

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF FLORENCE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, JULY 18, 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, stated that the proposed directional sign should not be two sided as it could cause problems for people turning left.

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

On motion of Councilmember Woolridge, seconded by Councilmember Wall, and carried to adjourn to Merrill Ranch Community Facilities District No. 1.

**Public hearing to receive citizen comments on the Merrill Ranch Community Facilities District No. 1 Secondary Property Tax Levy for Fiscal Year 2016 - 2017.**

Chairman Rankin opened the public hearing. Chairman Rankin closed the public hearing.

**Ordinance No. MRCFD1 113-16:**

Ms. Lisa Garcia, District Clerk, read Ordinance No. MRCFD1 113-16 by title only.

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE MERRILL RANCH COMMUNITY FACILITIES DISTRICT NO. 1, PINAL COUNTY, ARIZONA, LEVYING THE ASSESSED VALUATION OF THE PROPERTY WITHIN THE COMMUNITY FACILITIES DISTRICT, SUBJECT TO TAXATION OF CERTAIN SUM UPON EACH \$100 OF VALUATION SUFFICIENT TO RAISE THE AMOUNT**

**ESTIMATED TO BE RECEIVED FROM FUNDS FOR COMMUNITY FACILITIES EXPENSES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING THE 30<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF JUNE, 2017, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY, and roll call vote to consider a motion to levy the increased property tax. (First Reading July 5, 2016)**

On motion of Boardmember Anderson, seconded by Boardmember Guilin, to adopt Ordinance No. MRCFD1 113-16.

Roll Call Vote:

Boardmember Anderson: Yes  
Boardmember Guilin: Yes  
Boardmember Wall: Yes  
Boardmember Hawkins: Yes  
Boardmember Woolridge: Yes  
Vice-Chairman Walter: Yes  
Chairman Rankin: Yes

Motion carried: Yes: 7; No: 0

**ADJOURN FROM MERRILL RANCH COMMUNITY FACILITIES DISTRICT NO. 1**

On motion of Boardmember Woolridge, seconded by Boardmember Guilin, and carried to adjourn from Merrill Ranch Community Facilities District No. 1.

**ADJOURN TO MERRILL RANCH COMMUNITY FACILITIES DISTRICT NO. 2**

On motion of Councilmember Woolridge, seconded by Councilmember Hawkins, and carried to adjourn to Merrill Ranch Community Facilities District No. 2.

**Public hearing to receive citizen comments on the Merrill Ranch Community Facilities District No. 2. Secondary Property Tax Levy for Fiscal Year 2016 - 2017.**

Mr. Gabe Garcia, District Treasurer, stated that this is the secondary tax levy for Merrill Ranch Community Facilities District No. 2. The rates will remain the same, which is \$3.55 per \$100 Net Assessed Value (NAV), or \$3.25 per \$100 NAV for debt service and \$0.30 per \$100 NAV for operations and maintenance.

Chairman Rankin opened the public hearing. Chairman Rankin closed the public hearing.

**Ordinance No. MRCFD2 213-16:**

Ms. Lisa Garcia, District Clerk, read Ordinance No. MRCFD1 113-16 by title only.

**AN ORDINANCE OF MERRILL RANCH COMMUNITY FACILITIES DISTRICT NO. 2, PINAL COUNTY, ARIZONA, LEVYING THE ASSESSED VALUATION OF THE PROPERTY WITHIN THE COMMUNITY FACILITIES DISTRICT, SUBJECT TO TAXATION OF CERTAIN SUM UPON EACH \$100 OF VALUATION SUFFICIENT TO RAISE THE AMOUNT ESTIMATED TO BE RECEIVED FROM FUNDS FOR COMMUNITY FACILITIES EXPENSES FOR THE FISCAL**

**YEAR ENDING THE 30<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF JUNE, 2017, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY, and roll call vote to consider a motion to levy the increased property tax. (First Reading July 5, 2016)**

Mr. Garcia stated that the ordinance is to adopt the secondary tax rate.

On motion of Boardmember Woolridge, seconded by Boardmember Wall, to adopt Ordinance No. MRCFD2 213-16.

Roll Call Vote:

Boardmember Woolridge: Yes

Boardmember Wall: Yes

Boardmember Anderson: Yes

Boardmember Guilin: Yes

Boardmember Hawkins: Yes

Vice-Chairman Walter: Yes

Chairman Rankin: Yes

Motion carried: Yes: 7; No: 0

## **ADJOURN FROM MERRILL RANCH COMMUNITY FACILITIES DISTRICT NO. 2**

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

## **PUBLIC HEARING AND PRESENTATION**

**Public hearing to receive citizen comments on the property tax levy of the Town of Florence Ordinance No. 651-16.**

Ms. Lisa Garcia, Deputy Town Manager/Town Clerk, read Ordinance No. 651-16 by title only.

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF FLORENCE, PINAL COUNTY, ARIZONA, LEVYING THE ASSESSED VALUATION OF THE PROPERTY WITHIN THE TOWN OF FLORENCE SUBJECT TO TAXATION OF CERTAIN SUM UPON EACH \$100 OF VALUATION SUFFICIENT TO RAISE THE AMOUNT ESTIMATED TO BE RECEIVED FROM FUNDS FOR GENERAL MUNICIPAL EXPENSES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING THE 30<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF JUNE, 2017, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY, and roll call vote to consider a motion to levy the increased property tax. (First Reading July 5, 2016)**

Mr. Gabe Garcia, Finance Director, stated that this is the primary tax levy for the Town of Florence. Staff is not recommending raising the levy, and it will remain at \$1.1182 per \$100 of Net Assessed Value. The rate has been the same for the last two years.

Mayor Rankin opened the public hearing. Mayor Rankin closed the public hearing.

On motion of Councilmember Guilin, seconded by Councilmember Woolridge, to adopt Ordinance No. 651-16.

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

Motion Carried: Yes: 7; No: 0

**Presentation and discussion of Historic Preservation Conference and Historic Preservation and Adaptive Reuse field trip to Tucson, Arizona.**

Mr. William Randolph, Planner, Community Development Department, stated that he, along with other staff members and the Historic District Advisory Commission Members, attended the Historic Preservation Conference. He stated that the conference was worthwhile in terms of the material and information provided. Florence was involved in three sessions. Mr. Mark Eckhoff, Community Development Director, had his own session where he showcased the Silver King Marketplace and Padilla Park. He stated that there were several informative sessions inclusive of technology outlets, preservation using technology outlets such as social media and current practices and methods of preserving historic buildings.

Ms. Cathy Adam, Historic District Advisory Commission, stated that the annual conference is their education and training. She stated that it is a requirement that the members are familiar with governmental and open meeting law. They also delved in to more historical aspects. She stated that she also attended a Planning and Zoning Conference and found it to be very interesting and very similar to HDAC and did not realize there to be so much cross over.

Ms. Adam recommended that Council attend the Certified Local Government (CLG) Program training, which is a federally mandated program. She stated that it is interesting to hear how other governments are doing historic preservation. She will request that Florence conduct one of the sessions next year because Florence is a small rural community and it is important to showcase how the residents come together, unlike the metropolitan areas where they have hired professionals. The conference will be held in Oro Valley and, she along with others, are working to have field trips to Florence during the training session.

Mr. Randolph provided an overview of the locations they visited during their field trip to Tucson, which included:

- Reilly Funeral Home
  - Built in 1902
  - Had mortuary in basement
  - Has been transformed into a restaurant and beer garden
  - The integrity of the building and architectural features remained intact during the renovation.
- Historic Broadway Village
  - Built in 1939
  - Current uses include restaurants, yoga, food carts, etc.

- Have mechanisms to make safety codes easily adaptable for small businesses to gradually ease in occupancies to make it affordable for small business owners.
- One of the businesses had a pizza oven brought in from Florence, Italy.
  - Example of creative use that can be brought to historic structures

Ms. Adam stated that some of the areas were very large and did not have sprinkler systems. She stated that the sprinkler system requirement is based on occupancy, so some businesses opt for less occupancy, which will allow them to grow into the space. This helps minimize the start-up costs.

Ms. Adam stated that she spoke to many of the business owners regarding start-up costs and found that the cost was minimal if the building had been properly maintained. She stated that none of the businesses felt that it was an additional burden to have their business in a historical building. She stated that the businesses were successful in their first to third years, which is when many businesses fail.

Ms. Adam stated that their hosts were a design build architect/contractor and the Chief Preservation Officer of Tucson, Arizona. She stated that their learning experience was to know what was working for them and found out that it was the initial conversations and discussing the process prior to starting the work that makes it successful.

Ms. Adam shared her personal experience of the work she did on her home and working with the Community Development Department. She understands where issues can occur when a person who is doing a project does not fully understand the requirements and the reasons for complying with the requirements.

Ms. Adam expressed the importance of having professional guidance when doing historic projects. She thanked the Town Manager for putting the trip together and recommended that the building inspector attend the CLG Training.

Mayor Rankin inquired if the hosts would be interested in reviewing some of the buildings in Florence.

Ms. Adam stated that she plans on having discussions with them in the future. She stated that design builders are an economical way to go about renovations.

Mayor Rankin inquired if the Town's Code is similar to Tucson's Code.

Ms. Adam stated that at a superficial level, believes it to be workable. She stated that with regards to her personal project. The Town went through several building inspectors and she received a lot of confusing answers. She is not sure if that was a Code problem or a personnel problem.

Councilmember Hawkins inquired if commercial contractors and commercial engineers were required for the historic buildings.

Ms. Adam responded that they hire engineers as needed. She stated that they felt it was not a huge incremental cost if buildings had roofs, doors, and secured windows; however, the buildings were a wreck inside.

Councilmember Hawkins stated that there has been talk that the Town requires more than the requirements and is trying to ascertain what Tucson requires. It has been mentioned that it is unfair and a burden to require commercial contractors and commercial engineers. The Town is trying to be business-friendly and be as economically feasible as possible, while still complying within the parameters of the state statutes.

Ms. Adam explained the importance of maintaining a roof on the buildings as it prevents erosion, etc. and makes it easier to sell or to do something with the building. She stated that it may be cost prohibitive to renovate a building that has severe roof damage.

### **Presentation and update of the Main Street Streetscape Project. (Jess Knudson)**

Mr. Jess Knudson, Assistant Town Manager, stated that Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) has bid out the project. A bid was accepted and the Notice of Award was executed with the contractor. He stated that he provided an update to the HDAC at their last meeting.

Mr. Knudson provided an update on the Main Street Streetscape Project, in which he outlined the following:

- Overview
  - Funds received through a TEA-21 Grant
    - ADOT oversees the grant
    - TEA-21 Grants no longer exist
  - Streetscape-type improvements to Main Street, between Ruggles Street and Butte Avenue
    - Project started in 2006
  - Public input incorporated into the project
    - Streetscape Committee
      - Council, business owners, Historic District Advisory Commission (HDAC), Main Street Program, Redevelopment Commission and Town staff.
        - Original recommendations but not necessarily part of the existing scope
          - \* keep acorn streetlights
          - \* Change out ballasts and heads on existing acorn streetlights
          - \* Add two new acorn streetlights into the downtown
          - \* Add entry way and directional signage into the downtown
          - \* More trees and plants
          - \* Permit crosswalks
          - \* Pedestrian ramps
          - \* Bulb-outs at the curbs in the intersections
          - \* Replace street furniture
          - \* Remove the gooseneck lights and wires
          - \* Install informational kiosk
          - \* Renovate pass through area that connects Main Street to the high profile parking lot
      - Presentations to the Town Council and HDAC
  - Delays to project
    - Modifications to project needed
  - Changes in scope has been a large reason as to why the project has taken so long to move forward towards construction

- Scope
  - Removal of all existing streetlights and overhead electrical lines in the downtown
    - Goosenecks
    - Acorn streetlights
  - Installation of 15 new energy efficient streetlights
    - LED – energy efficient
    - Modern-looking (SHPO Approved)
    - SHPO requires lights that are used at the current time
    - HDAC liked one of the proposed streetlights; preferred acorn streetlight
    - Town provided many streetlight examples for SHPO to approve
  - Placement of new street furniture
    - Benches
    - Trash cans
    - Bike racks
      - Metal and powder coated
- Provided depiction of what the downtown currently looks like
- Provided design of streetlight and examples of what would be installed
- Provided design of street furniture
- Where are we at?
  - ADOT advertised the project
  - ADOT selected the contractor who submitted the lowest bid
  - ADOT executed the contract with the contractor (AJP Electric, Phoenix)
  - Scope to be finalized
    - Minimize hardship to downtown businesses during construction
    - Respect the structural integrity of the historic buildings
      - No jackhammers
      - No vibrations of buildings
  - Construction anticipated to begin in September/October

Councilmember Anderson inquired if the streetlights will be located in the same location as the existing lights. He thanked Mr. Knudson for the outstanding work that he has done on this project, as well as HDAC.

Mr. Knudson responded that the lights will not be located in the same location. A lighting analysis was done to provide the maximum amount of lighting in the downtown area.

Councilmember Woolridge inquired about the time frame of the project. She stated that it is too bad they could not have done this project during the summer.

Mr. Knudson stated the project time frame is four to five weeks for construction to be completed. He stated that the Town has not met with the general contractor. He will come before the Council when he has more specifics as well as informing the businesses.

Councilmember Wall inquired if the trash containers will have an insert that will prevent trash from blowing out.

Mr. Knudson stated that plastic trash liners and trash bags will be placed in the trash receptacles.

Councilmember Hawkins stated that the Council, as well as many others, wanted to have the acorn streetlights saved; however, SHPO will not allow for the use of the lights. The Town even offered to have the lights refitted with LED lighting and they said if we did not remove the lights, the Town would forfeit the funding for the project.

Councilmember Guilin thanked Mr. Knudson for his tenacity as well as documentation of the project. She stated that the integrity of the staff is outstanding.

Mayor Rankin stated the project is not very large. He stated that there has been much discussion regarding the project and misinformation has been spread. The acorn streetlights are not historic and have not been approved to remain. He stated that the project has been ongoing for ten years and hopes that it will be finished this year. He stated that it was suggested that the Town not do the project; however monies for the project have already been expended and the Town would need to reimburse the grant approximately \$200,000 should we not move forward. He stated that it is important to utilize the acorn streetlights elsewhere.

**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.**

**Resolution No. 1592-16:**

Ms. Garcia read Resolution No. 1592-16 by title only.

**Adoption of A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF FLORENCE, PINAL COUNTY, ARIZONA, ACCEPTING TRIBAL GAMING FUNDS GRANTED BY THE GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY.**

**Resolution No. 1593-16:**

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

**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF FLORENCE, PINAL COUNTY, ARIZONA, AUTHORIZING THE TOWN TO ENTER INTO A GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF TUCSON POLICE DEPARTMENT REGARDING THE ARIZONA HIGH INTENSITY DRUG TRAFFICKING AREA.**

**Approval of the June 6 and June 20, 2016 Council minutes.**

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

**December 2, 2015, January 6, January 28, February 24, March 23, and April 27, 2016 150 Year Anniversary Celebration Ad Hoc Committee minutes.**

**May 25, 2016 Historic District Advisory Commission minutes.**

**April 20, 2016 Library Advisory Board minutes.**

**May 5, 2016 Planning and Zoning Commission minutes.**

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

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **Discussion on possible need for amendment of the Town of Florence Development Code with special emphasis on the Design Review Code.**

Mr. Brent Billingsley, Town Manager, stated that he has not received any comments or requests from any of the Council, outside of the initial report. He inquired how Council would like to proceed.

Mayor Rankin stated since there are no new comments to add, the Design Review Code must be working.

Councilmember Anderson disagreed that the Design Review Code is fine, but will concede to the Council.

Vice-Mayor Walter stated that the backup for the agenda item is not in the electronic packet.

Ms. Garcia stated that the item is listed on the agenda for discussion only and does not have any backup information or handouts.

Mr. Billingsley stated the backup documentation was provided at the initial meeting when the item was discussed.

Mayor Rankin stated that Council was instructed to provide their comments to staff, which none were received, so the Design Review Code will remain status quo.

Councilmember Hawkins stated that customers can always come to Council should they have any specific issues. Staff has worked very diligently with customers with regards to their projects.

Mayor Rankin stated that the Code is in place to ensure safety.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Discussion/Approval/Disapproval of entering into a contract with Koko Entertainment, LLC, for Teen Leadership and Programming, in an amount not to exceed \$48,000, and authorize the Town Manager to transfer ownership of a 1995 Ford Club Wagon Van scheduled for disposal to Mr. Hunter.**

Mr. Bryan Hughes, Parks and Recreation Director, stated that Mr. Kim "Koko" Hunter met with staff in May 2016 to brainstorm opportunities that the Town can do in terms of teen leadership programs and other programs to get teens involved. He stated that the teens state that there is nothing to do in our community, and to a certain extent, he agrees with them. The Town is a little stagnant on teen programming.

Mr. Hughes stated that the Town did some introductory things with the teens right before school let out for the summer. It has been challenging to reach out to the teens during the summer months; however, they have been able to reach out to some of the teens and received feedback

as to what it was that they would like to see done. He stated that the list of activities included in the packet is not all-inclusive.

Mr. Kim "Koko" Hunter, Koko Entertainment, LLC, stated that he came to Florence for the first time on April 22, 2016 and met with several key people in the community. He stated that the Town understands that protecting its youth is protecting its future.

Mayor Rankin inquired about his name. He also inquired how many other communities he is working with at this time.

Mr. Hunter explained that he adapted that name from his grandfather, who was a blues Hall of Famer and a very influential person in his life. He explained that he is a Dean at a Phoenix High School and works with a youth group on campus.

Mayor Rankin stated that he wants the program to be successful and to offer something for the teenagers. He stated that Florence needs to build leaders.

Vice-Mayor Walter inquired how many teens attended the programs over the summer.

Mr. Hunter stated that there were approximately 30 teens at the pool party. He stated that approximately 16 teens attended the Teen Council meeting. There are approximately 12 teens that assist with the events. There were approximately 15 to 20 teens who handed out items at the youth program at the library.

Vice-Mayor Walter inquired if he will be able to coordinate events during the week with the Florence Unified School District (FUSD) with his position as a Dean at another school.

Mr. Hunter stated that he will be in a Florence a few days per week. He stated that he is a full time dean and he has spoken with his supervisor.

Vice-Mayor Walter stated that it is important to have a partnership with the school district as well as local organizations and churches. She stated that the Town is facing Home Rule, Proposition 411, and it is important to build the contingency into the budget to provide for our youth.

Mr. Brent Billingsley, Town Manager, stated that he does not want to give the impression that only 15 to 20 teens have attended the events. He stated that there are weekly meetings, in which he has attended most meetings, and there are approximately 15 to 20 teens at each meeting. He stated that the participants are from the entire region including Cactus Forest, Anthem, and the core.

Mr. Billingsley stated that sustainability is important and Mr. Hunter is to train our staff to continue the programs forward. He will set up the programs, train the staff and get Florence moving in the right direction. He stated that he believes Florence is making a critical investment. He gave a brief overview of all of the events and meetings that have taken place. He stated that the intent is not to entertain kids but to build leaders going forward. He stated that there are various components including volunteer, education and leadership. He stated that people will be impressed with the number of teens, the diversity, and their growth. The Youth

Leadership Group will attend the League of Arizona Cities and Towns conference to represent Florence. He is requesting that the youth carry the flag in the parade.

Councilmember Woolridge stated that this is something that she and her husband have been championing for years. She is excited to see the program starting. It is important to get kids excited about living in this community. She stated that a goal is to have some of the youth become councilmembers in the future.

Vice-Mayor Walter stated that the vehicle is on the Town's disposal list. She inquired if there are issues with it or if it is functioning.

Mr. Billingsley stated that the vehicle runs and is safe. He stated that the challenge with the vehicle is the mileage and that it is over 20 years old. He stated that the air conditioning does not work all the time. He stated that Mr. Hunter needs a vehicle that can haul equipment as well as students from place to place. If the Town were to shuttle the students, it would need to utilize a town vehicle and an employee to do so. Mr. Hunter will ensure that the air conditioning system is repaired. The benefit is that the Town will have a \$50,000 contract with Mr. Hunter and only have to pay \$48,000.

Vice-Mayor Walter inquired if transportation is being provided for the youth that do not have a way to get here for the programs.

Mr. Billingsley stated that there is no intent to pick up students for the events. There is intent to transport the students to special events or from the high school to a Town facility. He stated that there will be a partnership with the FUSD.

Councilmember Woolridge stated that she would like to be actively involved.

Mr. Anderson inquired if the contract went out for competitive bid. He stated that the contract price seems high for two days per week. He inquired why the Town didn't hire an employee.

Mr. Billingsley stated that the Town did not go out for competitive bid because there aren't many individuals who offer these types of services. Mr. Hunter has been dedicated to the Town for months, most of the time with no pay, trying to advise and help the Town set up the program. He has a proven track record and has worked for many cities. He has a stellar reputation. The Town does not have to go out for bid because it is a professional services contract.

Mr. Billingsley stated that the fee is not solely for Mr. Hunter's time. There is funding for the preparation, organization, categorization, purchase of supplies, food, and transportation. He stated that it is for an all-inclusive program to be successful.

Mayor Rankin stated that the program is already included in the budget, and approved by Council.

Councilmember Hawkins explained the vehicle has a lot of service life left.

Councilmember Anderson inquired if the Town decal will be removed from the vehicle.

Mr. Billingsley stated that the decals will be removed before it is transferred to Mr. Hunter.

Councilmember Guilin stated that the participant numbers are minimal compared to what she believes what they will have once summer ends.

On motion of Councilmember Woolridge, seconded by Councilmember Wall, and carried to enter into a contract with Koko Entertainment, LLC, for Teen Leadership and Programming, in an amount not to exceed \$48,000, and authorize the Town Manager to transfer ownership of a 1995 Ford Club Wagon Van scheduled for disposal to Mr. Hunter.

**Discussion/Approval/Disapproval of a Town directional sign, proposed to be located at the northwest corner of State Highway 79 and the Main Street extension, with external illumination, in an amount not to exceed \$16,000.**

Mr. Mark Eckhoff, Community Development Director, stated that there have been minimal changes to the sign. He stated that the depiction provided in the agenda packet is the final design for the directional sign that will be located at the northwest corner of State Highway 79 and Main Street extension. He stated that the changes included:

- Changed Central Business District to Historic Business District because that term is not commonly used
- Increased the size of the word "Florence"
- Added color logo on the sign
- Added restaurants to the bottom of the sign

Mr. Eckhoff stated that the sign is two-sided and illuminated by solar. He stated that he received a comment regarding obtaining an additional bid for the solar component; which can be done. The sign is protected by the company that made the proposal. The lighting can be done by a different vendor if they receive another bid. He stated that currently, they have two separate bids from the company (one for the sign and one for the lighting). He stated that they did go out for bid on the sign as a whole package; however, when the bids came in, the sign was itemized separately from the lighting.

Councilmember Wall inquired if there have been any accidents attributed from vehicles coming from the south, turning left onto the Main Street extension.

Mr. Dan Hughes, Police Chief, stated that they have had no accidents at that intersection.

Councilmember Woolridge inquired if the sign will contain the exact wording as depicted in the picture. She inquired if they can add the Visitor Center to the sign.

Mr. Eckhoff stated that the wording will be identical. He stated they can add the Visitor Center if it is the consensus of the Council.

It was the consensus of the Council to add the Visitor Center wording.

On motion of Councilmember Guilin, seconded by Councilmember Woolridge, and carried to approve a Town directional sign, proposed to be located at the northwest corner of State Highway 79 and the Main Street extension, with external illumination, in an amount not to exceed \$16,000.

## **TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**

Florence Town Council Meeting Minutes

July 18, 2016

Page 12 of 16

Mr. Billingsley provided an updated on the CIPs. He explained a tool that will be added to the website that will be an interactive GIS map. The projects will be shown on the map and it will provide the location scope, cost and where it is in its development, and other information. The tool should be implemented within the next two months.

Mr. Billingsley stated that the projects were approved less than one month ago and staff will not move forward with construction until after the vote in August, regarding Home Rule; however, the legwork is being done such as scopes, figuring out how to bid the projects, etc.

Mr. Billingsley stated that Diversion Dam Road is currently under construction and is approximately 60% complete.

Mr. Billingsley stated that he distributed to the Council the termination of Consent Order WS 3013. The Town has been under a consent order from the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality since August 2013 regarding the south wastewater treatment plant. The necessary improvements have been made removing the Town from the Consent Order.

Mr. Billingsley read the following memorandum from Police Chief Dan Hughes and Lieutenant Terry Tryon that was sent to all Police Department personnel into the record:

“The recent weeks have been devastating for law enforcement across the nation. More claims of excessive force, wrongful shootings have again continued to smear this great profession that each of you has chosen. It is difficult in these times to stay focused with the negative reports in the national news and on social media. Now officers are being targeted and killed at peaceful rallies for doing their job, a job that only a special few will do. We are fortunate in this community to serve a group of citizens that appreciate your service each and every day. Your dedication and professional service to this community is greatly admired by this administration, the Town government and community members. We want all of you to know that you do a great job for this community in continuing to serve and protect hoping you will remain vigilant every second that you are out there doing the job that you do. Do not allow yourself to get complacent for one second, giving anyone an opportunity to cause you harm, to you or to your partner. We greatly appreciate all of you here at the Florence Police Department.”

Mr. Billingsley read the following letter from S. Power into the record:

“I wanted to write and extend my sincere appreciation to the Town of Florence for their collaboration and support on the Sandstone Solar Project. Together we built one of the largest solar projects in Arizona by installing over 182,000 photovoltaic panels on 340 acres. This project powers over 8,000 homes and removes 88,000 metric tons of carbon emissions annually. The Community Development Department was instrumental in helping us find the initiative, innovative, and creative solutions. We successfully navigated the Planning and Zoning Design Review Plan review construction and commissioning aspects of the project. Staff's coordination and responsiveness was truly exceptional when dealing with the complicated asks from investors, financiers, title companies, the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Salt River Project (SRP). Even when S Power needed to add 40 acres to our initial approval the last minute, Mark and his team worked with us to amend the design review approvals in less than two months and obtain building permits to start construction in another two months. This immediate turn around was above and beyond our expectations and critical in meeting our financing obligations. Without Town support we would have not been able to provide over 175,000 hours of work for local employees. With accolades received from the Governor's

Office, Senators, State Representatives, the Arizona Corporation Commission, Pinal County and SRP executives, we hope Florence is as proud of the Sandstone Solar as we are.

Please extend our appreciation to your staff. We look forward to doing more business in Florence in the future.”

Mr. Billingsley recognized the following:

- Ray White, Fleet – Public Works Department, has approved two levels of automotive technician under the ASC Certification rules.
- 30 employees who passed forklift operations and forklift safety and have their certifications

Mr. Billings read the following letter into the record:

“Thank you. In my haste to run off with my sons to see the fireworks show in Mesa, I completely forgot to turn off my sprinkler system to water the plants. It was a senior moment I hope not to repeat. I just want to thank you so much for taking the time to come out and check it all out and turn off the problem and for taking my flag down. My father was a World War II pilot and I am so proud to be part of a military family. With the Florence Police always helping my neighbors and the Fire Department being so vigilant even with old ladies who forget to turn off their sprinklers, I am glad I made the decision to move out of the boonies to this village eight years ago. I have always felt safe and secure here.”

Mr. Billingsley stated that Wal-Mart has provided a grant to the Town of Florence to allow us to do the Police Department Citizen’s Academy for one more year. The grant is for \$700.

### **CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

Ms. Harrison stated that now that Council has approved the directional sign at the corner of State Highway 79 and Main Street extension, she suggested a different font. She stated that attractions are printed in all caps and are difficult to read. She suggested that a capital letter be used and the beginning of the word and lower case for the remaining letters in each of the words. The sign will be easier to read. She hopes the lighting will be aimed down and not up, to preserve dark skies.

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

Councilmember Hawkins stated that there innuendoes and misinformation going around, inclusive of being in the local paper, which accuses staff and Council of not being business friendly. The information states that we are going to destroy Main Street. The negativity that is being spread will keep businesses from coming to Florence. Council has made many changes to be business friendly. He asked the public to address their concerns with staff or the Council. The Town will not grow with the bad publicity. He asked people to be cautious with information that they are disseminating.

Councilmember Wall offered her support to Police Chief Hughes and the Police Department.

Councilmember Anderson stated that the Town has an outstanding team of first responders in the Police and Fire Departments. He also thanked Jason Joynes and his staff for the work that

they did at the south wastewater treatment plant to have the Consent Order terminated. He stated he attended the Florence Unified School District convocation and reminded everyone that school is going to start soon. He asked that we use caution with the children in the streets.

Councilmember Guilin stated that the Town has several employees who have worked with the Town ten years or more and are dedicated and highly qualified people. She thanked all the employees and asked everyone to pray for the police officers in Florence and nationwide.

Vice-Mayor Walter stated that the Florence Unified School District had Jason Schechterle as the guest speaker at the convocation. He authored "Behind the Badge" and was involved in an accident in 2001 that changed his life forever. He was an amazing speaker who delivered a powerful message. She welcomed Koko Entertainment, LLC, into the Town, as part of the contract with the Town and bridging the youth.

Vice-Mayor Walter stated that there was a fire this morning and that no one was injured. She expressed her appreciation to the Fire and Police staff.

Vice-Mayor Walter stated that she has not received any negative comments regarding the Town not being business friendly..

Mayor Rankin stated that the fire could have been worse. The first responders did a great job. He stated that he has a blue light at his house symbolizing the police offices and respect for the officers.

Mayor Rankin stated that he attended the Diamondbacks game where Tammy Borin, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Teacher, Florence K-8 received a \$1,000 donation from the Diamondbacks in recognition for being a great teacher. Her slogan is "Once a duck, always a duck". Mayor Rankin also attended the convocation.

Mayor Rankin stated that school will start soon and asked everyone to follow the speed limits and use caution.

#### **ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**An Executive Session will be held during the Council Meeting for legal matters pursuant to A.R.S. Section 38-431.03 (A)(1), (A)(3), (A)(4), and (A)(7) for the purpose of discussion and consultation with the Town's attorneys for legal advice on the following items:**

**Town's position and instruct its attorneys in regard to pending litigation in Maricopa County Superior Court: Town of Florence v. Florence Copper, Inc. CV 2015-000325.**

**Town's position and instruct its attorneys in regard to Arizona Department of Environmental Quality proceedings.**

**Town's attorneys for legal advice on a pending and threatened claim filed by Johnson Utilities.**

**Town's attorney regarding potential contract dispute for solid waste services.**

**Evaluation of the Town Manager's three-year performance plan.**

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

**ADJOURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION**

On motion of Councilmember Anderson, seconded by Vice-Mayor Walter, 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).**

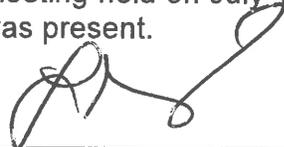
On motion of Vice-Mayor Walter, seconded by Councilmember Wall, and carried to adjourn the meeting at 9:18 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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 July 18, 2016, and that the meeting was duly called to order and that a quorum was present.

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