

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF FLORENCE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, AUGUST 1, 2016, AT 6:00 P.M., IN THE FLORENCE TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, LOCATED AT 775 N. MAIN STREET, FLORENCE, ARIZONA.**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Mayor Rankin called the meeting to order at 6:05 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.**

Ms. Ruth Harrison, Florence Resident, restated her prior suggestion to make the directional sign one-sided because there is no left hand turn for traffic going in a northerly direction. She stated that the sign is used for travelers coming from the north and would recommend that the sign be one-sided for those travelers.

**PUBLIC HEARING AND PRESENTATIONS**

**Public hearing on an application received from Kevin Arnold Kramber, Green Tree Inn & Suites, located at 240 W. Highway 287, Florence, Arizona, for a a new Series 11 Hotel/Motel with Restaurant Liquor License, and for Council recommendation for approval or disapproval of said license. (Lisa Garcia)**

Ms. Lisa Garcia, Deputy Town Manager/Town Clerk, stated that staff previously brought before Council a Type 12 application from Arnold Kramer, Green Tree Inn & Suites for the same location. After working with the State, it was deemed that a Type 11 Liquor License was the best way for them to be able to retain their liquor license. The application was received on June 29, 2016, and was posted for 20 days at that location. There have been no comments in favor or against the liquor license.

Mayor Rankin opened the public hearing. There being no public comment, Mayor Rankin closed the public hearing.

Mayor Rankin inquired if there are restrictions due to the hotel being so close to the school.

Ms. Garcia responded that per the State, this license does not pose any restrictions with regards to the proximity to the school or church.

On motion of Councilmember Anderson, seconded by Councilmember Guilin, and carried to forward a favorable recommendation to the Arizona Department of Liquor Licenses and Control.

**Recognition of Jeriah Joynes, Jaedin Kelley and Jacob Stake for their efforts over the summer while volunteering in various departments for the Town of the Florence.**

Mr. Bryan Hughes, Parks and Recreation Director, stated that the Town had three individuals who volunteered within various Town departments over the summer and became involved in the Teen Leadership Program. Jeriah Joynes volunteered over 100 hours within the library and Parks and Recreation Department. Jaedin Kelley volunteered over 300 hours within Public Works, Water/Wastewater, Community Development, and Information Technology departments. Jacob Stake is from New Jersey and is in Florence visiting his uncle. He volunteered at the Community Center and library.

Mr. Brent Billingsley, Town Manager, stated that Council wanted a teen program in which teens could get involved with civic organization and could also become future government employees. He stated that there are provisions in the budget for a teen program and the potential to have some internships for high school students. These individuals provided an invaluable service to the Town and to the community.

Mayor Rankin presented each of the volunteers with a Certificate of Appreciation and thanked them for their service.

**Presentation on the Teen Leadership Program and recap of summer activities.**

Mr. Billingsley stated that the challenge was posed to involve the youth in the community and show them the value of public service. He stated that Council approved a contract with Mr. Hunter at the last Council meeting. The teens have been participating in the program for a few months and have achieved quite a bit.

Mr. Hughes stated that although the contract was approved at the last meeting, the work began months ago. He stated that the program started with music and games at a lunch time program at Florence High School. He stated that the event was successful; however the challenge was to get the teens involved during their summer break. He stated that the group has grown from four to five students to a large group with the expectation that it will continue to grow. The group has named themselves the Florence Teen Council (FTC) and are working on their logo. The FTC will update the Council periodically of what they are doing and their accomplishments.

Mr. Koko Hunter, Koko Entertainment, LLC, stated that he has researched several communities and programs for teens are scarce. When asked why, the consensus is because it is hard to

connect with the teens. He stated that when programming for teens, it must be methodical and covert in the tactics used. He stated that the program that has been put in place for Florence's teens is working.

Jaedin Kelley, Florence Teen Council, stated that he is a 15 year old volunteer and proud FTC member. He thanked his friend, Jeriah Joynes, for introducing him to the FTC. He stated that the FTC is a safe haven for teens to express themselves and create and participate in Florence events. FTC strives to better itself and the Town of Florence. He has attended the pool parties, field trips, and teen meetings. The events help teens show leadership to excel in the future, setting a positive image for others, and provide an opportunity to get to know one another. He hopes that the Council continues to fund this amazing program for other teens in Florence.

Julianne (Inaudible) FTC member, stated that the FTC is hosting a special needs Halloween dance for the Tempe Unified High School District. They will have food, music and will participate with the attendees. She stated that they expect an attendance of 200 to 300 people. They will also visit the Florence Senior Center and play bingo with the seniors and enjoy spending time with them. The FTC members thanked the Council for the opportunities provided.

Robert (last name not provided), FTC member, stated that he is the youngest in the group. He stated that being part of the FTC is an awesome experience because it keeps the youth from getting in trouble and will help with keeping their grades up. He stated that they get to go on trips and do things for the seniors and those with special needs.

Aiesha Thurman, FTC member, thanked the Council for allowing them to do the presentation. The group is about enriching their lives through various activities and having fun. There is no cost to be an FTC member. She stated that the FTC is about achieving goals, having good vibes, and focusing on the positive and not the negative.

An FTC member (name not provided) stated that being a member is more than meeting with your peers and planning events. There are great expectations to maintain their membership. A few of the expectations include giving the maximum effort and to cooperate fully with Florence and school staff. Every FTC member is expected to have a 78% or more grade average, participate 95% at scheduled meetings, 85% at scheduled events and to be in class by the third bell. She guarantees that the FTC members will meet the expectations.

Jeriah Joynes, FTC member, stated the goal of the FTC is to provide and sponsor events for teens all around Florence, and sometimes around Arizona, and schedule meeting for the teens. He thanked the Council for supporting the FTC and for allowing them to do all the things they have done thus far.

Mr. Joynes stated that there were 163 teens at the last pool party. He stated that they had to close the event after ½ hour due to the weather. Even for the short duration the event was fun and he heard a lot of positive feedback from the participants.

Mr. Joynes stated that he has learned a lot of valuable life lessons and has used them in his everyday life. He has learned how to manage time, work with his peers, schedule and host events. He stated that the program has been in place for seven weeks and this has been the

most fun summer he has ever had. He stated that the group bands together when making tough decisions.

Mr. Hunter stated that the teens are starting to develop life skills. He stated that there is nothing better than seeing that light bulb go off when a student gets it. Councilmember Anderson attended one of the meetings and the students were excited that he attended. He, along with the entire Florence Teen Council invited the Town Council to attend their meetings.

Mayor Rankin inquired what the maximum capacity was for the program.

Mr. Hunter stated that there will be various committees going on at the same time and the numbers will vary. He stated that he could probably see approximately 40 to 50 students. Each of those students will reach out to others for an approximate total of 500.

Mayor Rankin inquired what grade levels participate.

Mr. Hunter stated that the current grades attending are junior high through sophomore. He stated that the students want to do a barbeque for the police officers and have a kickball competition against the officers.

Mayor Rankin asked if teens from other communities will be brought in to see the program.

Mr. Hunter stated that FTC is reaching out to other communities. They are hosting a Halloween event for the special needs students at Tempe Unified High School along with a prom for them.

Mayor Rankin inquired if they can receive donations.

Mr. Hunter stated they can receive donations.

#### **Presentation on the Durable Medical Equipment Loan Program. (Bryan Hughes)**

Mr. Hughes stated that the Town was approached by Mr. Seth Coleman, Florence Resident, asking if the Town would participate in a durable medical equipment loan program. Currently, the Town does not have anything in Florence similar to this program. There is a similar program in Florence Gardens; however, it is for their residents only. The Senior Center receives many requests for durable equipment, and occasionally some items are donated to the Senior Center. He stated that the biggest challenge for the Senior Center was the lack of storage space. He stated that the offices at the Fitness Center are vacant now that the Parks and Recreation Department has moved into the new facility. The office spaces will provide the needed storage space.

Mr. Hughes stated that all of the equipment will be donated, and will require minimal staff time. He stated that there is space available. It is a good program that will be available to Florence residents and visitors. He gave various examples of the type of equipment that may be available. They are partnering with Florence Gardens to share equipment.

Mr. Seth Coleman, Florence Resident, stated that his nephew, Jacob Stake, is one of the volunteers. He stated that Jacob shared with him his excitement in volunteering with the Town and the wonderful experiences he had while volunteering.

Mr. Coleman stated that many people in Anthem purchase various types of durable equipment and do not know what to do with it once they no longer need it. He found an organization called "Friends in Need" in Green Valley and they have offered the use of their equipment to Florence's residents; however, the equipment must be picked up. He stated that he didn't realize that Florence Gardens had a similar program. He stated that hopefully, this will be the first of many things that can be done to integrate all of the communities in Florence.

Mr. Coleman stated that he is impressed with Mr. Hughes and appreciates everything that Mr. Hughes has done.

### **Presentation on Proposition 411 - Town of Florence Expenditure Limitation/Home Rule Option. (Brent Billingsley)**

Mr. Billingsley discussed Proposition 411, and provided a presentation in which he outlined the following:

- Proposition 411 and Local Control
  - Voters decide if annual expenditure limitation is determined by local control or by the State of Arizona.
  - Town is 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.
- 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.
  - If passed, the Town regains local control for four years.
- Home Rule Option Election on August 30, 2016.
  - A YES vote allows the Town to determine its own expenditure limitation based on the revenues for next four years.
  - A NO vote allows the State to determine the Town's expenditure limitation set by the State of Arizona base for Fiscal Year 1979/1980 for the next four years.
- Home Rule does not impact taxes or fees that the Town collects.
- Town Services
  - 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
- Fiscal Responsibility
  - Town has reduced expenditures by:
    - Balanced last year and this year's budget
    - Changing the way we do business.
    - Developing best practices in our operations.
    - Implementing fiscally conservative practices.
    - Every year, citizens participate in the annual adoption of the Town budget and the setting of the expenditure limitation.
- Home Rule does not impact taxes or fees that the Town collects.
- No Increase in overall budgetary expenditures from last year.
- Voters approved Home Rule for eight out of nine elections.
- Town retained local control for 33 out of the last 35 years.

Councilmember Wall stated that the publicity pamphlet is in the mail and has valuable information.

Councilmember Anderson inquired who put up the Prop 411 signs.

Mr. Billingsley stated that the firefighters' organization put up the signs.

Mayor Rankin stated that Home Rule goes to the voters for approval every four years.

**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.**

**Proclamation declaring August 2016 as Child Support Awareness Month. (Lisa Garcia)**

**Proclamation declaring August 2016 as Drowning Impact Awareness Month. (Lisa Garcia)**

**Approval of the annual renewal of the GIS Enterprise License Agreement with Environmental Systems Research Institute in an amount not to exceed \$27,175. (Mark Eckhoff)**

**Approval of EUSI, LLC Public Works Management Support Task Order No. 2. (Chris Salas)**

**Resolution No. 1593-16:**

Ms. Garcia read Resolution No. 1593-16 by title only.

**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF FLORENCE, PINAL COUNTY, ARIZONA, COMMITTING LOCAL FUNDS AS LEVERAGE FOR AN FY 2016 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT APPLICATION. (Jennifer Evans)**

**Resolution No. 1594-16:**

Ms. Garcia read Resolution No. 1594-16 by title only.

**Approval of A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF FLORENCE, PINAL COUNTY, ARIZONA, ADOPTING A COMMERCIAL ANTI-DISPLACEMENT AND RELOCATION ASSISTANCE PLAN FOR FY 2016/2017, AS REQUIRED UNDER SECTION 104(d) OF THE HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1974 AS AMENDED. (Jennifer Evans)**

**Approval of accepting the register of demands ending June 30, 2016, in the amount of \$2,686,277.41. (Gabe Garcia)**

On motion of Councilmember Woolridge, seconded by Vice-Mayor Walter, and carried to approve the consent agenda, as written.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Discussion and possible redirection on the Main Street Direction Sign. (Mayor Rankin)**

Mayor Rankin discussed the promotion of restaurants on the Main Street Direction Sign. He stated that the town facilities need to be on the sign.

Councilmember Hawkins stated that he would like to have a work session with the Florence merchants regarding signage and promoting Florence. He stated that many people who come through Town do not know that there is a Main Street and think that State Highway 79 is the main road for Florence. He stated that travelers need to be made aware of businesses on Main Street. The sign needs to list what Main Street offers. The words "Historic Main Street" needs to be in a larger font.

Mayor Rankin stated that there are seven eating establishments on Main and seven on State Highway 79. He would like restaurants removed from the sign and the Visitor's Center added.

Councilmember Anderson stated that he would like to see the shops removed from the sign.

Councilmember Hawkins stated that he does not believe the Town is showing favoritism, but the Town needs to promote Main Street.

Councilmember Woolridge stated that the sign is meant to be a directional sign and not an advertisement sign. She stated that the sign should be designed to tell you what you will find if you turn there. Her recommendation was to add the Visitor Center so they can go there and find out what is in town. The intent is not to advertise a particular business.

Councilmember Guilin stated that she would like the sign to remain the same as it was previously approved, along with adding the Visitor Center. She said the sign is a directional sign and is a perfect way to direct traffic to the historic area. She stated that there is no advertisement for any one business, but rather showing what is available.

Discussion occurred on the placement of words on the sign. It has already been decided that the Visitor Center will be added to the sign.

Councilmember Anderson stated that the Chamber sign can add more signs and the merchants can pay to advertise their business with directions.

Jane Piccoli, Owner of The Main Street Vault, stated that she is in support of having the word "restaurant" added to the sign. She understands that Peter Koulouris is opposed to having the word "restaurant" added. She stated that she attended the meeting because a fellow restaurant owner is opposed to his fellow restaurant owners getting some much needed direction to the downtown by having the sign list "restaurant". She stated that the decision should not be made by one person opposing the word.

Ms. Piccoli stated that the Main Street extension is one more conduit for a person to get to historical Main Street. By driving down the street, you can now get to some of the Town's essential services and amenities such as Town Hall, library, Aquatics Center, Visitor Center, and the post office. You can also get to other businesses such as her restaurant, The Fudge Shop and True Value. If the word "restaurant" is removed from the signage board, which is an informational tool or a directional map, you will also need to remove the word "shops" from the sign. It would be unfair to only reference the shops in downtown Main Street if you do not also reference restaurants. There are many wonderful shops who are trying their best to survive in a part of Florence that is in a dire need of support. She stated that she does her best to promote all the shops in Florence every day. The Town of Florence will be providing an informational tool and she is sure that many other businesses are extremely grateful for the sign.

Ms. Piccoli stated that she has a picture of the very first restaurant sign which one sees while driving on State Highway 79A. The sign reads "food" and underneath that is the name of Mount Athos, Florence Café and Taco Bell. She inquired how a sign that reads restaurant is more troublesome than a sign that reads the name of the restaurants when you first drive down on 79A. She stated that she wishes that she had her business name on the sign, but she doesn't.

Ms. Piccoli stated that as a fellow restaurant owner, Mr. Koulouris, having been on the Chamber of Commerce and having been in an Executive Board position, why the spirit of the Chamber of Commerce is not being promoted. She stated that the Chamber of Commerce is defined as a local association to promote and protect the interests of the businesses in a particular area. She stated that she finds it a little disconcerting that she has to be before the Council to fight for something that is merely a sign for which the business owners are eternally grateful for and that only reads "restaurants" when there is far more signage that specifies a lot more.

Ms. Piccoli stated that she and her business partner are in favor of the sign having the words "restaurant" and "shops".

Mr. Peter Koulouris, Owner of Mount Athos Restaurant, stated that he agrees that the Town needs more direction for Main Street. Personally, he does not agree with the words "restaurant" and "shops" on the sign. He stated that he believes the Chamber should put up a sign in that area and promote everyone equally. He stated that he understands that the goal is to bring more traffic to Main Street; and thinks it is a great thing. He stated that the sign is a government directional sign and restaurants and shops are private entities that should not be on a governmental sign. He stated that the Chamber could put up a sign listing all the businesses in alphabetical order specifying the distance of each business from the sign. He is also willing to install an electrical billboard sign at his restaurant promoting the other businesses and would love to bring more traffic down Ruggles Road.

Councilmember Hawkins stated that the Town is putting a lot of tax money into Main Street. Much of the money received is from sales tax. He stated that if the Town wants to continue to build up its tax base and save the Historic District, the Town needs to help the businesses as much as possible. He does not know of any governmental violation in advertising what is available on Main Street. He stated that there are several communities that have directional signs identifying what is available such as food, gas, etc.

Mr. Hawkins stated if a sign is to be erected that identifies every business on Main Street along with the distance, the sign would need to be at least 20 feet tall. He stated that Mount Athos has two of the tallest signs. No other restaurant owners have issues with the directional sign.

Mr. Koulouris stated that he received Council's approval for the signs. He stated that he is entitled to voice his opinion and the Council is free to decide what to do.

Mayor Rankin stated that he brought the item to Council because he wanted this issue to be brought to everyone's attention. It is his understanding that Council wants the sign to remain status quo with the addition of adding the visitor center.

Councilmember Hawkins stated that he would like to see the final depiction of the sign.

Vice-Mayor Walter stated that different perspectives have been voiced and she would like to have a work session and invite everyone including the Chamber to discuss options for installing various signs.

Councilmember Woolridge stated that various signs are a side issue and if the Chamber elects to get everyone together to discuss advertising signs that is something that the Chamber needs to do independently. She stated that the discussion is on a Town of Florence directional sign that was already voted on and it was decided on how it was going to be. This agenda item was not advertised for action. She appreciates everyone's opinion.

Mayor Rankin stated that a merchant brought his concern to him, and after reconsideration, he agrees with the merchant that the sign is a government sign that should not have the words "shops" and "restaurants" on the sign. He stated that if Council wants to have the words removed, the item will need to be brought back to Council for action.

Vice-Mayor Walter and Councilmember Anderson agreed with Mayor Rankin.

Councilmember Wall stated that she believed the verbiage was not voted on and that they voted on the concept of the sign.

Councilmember Anderson asked for a legal opinion on what is acceptable on the sign.

Mr. Clifford Mattice, Town Attorney, stated that there may be some gray areas depending on content. He stated that there is a good legal argument that the sign is a directional sign describing what is in the Historic Business District. He would need to review the minutes on where the sign was voted on before a determination can be made.

Mr. Billingsley stated that the vote at the last meeting was for the wording as well as adding the visitor center. Staff was directed to move forward with the purchase. Mr. Eckhoff had already

ordered the sign. When the Mayor asked to have the item put back on the agenda, he had Mr. Eckhoff stop the order.

## **WORK SESSION ON EUSI'S TOWN INFRASTRUCTURE OPERATIONAL OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.**

Mr. Billingsley stated that the Town hired EUSI, LLC, awarding a one year contract for the following:

- Look at the known problem areas from the public works perspective
- Look at operations
- Look at conditions of the facilities

Mr. Billingsley stated that EUSI, LLC, has completed the first phase of the contract. The Town is no longer under Arizona Department of Environmental Quality's Consent Order. Council has approved a reduction in their fee for the next six months to move forward with further implementation of the things that they have found and recommended to be changed. They will provide a report on the conditions analysis.

Mr. Paul Hendricks, EUSI, LLC, provided a presentation in which they outlined the following:

- Opportunities
  - The Town has a very professional Management Team.
  - The Town has a good Public Works Department with:
    - Dedicated and loyal employees
    - A good Public Works building
    - A modern fleet
  - The Town has made substantial progress in upgrading their water facilities.
  - The Town has significant existing wastewater treatment capacity at the South plant.
- Progress Made
  - Town staff has already taken the initiative to perform and implement over 77 separate projects and utility system improvements since EUSI, LLC, has been under contract.
  - These improvements have been implemented with the support of the Town's Management staff.
- Challenges
  - To better utilize the physical and personnel assets and resources of the Public Works Department.
  - To be more proactive than responsive in anticipating and serving the needs its citizens.
  - To improve long range planning and fiscal management that supports the Mission and Vision of the Town.
  - Creating a sustainable Public Works Department that is fiscally responsible while addressing aging infrastructure in public facilities, streets, water and sewer systems.
    - Much of the infrastructure is long overdue for an upgrade
  - Determining resource allocation for new public facilities compared to aging and historic facilities.
    - A comprehensive Asset Management System for all Town assets will aid in meeting these challenges and stabilizing rates.
      - Better utilization of the current rates through Asset Management System.
- Operational Condition Observations

- Town personnel and EUSI, LLC, conducted an initial operational observation of the water and wastewater facilities in March.
  - Main piping has rust and in need of repair or replacement
  - Non industrial plumbing and general conditions; new building needed.
  - Well was drilled in response to last year's failure of Well #2B. It is too close to the existing well for use unless the existing well is taken out of service or a booster pump system is installed. The project is funded in 2016/2017 Budget.
  - An only use half of the tall tank due to structural concerns
    - The lines going to this old well site and one customer are not within a recorded easement or right of way.
  - New Well #3: The Town is addressing noise complaints from this motor from neighboring residents
    - Mr. Chris Salas, Public Works Director, has done noise assessments and there is a project to reduce the noise at that site. They are providing progress reports to the residents.
  - Well # 5 Tank condition is poor
    - There are spots on the floor which is excess pump oil and buildup of things inside the tank
    - Failure of protective coating
    - Town will be soliciting bids for recoating of the tanks
    - The project is in the current budget
  - Booster pumps are rusted and leaking
    - Replacement Required.
  - Tank condition poor.
    - Lack of protective coating
    - Excess pump oil in tank.
  - Headworks auger was bent and brushes are worn out due to bent auger.
    - Allows excess debris from sewage to plug up pumps and create problems
    - Replacement has been performed.
  - Headworks failures and design challenge causes plant pump screens to plug and damage treatment plant equipment.
  - Equipment put in during the last construction project
    - Should have sun shade for protection for some of the equipment to meet its useful life.
    - Supplemental chlorine is used to clean the new filters
  - Under new safety standards there must be containment of chemicals and certain petroleum products. Staff created make-shift containment of chemicals by using sand bags.
    - Containment equipment has been purchased and installed.
  - Safety procedures have been upgraded substantially
    - Passed OSHA inspection
- North Plant
  - Has a lot of make shift and old equipment
    - Inlet screen subject to real problems
      - Needs to be repaired or replaced.
    - Grit removal is not effective
      - Needs to be repaired or replaced.
    - Electrical equipment has wires that are not connected

- Safety and electrical hazards numerous
  - Electrical contractors have begun to enclose panels for safety
  - Air and oil leaks on various equipment need to be addressed for better efficiency
  - Digester walkways and railings are a safety hazard – not in compliance with safety regulations.
  - Final Clarifier has excessive weeds and exposed sampler.
    - Staff is addressing the issue
  - Chlorine equipment needs to be secured and stored properly
    - Wrenches in wrong place
    - Chlorine bottles not separated between full and empty
    - Lids not on properly
    - Issues have been corrected and now stored properly
  - Pressure sand filter and effluent pump old and not efficient. Several leaks were repaired and not painted.
    - New tank has been ordered
  - One pump is out for servicing
  - Effluent pond with leaking liner and excessive weeds
    - Effluent pond was cleaned up.
- Summary
- Town Staff have taken the initiative to perform and implement numerous projects and utility system improvements since EUSI, LLC, has been under contract.
  - These improvements have been implemented with the support of the Town's management staff.
  - Town Staff and EUSI, LLC, personnel worked on and addressed over 77 separate projects and initiatives since these photos were taken in March.
  - With the continued support of Mayor and Council we are confident that Public Works personnel will continue addressing mission critical issues within the Town.
  - Since that time numerous improvements have been made and significant efforts are underway to address any issues of concern.

Mr. Chris Salas, Public Works Director, thanked the EUSI, LLC, team for their assistance during his transition as the Public Works Director which made it easier for him and the staff. Staff is working on implementing many smaller changes within Public Works to allow for incremental changes within the staff. Staff will look at future staffing needs after all changes have occurred. The Town will then transition away from EUSI, LLC, and be able to manage projects more in size and nature to the existing group.

Mr. Salas stated that they have an aggressive CIP and Mr. Hendricks is key in getting the projects delivered on time this year.

Mr. Billingsley thanked the staff members and the Council for their support and for the improvements made.

Mayor Rankin stated that Task Order No. 2 was extended for six months. He asked how many more Task Orders are anticipated.

Mr. Billingsley stated that he hopes that the Town can stand on its own in six months. The budget was reduced from \$104,000 to \$76,000 but that is for a complete change in scope. EUSI, LLCs, scope is now program management, continued advisement, compliance, and assistance. It is staff's hope to go after funding for larger projects, especially on the water system this year. Council has also challenged staff with working on obtaining recharge credits. They may need to remain onboard to assist with some of the larger projects should they come to fruition.

Mr. Billingsley stated that there are several projects that may be in the millions and they are outlined in the CIP. The Town has an outdated water system at the South Plant and an outdated wastewater system on the North Plant.

Mayor Rankin inquired how this will affect the Town if the Town had to put in a wastewater system for development in the west side, or mine property, to gain money from WIFA.

Mr. Billingsley stated that his understanding is that WIFA will not provide loan money to build a new system or development. WIFA is about assisting the Town in meeting compliance with the existing system. The WIFA funds that the Town would focus on at this time will be for upgrades to the existing system where the Town has no noted compliance issues.

Discussion occurred on improvements to the existing plants and reason and funding for a new plant. There is existing land for an expansion, if needed.

Mr. Billingsley stated that the WIFA funding received in 2009 included a portion of funding for an expansion plan. This is approximately 90% completed and will come before Council in the near future. He stated that the south plant produces A+ effluent and are permitted for B+. They will need a permit for A+ in order to receive recharge credits.

Discussion occurred on permitting and engineering design to go to A+ and to be able to recharge. There are some re-use opportunities with the B+ effluent without re-permitting.

Councilmember Anderson inquired about the water quality.

Mr. Billingsley stated that the Town produces very good water. The permit requires annual heavy metal testing.

## **TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**

Mr. Billingsley stated that the Town is still working on the CIP Tool which will show very specific information with regards to projects. He provided Council with a Calendar of Events for the Library, and stated that the calendar can be found on the Town's website. He stated that the Town was awarded a truck through the Stone Garden Grant, specifically for law enforcement. The total cost for the vehicle, inclusive of equipment is \$44,000.

Mr. Dan Hughes, Police Chief, stated that it has been a difficult time for law enforcement the last several months. Many agencies across the nation are trying to figure out how they fit in to their communities. Florence is different; the Police Department has had a community policing philosophy for the last several years.

Mr. Hughes stated that the Police Department has received several thank you cards and treats for keeping the community safe. He read several of the received cards. He thanked everyone for the support that the Police Department has received.

Mr. Billingsley stated that 50 cases of water was received and provided to the Fire Department for the program that he discussed at the last meeting. He stated that Bill Bruin, Mike Sherm and Jason Penrod are now certified as Fire Inspectors. He stated that Jake Sample has been admitted into the National Society of Leaders of Leadership and Success and will attend a one-week class in Maryland. Larry Garcia is ASC Certified for maintenance and repair.

## **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

**Community Development**

**Courts**

**Finance**

**Fire**

**Library**

**Parks and Recreation**

**Police**

**Public Works**

The Department Reports are received and filed.

## **CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

Mr. Hunter presented a thank you card to Councilmember Anderson on behalf of all of the FTC members for attending the FTC meeting.

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

Councilmember Hawkins congratulated Ms. Garcia for her Distinguished Clerk Award. He stated that the Town has an extraordinary group of employees.

Councilmember Woolridge stated that this is the first time the award has been given so Ms. Garcia has made history as the first to have ever received this award.

Councilmember Anderson is requesting bottled water for the FTC Council. They meet two times per week. He asked that donations be delivered to the Parks and Recreation Department. He attended the CAP meeting and we are facing a water crisis. They are anticipating that they will need to cut the water allotment by 30% next year and 40% the year after. This will affect the agricultural users as well as the reservations. He gave a brief overview of the history and how we obtain our water. He stated that this is a serious problem.

Councilmember Woolridge thanked Ms. Garcia for making Florence shine. She expressed her appreciation for all that Ms. Garcia does.

Vice-Mayor Walter thanked Mr. Hunter for his presentation and that of the students. She looks forward for the program continuing. She stated that staff and Council work diligently to bring the

issues forward. She discussed abandoned buildings on Main Street and people who have not paid their taxes on businesses since 2013. She stated that something positive has come out of it as one of the property owners has paid their back taxes.

Mayor Rankin stated that he attended the Arizona Municipal Clerks Association Annual Meeting in which Ms. Garcia received her award. There were approximately 100 clerks in attendance. Many expressed their admiration for Ms. Garcia.

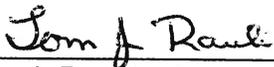
Mayor Rankin stated that he has been re-appointed to the MAG Transportation Committee. He stated that transportation is very important for our community. As part of MAG, the Town received a \$175,000 street sweeper.

Mayor Rankin stated that school has started and asked everyone use caution when driving in the crosswalks and around the schools. He asked for everyone to help make this a safe school year.

## ADJOURNMENT

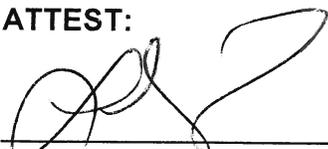
**Council may go into Executive Session at any time during the meeting for the purpose of obtaining legal advice from the Town's Attorney(s) on any of the agenda items pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(3).**

On motion of Councilmember Hawkins, seconded by Vice-Mayor Walter, and carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 p.m.



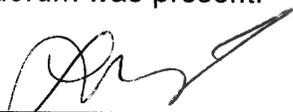
\_\_\_\_\_  
Tom J. Rankin, Mayor

**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 1, 2016, and that the meeting was duly called to order and that a quorum was present.



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