Public Works will review the traffic control plans and ensure that they are in compliance with Manual Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

- a. Community Development**
- b. Courts**
- c. Finance**
- d. Fire**
- e. Library**
- f. Parks and Recreation**
- g. Police**
- h. Public Works**

Vice-Mayor Walter asked Mr. Mark Eckhoff, Community Development Director, for further information regarding the table top emergency response exercise pertaining to the San Carlos Dam that he attended.

Mr. Eckhoff stated that, as part of the exercise, they were able to visit the dam on the first day to get a perspective of what is there and to picture the scenario. The training was conducted on the second day in which several key players attended. He said due to the much discussion they were unable to complete the exercise. They will schedule another meeting date in which to complete the exercise.

Mayor Rankin inquired if they determined how long it would take for the water to reach Florence if the San Pedro was completely full.

Mr. Eckhoff stated that there is a worst case scenario that everyone is prepared for should the dam spill over. He noted that the San Carlos Dam is currently at 10% capacity. The dam is designed to have the water go over the spillways should it reach capacity and there is also an inundation area.

Mr. Billingsley said the training contained three components:

- Education
- Design, review and comments exercise
- Emergency exercise

Mr. Billingsley stated that they were handed a very large binder and went through the book, page by page and reviewed approximately 50% of the binder. He said they inserted their comments directly on the documents and the books were collected after the session. They were unable to leave with any of the materials as they were all in draft form and it is a federally funded update to their emergency plan. He stated that the update will be shared upon completion.

Vice-Mayor Walter expressed her desire to participate in emergency preparedness exercises and asked that Council be included should an opportunity arise.

Vice-Mayor Walter asked Mr. Gabe Garcia, Finance Director, when he will present the work that the Budget Committee has completed thus far to the Council.

Mr. Garcia stated that a presentation is scheduled for February 2016.

Councilmember Guilin stated that very little monies have been moved from the construction capital CIP monies, construction tax monies, and food tax monies. She inquired if this is due to the reporting from the State of Arizona and remittance or is it an item that needs to be reviewed for journal entering purposes.

Mr. Garcia stated that he would check to ensure the journal entries have been entered.

The Department Reports were received and filed.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Mr. Jim Tchida, Florence Resident, stated that it is his understanding that a budget of \$50,000 was established for the funding of a strategic plan. He stated there is a difference between a strategic plan and a strategic intent. He said that he is not opposed to a strategic plan, but the strategic plan will go down the path of many previously published plans. He said tourism has been a long standing problem with the town. He inquired if we want Florence to be a destination and if we want tour companies to bring tourists to Florence. He inquired if we want Florence to be vibrant. He said there are a lot of workers who come to Florence and do not live here. The Town should not spend \$50,000 on the Strategic Plan unless those issues are addressed.

CALL TO THE COUNCIL – CURRENT EVENTS ONLY

Councilmember Anderson thanked Mr. Billingsley for all the work he has completed in his first five days of employment. He thanked Mr. Mark Cowling for the articles that he has written about Florence. He stated that there was a nice article in the newspaper about Anthem Parkside – Pulte. He said there was a nice article about Florence’s history in the Casa Grande Dispatch.

Vice-Mayor Walter wished everyone a Happy New Year. She thanked Mr. Billingsley for spending time with staff and familiarizing himself with everyone. She stated that 2016 will bring a lot of great things for Florence, including Florence’s 150th Celebration. There will be a meeting this week and invited everyone to attend. She stated that Florence will also have its Home Tour in February. There are also several great events hosted by the Parks and Recreation and Library Departments and encouraged everyone to get involved.

ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

An Executive Session will be held during the Council Meeting for to provide the annual evaluation of the Town Clerk/Deputy Town Manager pursuant to A.R.S. Section 38-431.03(A)(1).

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

ADJOURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

On motion of Councilmember Anderson, seconded by Councilmember Woolridge, and carried to 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 Anderson, seconded by Councilmember Woolridge, and carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 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 January 4, 2016, and that the meeting was duly called to order and that a quorum was present.



Lisa Garcia, Town Clerk