

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE TOWN OF FLORENCE COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY, MARCH 29, 2016, AT 6:00 P.M., IN THE UNION CENTER AT SUN CITY ANTHEM AT MERRILL RANCH, LOCATED AT 3925 N. SUN CITY BOULEVARD, 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.

**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.**

Mr. Richard Waggoner, Florence Resident, stated that it is his understanding that the Anthem Community is good for the Town of Florence with regards to the monies the Town receives. He said he was surprised with the Call to the Public with regards to the wording that individual Councilmembers may respond to criticism. He suggested the wording be changed to be friendlier.

Mr. Waggoner inquired if the Town has a five year plan on the 12 to 13 feet dragging strips on Hunt Highway. He inquired what the Town is going to do to fix this issue.

Mayor Rankin stated that a staff member will discuss the issue with him after the meeting.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN TO MERRILL RANCH COMMUNITY FACILITIES DISTRICT NO. 1 BOARD.**

On motion of Vice-Mayor Walter, seconded by Councilmember Guilin, and carried to adjourn to Merrill Ranch Community Facilities District No. 1.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Presentation by Mark Reader, Stifel Nicolaus, on Community Facility Districts.**

Mr. Mark Reader, Managing Director, Stifel Nicolaus, provided a presentation on Land Secured Finance Education Session – Financing Public Infrastructure Through Community Facilities Districts (CFDs) (General Obligation Bonds and Special Assessment Bonds), in which he discussed the following:

- CFDS are living, breathing political subdivisions formed by the Council in 2005.
- The Board of Directors is the Town Council and they govern decisions regarding CFDs.
- CFDs can issue bonds to finance infrastructure.
- Goals of Education Session
  - Continue to educate and inform the CFD Board of Directors and the community on the issuance of tax-exempt bonds to finance the acquisition or construction of public infrastructure
  - Focus on two separate and distinct types of bond issues – Special Assessment bonds (SA) and General Obligation bonds (GO)
- Definitions
  - GO Bonds:
    - Repaid from secondary property tax rate: \$3.55 per \$100
    - \$3.25 per \$100 of net limited assessed value for debt service to finance public infrastructure
    - \$0.30 per \$100 of net limited assessed value for maintenance and operations (M&O) levy collected to assist with the maintenance of the regional public infrastructure
    - Taxes based on value of property and tax rate
    - CFD is only one political subdivision in which the property owner pays
  - Special Assessment Bonds: \$3,500 fixed assessment allocated to each residential lot to fund in-tract public infrastructure
    - Developed in 2004/2005 when Pulte requested the formation of a CFD to assist them in financing the enhanced public infrastructure that is in the Anthem community.
    - \$3500 assessed fee can be paid in full or within 20 to 25 years
- Evaluating the use of land-secured bonds
  - Pre-development
    - Secure entitlements
    - Permitting
    - Development planning
    - Developer is sole property owner
    - Negotiations underway with builders
  - Infrastructure Improvements
    - Access Roads Complete
    - Site work underway
    - Merchant builders in contract for some or all of land
    - Developer/builders remain largest taxpayer
  - Partial Development
    - Vertical construction well underway
    - Some parcels owned and occupied

- Taxpayer diversification
- Build Out
  - Fully built out
  - Parcels owned and occupied by buyers
  - Developer no longer taxpayer
  - High VTL
- Typical Bond Issue Timing
  - Initial Bond Sale
    - During Infrastructure Improvements
    - During the first part of partial development
  - Refunding Bond Sale
    - During latter part of development
    - During Build Out
- Merrill Ranch CFD Nos. 1 and 2
  - Defined boundary for each district
  - CFD No. 1 is much larger than CFD No. 2
  - Curis, which is the copper mining area, was excluded from the district when the districts were formed in 2005 because it was State Land at that time.
- Anthem at Merrill Ranch CFD Background, Plan of Finance and Development Status
  - Districts formed and GO Bond election held in 2005
  - District No. 1
    - 7,900 acres
    - 35,550 planned residential units
    - 1,144 home closings
    - Averaging 200 -225 home sales per year
  - District No. 2
    - 1,060 acres
    - 3,144 acres planned residential units
    - 1,089 home closings
  - 4,240 acres purchased by Southwest Value Partners
- Plan of Finance
  - \$3.25 secondary tax rate for bonds
  - \$0.30 secondary tax rate for M&O
  - Special Assessment: approximately \$25.00 per month based on \$3,500 per lot assessment
    - Maintain consistent secondary property tax rates and assessments between CFD Nos. 1 and 2
    - GO bond proceeds used for regional infrastructure improvements within the CFDs (i.e., major arterials, parks, open space, drainage, fire station)
      - Everyone benefits from the infrastructure
    - SA bonds used for localized benefit – paving, curb & gutter, sidewalks, storm drain & drainage
      - Only those within the localized area benefit from the infrastructure
  - GO Bonds (ad valorem bonds repaid from secondary property tax rate of \$3.25 per \$100)

- Regional Public Infrastructure Financed with G O Bond Proceeds, including:

Bond Series	Regional Public Infrastructure
\$4,390,000 Series 2008 (District No. 1)	Merrill Ranch Parkway, American Way, Constitution Way, Felix Road, Independence Way, Sun City Boulevard and Anthem Way
\$3,560,000, Series 2010 (District No. 2)	Merrill Ranch Parkway, Hunt Highway, (Phase 1) Storm Drainage
\$900,000, Series 2012 (District No. 1)	Regional Fire Station
\$500,000, Series 2012 (District No. 2)	Regional Fire Station
\$1,850,000, Series 2013 (District No. 2)	Merrill Ranch Parkway, Hunt Highway, (Phase 1)
\$2,000,000, Series 2016 (District No. 2) – Estimated	Hunt Highway, American Way

- Pulte has installed approximately \$200 million in public infrastructure for the development
- Bond money has been used to reimburse Pulte for the public infrastructure development for the the following projects: Merrill Ranch Parkway, American Way, Constitutional Way, Felix Road, Independence Way, Sun City Boulevard, and Anthem.
- There have also been improvements on Hunt Highway including the addition of a regional fire station and police sub-station.
  - Financed with GO Bond regional dollars
- CFD Board to consider a not to exceed amount of \$2, million in GO Bonds and monies to be used to reimburse Hunt Highway and American Way
- Special Assessment (\$3,500 special assessment per lot):
  - In-Track infrastructure financed with SA Bonds, including;
    - Streets, curb, gutters, storm drainage

Ms. Erica Coombs Vice-President, Stifel Nicolaus, continued with the presentation, in which she discussed where to find information on a particular property:

- Assessor website information
  - <http://www.pinalcountyz.gov/assessor/Pages/home.aspx>
    - Can search by name or by address
    - Taxes based off one property value - Limited Property Value (LPV)
    - Tax value is different from home value
      - Value is determined by Pinal County Assessor
- Treasurer website information
  - <https://treasurer.pinalcountyz.gov/ParcelInquiry>
    - Example:
      - CFD Debt Service tax rate is \$3.25 per \$100 of net limited assessed value
        - Formula:  $(\$19,531 \times 3.25)/100$ 
          - \* Tax Liability for CFD debt service is \$634.76

- MRCFD No. 2
- Average owner occupied home in 2016/2017 is \$122,180
- Average in 2015/2016 is \$115,510
- In 2015/2016 owner paid \$31/month for debt service or \$34/month for CFD No. 2 taxes.

An audience member inquired if the taxes still apply to them if they paid off the \$3,500.

Ms. Coombs stated that they would still have to pay the general obligation debt service as well as the operations and maintenance tax. They would not have the special assessment tax.

The person asked to have general obligations bonds explained to them.

Ms. Coombs explained what general obligations (GO) bonds are. She stated that they are similar to an I.O.U. and there is a debt obligation. The jurisdiction is provided an upfront sum of money that is paid back over a period of time.

Ms. Coombs stated that special assessments are only for the individual lot and is different from GO Bonds. GO bonds are for regional infrastructure and are unable to be paid off early. The debt for GO bonds retires at one time for the entire community. Both SA and GO bonds are two different types of debt and are related to CFDs.

Mr. Bruce Fenstermaker, Florence Resident, spoke; however portions were inaudible as he spoke from his seat and did not approach the podium or use a microphone. Some of his points included:

- What the interest rate is.
- The rate was 6% last year when he spoke to the bond representative.
- He is able to obtain a GO bond out of Florida for 3%.
- Who pays the money

Mr. Fenstermaker stated that they stated that they are repairing Hunt Highway and they should put Holbrook up there. They stated that it is their highway. They stated that it is their fire truck and inquired why the fire truck is going into Florence and into the valley. They stated that they paid for the fire truck and it is the same for the police. They stated that they need to explain it better. Pulte wants money to put in infrastructure and sidewalks. They stated that all they have to do is call the Town and the Town will make everyone in Anthem pay for it. They stated that they paid for the curb. (inaudible) There are 11 homes for sale on his street.

Mr. Reader stated that in 2005 the District was formed. Pulte put millions into the ground to build the enhanced public infrastructure for the great amenities that they have in the community. He stated that the golf course is not included in the taxes.

Mr. Reader stated that there has been a \$3.25 tax rate for ten years and the plan is that there will be a \$3.25 tax rate for the regional public infrastructure component of the this development for the next 12 to 15 years as it gets built out.

Chairman Rankin asked that the audience let Mr. Reader finish his explanation and ask questions at the end of his presentation.

Mr. Reader stated that the secondary tax rate is \$3.25 and has been for ten years with the expectation that it will continue to be at that rate. The District grew approximately five percent this year, and this is good news because the property values are increasing slightly each year. There is new development occurring and the tax base is growing each year. He stated that when the tax base grows the District has additional revenue in which to sell additional bonds. Every year during the budget season they calculate what the tax base is within the boundaries of CFD Nos. 1 and 2. The Districts grew slightly so they will issue more bonds to maintain the \$3.25 tax rate. They will sell approximately \$2 million in CFD No. 2, which will reimburse Pulte. Pulte puts that money back into the development to continue developing over the next few years. This mechanism and financing plan was disclosed to all buyers when purchasing a home in Anthem. The people who purchase a brand new home in Anthem are required to sign a disclosure form that they are aware of the \$3.25 and they are aware of the \$3500 special assessment. This discloses the financial plan of the development. The financing plan is to help finance some of the infrastructure and improvements.

Mr. Reader stated that debt service will be \$475,000 per year in CFD No. 2 and the tax rate is then levied sufficient to pay the \$475,000 in debt service for the general obligation.

An audience member spoke; however, it was inaudible.

Ms. Coombs stated that they will still see the same information on the tax bill. She stated that the difference will be when they are looking at how the County Assessor provides them information. The average home value is based on the number of parcels in Class 3 (owner-occupied) and divided by the total assessed value. She said there is commercial, agriculture, vacant, and owner-occupied classifications as well. The owners of a rental property would see the same type of tax. The difference would be that there is a State-Aid credit if you are the home owner and if a homeowner owns more than one property in Arizona. The home owner only get the tax break on the property that they are living in.

Mr. Reader stated that there are rented residential homes in the CFD and they are valued differently by the County Assessor. Arizona is voted as having the most complex taxing system in the country.

Mr. Brent Billingsley, District Manager, explained that a GO bond is similar to a loan to purchase the home and the debt services are similar to the interest on the loan. He stated that a CFD is a community facilities district which is special government under the laws of Arizona and has a number of powers, one of which is the ability to sell bonds.

Mr. Billingsley stated that even though the projects are identified it is not arbitrary capricious. He stated that there were projects identified in 2005 when the CFD was established and that the projects were always intended to be implemented over time. The projects did not only pertain to the streets around the buildings but pertained to all the development that was likely to occur within the entire CFD.

An audience member stated that he understands the rate to be \$3.25 and further understands that property values increase; however, his concern is that if the property values go up, the rate is multiplied at the same rate but with a higher value. They stated that this equates to paying more at the end of the year for taxes. Many of the residents are on fixed incomes and this increase will affect them.

Mr. Reader stated that Proposition No. 117 was a new property tax initiative last year that limits the property value increasing no more than five percent per year. He stated that the property tax amount will increase and this is the nature of the general obligation taxing mechanism.

An audience member stated that as the area develops there will be more homes which equates to a larger tax base so he would expect the tax rate of \$3.25 to decrease.

Mr. Reader stated that the rates would decrease if the CFD did not issue any more bonds. He said bonds would be issued to the extent of the addition revenue. Additional revenue is derived from the tax base growth.

Mr. Fenstermaker inquired as to why it does not show that east Hunt Highway was given to Southwest Value Partners and south of Parkside was swapped with Pulte. He stated that the CFD areas are being changed and the residents are paying for areas that were changed in the planned unit development. The residents are paying for taxes for various things such as the college district and what the Town is changing. He said all of the taxes are not fair. The Town built a water park and Anthem has a water park and they pay for it. He asked that the Anthem residents not pay for what the town does because they have a CFD that takes care of their neighborhood.

Chairman Rankin stated that he is a member of Florence.

Mr. Fenstermaker stated that he was not a member of Florence. He stated that \$1,300,000 is what the Town is debt and inquired who was going to pay for it.

Chairman Rankin stated that everyone who resides within the municipal boundary is a Florence resident. He stated that the water park was a decision made by the Town Council at that time. He stated that the public has the option to vote the Council out if they do not like the Council's decisions or they can choose to live elsewhere.

Mr. Fenstermaker stated the the Council cannot tell him to move.

(inaudible)

Chairman Rankin stated that financing has changed in Arizona. Most communities have community facilities districts. He stated that this is the way to do business now.

Mr. Billingsley stated that the meeting will proceed with the public hearing. He stated that the bond counsel and staff will be available after the meeting to answer any questions.

**Hold a Public Hearing on the Feasibility Report of the feasibility and benefits of certain projects to be financed with the proceeds of the sale of Special Assessment Bonds of Merrill Ranch Community Facilities District No. 1.**

Chairman Rankin opened the public hearing.

Mr. Dan Hewitt, Sun City Anthem Resident, inquired what the projects will consist of.

Mr. Billingsley stated that the sale of \$2 million in bonds is to pay for improvements on Hunt Highway and American Way in CFD NO. 2.

Mr. Reader stated that the item is for SA bonds. He said there are 282 lots at \$3,500 per lot, which equates to a SA bond of \$987,000. The purpose will be for paving, curb and gutter, sidewalks and storm drainage in Units 50 and 53.

Mr. Billingsley stated that project will include 1800 linear feet of storm drain, 41,160 square yards of paving, 24,196 linear feet of curb and gutter, and 72,480 feet of sidewalk.

Mr. Hewitt stated that he does not know where the units are located.

Mr. Reader stated that each phase consists of 50 -100 lots.

Mr. Randy Christman, Pulte, stated that Unit 50 is at the northwest corner of Merrill Ranch Parkway and Felix Road. Unit 53 is in Parkside at the intersection of Constitution Way and Anthem Way.

Chairman Rankin closed the public hearing.

**Motion to adopt Resolution No. MRCFD1 132-16, which in part authorizes execution of certain documents, approves the feasibility report and approves the assessment diagram and method of assessment for the assessment area eight.**

On motion of Boardmember Guilin, seconded by Boardmember Wall, and carried to adopt Resolution No. MRCFD1 132-16.

**Motion to adopt Resolution No. MRCFD1 133-16, which in part authorizes the private placement and issuance of not to exceed \$987,000 aggregate principal amount of Special Assessment Bonds, Series 2016 and related matters.**

Chairman Rankin inquired why citizens within a District are unable to purchase the bonds.

Mr. Reader stated that they would allow the residents of the community the opportunity to purchase the bonds should they desire. Advertisements and presentations can be done on site.

those improvements. After that process takes place it is then applicable for whoever did the improvements, such as Pulte, to come back to the CFD to sell bonds for reimbursement for completing those improvements.

Chairman Rankin closed the public hearing.

**Motion to adopt Resolution No. MRCFD2 230-16, which in part authorizes the sale and issuance of not to exceed \$2,000,000 aggregate principal amount of General Obligation Bonds, Series 2016 and related matters. Please note, the current bond issue is sized at \$1,900,000 and is subject to change based on the final interest rates and cash in the debt service fund.**

On motion of Boardmember Anderson, seconded by Boardmember Guilin, and carried to adopt Resolution No. MRCFD2 230-16.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN FROM MERRILL RANCH COMMUNITY FACILITIES DISTRICT NO. 2 BOARD.**

On motion of Vice-Chairman Walter, seconded by Boardmember Guilin, and carried to adjourn from Merrill Ranch Community Facilities District No. 2 Board.

**PRESENTATIONS**

**Presentation of the Chamber of Commerce Business of the Month to Bucks 4 Style Consignment Shop.**

Ms. Jessica Moore, Executive Director, Greater Florence Chamber of Commerce, acknowledged Bucks 4 Style Consignment Shop as the Business of the Month for March 2016. Ms. Kim Ehlebracht, owner, opened the business in June 2014 and has outgrown its space twice. The business is now located in the Silver King Marketplace. Ms. Ehlebracht has brought a successful business to the community as well as donating clothing to those in need.

Ms. Ehlebracht stated that she moved to Florence in 2003 and worked for the Pinal County and the Town for approximately eight years. She decided to open her own shop and invited everyone to visit her shop. She thanked the Greater Florence Chamber of Commerce for recognizing her business.

**Target Budget Update Presentation**

Mr. Billingsley stated that an audience member mentioned that the Town's budget is \$1,300,000 in the red in the current fiscal year. He clarified that a budget was approved where the Town was dipping into their savings for \$1,200,000 in order to balance the budget. He said he received a challenge upon being hired by the Town to improve the financial health of the community moving forward. The goal is to have a balanced budget and enhance and build trust with the taxpayers in Florence moving forward. He stated that the presentation that occurred one month ago discussed how adjustments can be made in the current year. He stated that he

came before Council and stated that they were going to reduce the \$1,200,000 deficit by \$500,000. He was confident that they would be able to reduce the deficit in the current fiscal year by \$500,000.

Mr. Billingsley stated that a trends analysis was done of the General Fund and how it has operated since 2010 to 2016. He outlined the revenues and what has been spent. He stated that his goal is to get the expenditures in line with the revenues received. He stated that they are reducing expenditures, trying to generate additional revenue, and change the way the Town does business.

Mr. Billingsley stated that staff and the Budget Committee have worked very hard to make adjustments to continue to reduce the deficit. They have done the following:

- Dissolved the internal service funds
- Updated projections
- Made adjustment to the way the Town does business in what is done with the food tax revenues when they are received by the Town.

Mr. Billingsley stated that they have updated the target budget and the amount reduced is now \$800,000. His hope is that as it gets closer to end of the fiscal year, he hopes to update the target and would love to erase the \$1,200,000 deficit going forward into the next fiscal year. He asked the public to participate in the budget process as well as attend the meetings. He stated that Council and staff welcome comments.

### **Are You Ready to Vote Presentation**

Mr. Billingsley stated that he cannot advocate on how a person can vote; however, he can inform and educate the public. He provided a presentation, in which he discussed the following:

#### **Why Are We Here?**

- On August 26, 2014, the electors of the Town of Florence voted on the Home Rule Option.
  - Proposition 400
    - No – 52% (667 votes)
    - Yes – 48%% (622 votes)
- Town is now subject to the State-Imposed Expenditure Limitation until Florence voters decide otherwise.
- Town cannot spend more per year than the Fiscal Year 1979/1980 base amount, with adjustments.
  - Town must spend what state specifies.

#### **What is Home Rule?**

- The Town is a political sub-division of the State.
- In 1980, Arizona voters approved an amendment to the State Constitution and created Home Rule.
- The amendment to the State Constitution created a system that requires voters in cities and towns (non-chartered) to decide every four years to:
  - Allow residents and Town Council to determine its own expenditure limitation; or

- Restrict spending to the State-Imposed Expenditure Limitation (regardless of revenues or available funds).
- Home Rule does not impact taxes or fees that the Town collects.

#### Last Year's Special Election

- On May 19, 2015 a Special Election was held.
  - Proposition 407
    - Yes - 78% (1439 votes)
    - No - 22% (409 votes)
- Election results allowed Town Council and citizens to retain local control.
- This special election authorized the Town to exceed the expenditure limitation for the existing budget year.

#### This Year's Two Town Elections

- Special Election (Proposition 408) on May 17, 2016.
  - A Yes vote allows the Town to determine its own expenditure limitation for next year (Fiscal Year 2016/2017).
  - A No vote allows the State to determine the Town's expenditure limitation for the next year (Fiscal Year 2016/2017).
- Home Rule Option Election on August 30, 2016.
  - A Yes vote allows the Town to determine its own expenditure limitation for next four years.
  - A No vote allows the State to determine the Town's expenditure limitation for the next four years.
    - Annual Special Elections can occur each year.

#### May 17, 2016 Special Election

- Election has no impact on raising or lowering taxes or fees.
- Publicity Pamphlet will be mailed out April 25, 2016.
- Identical to last year's May Special Election.
  - No Increase in overall expenditures from last year.
- Voters decide if annual expenditure limitation is determined by local control or by the State of Arizona.
- Voters decide if the Town can adopt a budget that allows the Town to set an expenditure limitation of \$15,000,000 in excess of the State-Imposed Expenditure Limitation for the next fiscal year.
- Actual ballot language (Proposition 408):
  - Shall the Town of Florence retain 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?
- Actual ballot language (Prop 408):
  - A **"YES"** vote shall have the effect of allowing the Town of Florence to retain local control and expend existing funds and revenues in a way that will allow the Town to continue to provide the existing services to its residents. A **"YES"** vote will not increase or decrease taxes.

- A “NO” vote shall have the effect of preventing the Town of Florence from retaining local control and its ability to expend existing funds and revenues and instead require expenditures be limited by the state-imposed expenditure formula based on Fiscal Year 1979-1980 expenditures, resulting in cuts in existing Town services and projects. A “NO” vote will not increase or decrease taxes.

#### Impacts to Services and Projects

- The Town of Florence provides many local services:
  - Police
  - Fire
  - Street Maintenance
  - Parks
  - Library
  - Senior Center
  - Courts
  - Water and Wastewater
  - Community Development
  - Economic Development
  - Special Events
  - Much more
- Town Council would need to make \$15,000,000 in cuts in services, projects and personnel, if Proposition 408 fails.

#### Fiscal Responsibility

- Fiscal Year 2015/2016 Target Budget was presented to the Town Council on February 16, 2016.
- Town has been reducing expenditures by:
  - Changing the way it does business.
  - Developing best practices in operations.
  - Implementing fiscally conservative practices.
- Every year, citizens participate in the annual adoption of the Town budget and the setting of the expenditure limitation.

#### May 17, 2016 Election Information

- This is not an all-mail ballot election!
  - Voters can request an early ballot by contacting the Pinal County Elections Office.
- Election will be held at three physical locations.
  - Precinct 23 Florence North at Florence Town Hall Council Chambers, 775 N. Main Street
  - Precinct 24 Florence South at Florence K-8 School Gym, 225 S. Orlando
  - Precinct 27 Poston Butte – Anthem Parkside Community Center, 3200 N. Anthem
- The last day to register to vote is April 18, 2016.
  - Register at [www.servicearizona.com](http://www.servicearizona.com) or contact the Pinal County Elections Office.
- The publicity pamphlet will be mailed out on April 25, 2016.
- Early ballots must be received by May 17, 2016 (Election Day).

#### August 30, 2016 Home Rule Election

- Similar election to the August 2014 election.
  - Voters approved Home Rule for eight out of nine elections.
  - Town retained local control for 33 out of the last 35 years.
- Election has no impact on raising or lowering taxes or fees.
- Voters decide if annual expenditure limitation is determined by local control and or by the State of Arizona.
- If passed, the Town regains local control for four years.
- Points of Contact for those who have questions or would like more information
  - Elections: Lisa Garcia, Deputy Town Manager/Town Clerk (520) 868-7552
  - Finance: Gabe Garcia, Finance Director (520) 868-7505
  - Brent Billingsley, Town Manager (520) 868-7558
  - Jess Knudson, Assistant Town Manager/PIO (520) 868-7541
  - General Information visit [www.florenceaz.gov](http://www.florenceaz.gov)

Mr. Billingsley stated the following:

- Home Rule does not impact taxes or fees that the Town collects.
- This special election authorizes the Town to exceed the expenditure limitation for the existing budget year.
- No Increase in overall expenditures from last year.
- Town Council would need to make \$15,000,000 in cuts in services, projects and personnel, if the Proposition 408 fails.
- Voters approved Home Rule for eight out of nine elections.
- Town retained local control for 33 out of the last 35 years.

Mr. Billingsley stated that there will be three initiatives on the ballot:

- Expenditure Limitation
- Public Safety Retirement authorization at the state level
- School Districts

Mr. Dan Hewitt, Sun City at Anthem Resident stated that he commented last year that the Home Rule was defeated because those who live in Anthem had no idea what Home Rule was. He said there were no public meetings regarding Home Rule to the best of his knowledge. He said when the Town had a special election staff went to Anthem and explained it to the residents. He said he now has a much better understanding and the confidence that this is what the Town needs to do. He said in his opinion, he will vote in favor of the override.

#### **MANAGER'S REPORT**

Mr. Billingsley stated that he received a letter thanking the individuals that represented the various agencies at the CPR AED 911 Program held at Sun City Anthem. They asked that the event become an annual event. He said Southwest Ambulance and Florence Fire participated in the exercise and it went very well. He thanked everyone involved.

Mr. Billingsley read a memorandum into the record that was received by Mr. Dan Hughes, Police Chief. It read:

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“Staff of the Police Department periodically reviews the services we provide the Town of Florence and look for ways to better address the needs and improve the overall delivery of services. While reviewing traffic issues for the Town, it became clear that for years residents of Florence have become accustomed to parking in various manners that violate Arizona Revised Statutes and the Town of Florence Municipal Code. The Town of Florence, over the last several years has begun to grow. The Anthem subdivision is continually building new homes, new streets and new neighborhoods. Which changes in both the downtown area of Florence and the overall growth, it has become apparent for the safety of residents that the Police Department should address the issue of parking.

Our goal has been to find an avenue to educate the citizens about problems associated with illegal parking and gain compliance through education. The use of citations will be utilized when the education effort has failed. In November 2015, officers were instructed to address illegal parking issues through education of vehicle owners. Major violations that are prevalent throughout Florence are parking on the wrong side of the street and parking more than 18 inches from the curb.

Each of the beat sergeants has been working with the officers to find ways to improve or eliminate parking problems in their beats. The next step in our effort is to address illegal parked vehicles by issuing warning notices. Over the next 60 days officers and police volunteers will attempt to make contact with the owners of illegal parked vehicles to correct the problem, if unable to make contact with the owner, a parking violation notice on the windshield of illegal parked vehicles, we will write warning across the notice. As part of the education process, the department will provide a media release to the local newspaper and place immediate release in high traffic areas throughout our community. A call for service will be generated for each incident of an illegally parked vehicle. The data collected will assist the department in determining how effective officers have been addressing the problem. We will continue educate drivers on the importance of proper parking; however, at the end of the 60 days officers will have the discretion to issue parking violation notices when necessary.

Most drivers do not realize to park on the wrong side of the street they must drive across a lane of oncoming traffic and that is a violation of the Arizona Revised Statutes Title 28 Traffic Code. If their vehicle is involved in an accident while being parked in such a manner, it could be considered contributing factor for the accident.

Councilmember Anderson stated that he went on tour of the downtown area and drove for approximately 20 minutes. He said during tour, he saw approximately 12 vehicles parked incorrectly. He is glad to see that the Police Chief is taking action to remedy the problem.

## **CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

There were no public comments.

## **CALL TO THE COUNCIL – CURRENT EVENTS ONLY**

Councilmember Hawkins reminded everyone to attend the Road to Country Thunder event.

Councilmember Wall thanked everyone who came to the meeting. She said to address questions to the Council and staff.

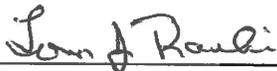
Vice-Mayor Walter stated that the schedule of upcoming Council speaking engagements is on the website. She encouraged the public to attend.

Mayor Rankin invited everyone to the Road to Country Thunder event on April 2, 2016. He said there is something for everyone to enjoy. The website has had over 12,000 hits. He said the event is sponsored by many organizations, including Country Thunder and KMLE radio station. This event is part of Florence's 150<sup>th</sup> Celebration.

Mayor Rankin stated that he hopes this information session was helpful to the residents. He invited everyone to attend future Council meetings.

### ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Vice-Mayor Walter, seconded by Councilmember Woolridge, and carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 pm.



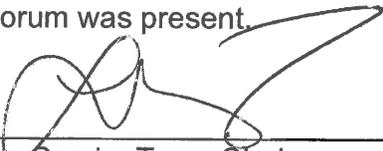
\_\_\_\_\_  
Tom J. Rankin, Mayor

**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 29, 2016, and that the meeting was duly called to order and that a quorum was present.



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