

MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF FLORENCE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 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 6:00 pm.

ROLL CALL:

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

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mayor Rankin called for a moment of silence in remembrance of past-Governor Rose Mofford.

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. Doug Stinson, President, Pinal County Mounted Posse, stated that they have started a jackpot barrel race and gymkhana for the children at the rodeo grounds on the third Saturday of each month. Even though they did not publicize their first event, they had a great turnout. He said that they are also working with the Town to get the water system upgraded for water storage at the arena. One local business made a very generous donation and they have all the necessary equipment. The Posse is working out the details with the Town.

Mr. Stinson stated that they have begun to reach out for sponsorship for Jr. Parada as well as selling ads for the program. He stated that the fees range from \$25 to \$500.

Mr. Brent Billingsley, Town Manager, stated that Mr. Jerry Ravert, Florence Resident, wrote a letter to the Council, and it was published in the local newspaper. The letter has been provided to Council for their review.

PRESENTATION

Presentation of Vallarie Woolridge's Twelve Year Service Award received from the League of Arizona Cities and Towns.

Mayor Rankin presented Councilmember Woolridge with her Twelve Year Service Award from the League of Arizona Cities and Towns for her service on the Town Council. He recognized all of the various boards that Councilmember Woolridge has served on during her tenure on the Town Council. He stated that Councilmember Woolridge also serves on the Coolidge Transportation Advisory Committee. He thanked her for her time and dedication to the Town of Florence.

Councilmember Woolridge thanked the voters who continually vote her into office. She stated that she really enjoys serving the residents and helping Florence to be progressive. She stated that Florence is trying to be current and progressive and she enjoys being a part of that.

CONSENT: All items on the consent agenda will be handled by a single vote as part of the consent agenda, unless a Councilmember or a member of the public objects at the time the agenda item is called.

- a. **Proclamation declaring October 2016 as Light Town Hall Purple for Domestic Violence Awareness Month.**
- b. **Approval of the Florence Football Booster Club's Special Event Liquor License application to the Arizona Department of Liquor Licenses and Control, for their Cow Pie Bingo event to be held at Heritage Park, on October 21, 2016.**
- c. **Approval of the San Tan United Sports Academy's Special Event Liquor License application to the Arizona Department of Liquor Licenses and Control, for the Anthem Celebrates the Arts event, at Anthem at Merrill Ranch Community Park, on November 12, 2016.**
- d. **Appoint Tom L. Smith to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, with a term to expire December 31, 2017.**
- e. **Approval to enter into a Lease Agreement with Florence Mosaic Church of the Nazarene, owner of the Florence Fudge Company., for Suite 101, in the Silver King Market Place.**
- f. **Approval to enter into a Lease Agreement with Bucks 4 Style, LLC, for Suite 102, in the Silver King Market Place.**
- g. **Approval to enter into Lease Agreement with Seconds Please... on Main, LLC, for Suite 202, in the Silver King Market Place.**
- h. **Approval of the August 1, August 15, and August 22, 2016 Council minutes.**
- i. **Receive and file the following board and commission minutes:**

- i. June 9, and July 14, 2016 Arts and Culture Commission minutes.**
- ii. June 29, 2016 Historic District Advisory Commission minutes.**
- iii. June 15, 2016 Library Advisory Board minutes.**

On motion of Councilmember Hawkins, seconded by Councilmember Anderson, and carried to approve the consent agenda, as written, with the exception of Item 7i ii.

Councilmember Woolridge stated that the June 29, 2016 Historic District Advisory Commission (HDAC) minutes do not reflect the reason that the plaque was erected at the American Legion facility. She stated that she is disappointed that the HDAC minutes do not reflect the reason for the plaque. The plaque was erected to recognize that the building was used as a school for black children years ago. The HDAC minutes should reflect the reasons for the plaque. It is irrelevant that the Town did not contribute money for the plaque because this is part of the Town's history. She stated that by only stating that a plaque was erected at the American Legion, the Town is failing to acknowledge a part of the community's history.

Councilmember Woolridge stated that by ignoring this part of our history, we continue to contribute the climate that exists in our country. Segregation exists in more areas than in schools, and until we acknowledge that racism existed and still exists today, things will not get better.

Councilmember Woolridge stated that she is offended that the historical information surrounding the erection of the plaque was not included in the HDAC minutes. She stated that by omitting the history it is disrespectful to our black community members and especially the children that had to attend school at that building. She stated that people need to look at themselves and have a serious conversation about racism. She would like the Town to work with the Florence Unified School District and the American Legion to have some type of public acknowledgment of the plaque and why it was placed at that building. She stated that by failing to talk about the history, we tend to repeat it and there are some things that need to remain history and not be repeated.

Councilmember Woolridge stated that she is appreciative that the American Legion chose a place to hang that plaque; however, the Town failed to publically acknowledge the plaque.

- i. June 29, 2016 Historic District Advisory Commission minutes.**

On motion of Councilmember Woolridge, seconded by Vice-Mayor Walter, and carried to approve the June 29, 2016 Historic District Advisory Commission minutes.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion/Approval/Disapproval to enter into a Lease Agreement with Brittany Padilla, owner of W Rose Skin Spa, for Suite 201, in the Silver King Market Place.

Ms. Jennifer Evans, Management Analyst, stated that Suite 201 became available in September 2016. Ms. Brittany Padilla, owner of W Rose Spa, approached the Town a number of months ago interested in leasing space in the Silver King Market Place once it became available. Staff has worked with her for approximately four months and helped her develop her business plan. Her business was previously located on Butte Avenue. She stated that W Rose Spa is a place where aesthetician services are offered.

Ms. Evans stated that Ms. Padilla is interested in moving into the Silver King Market Place because of the foot traffic. Staff believes the business is a good fit for the location. W Rose Spa has been in business for one and a half years and she is hoping to grow her operation. Staff believes that Suite 201 will afford the opportunity to grow her business there.

On motion of Councilmember Guilin, seconded by Councilmember Anderson, and carried to enter into a Lease Agreement with Brittany Padilla, owner of W Rose Skin Spa, for Suite 201, in the Silver King Market Place

Resolution No. 1599-16:

Ms. Lisa Garcia, Deputy Town Manager/Town Clerk, read Resolution No. 1599-16 by title only.

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF FLORENCE, PINAL COUNTY, ARIZONA, DECLARING AND ADOPTING THE RESULTS OF THE PRIMARY ELECTION, HELD ON AUGUST 30, 2016.

Ms. Lisa Garcia, Deputy Town Manager/Town Clerk, stated that the election was held on August 30, 2016. She stated that the total number of registered voters were 4,930. The number of ballots cast in the Primary Election was 2037. The number of votes cast through mail ballot were 1,581, which equated to 77% of the total ballots cast.

The votes cast for the candidates for Mayor were as follows:

<u>Names</u>	<u>Votes</u>
Cox, Gem	483
Rankin, Tom J.	617
Walter, Tara	887

Ms. Garcia stated that Tom J. Rankin and Tara Walter will move forward to the General Election, which will be held on November 8, 2016.

Votes cast for the candidates for councilmember are as follows:

Cox, Strom	776
Duron Michelle	806
Hawkins, Bill	975
Larsen Kristen	964

Ms. Garcia stated that all candidates received enough votes to be able to be elected in the primary election. Underneath the State Statutes, Rules associated with running elections, the top three members did get elected. The new councilmembers that will be seated in December 2016 are Bill Hawkins, Kristen Larsen, and Karen J. Wall.

Ms. Garcia stated that Proposition 411 was also on the ballot. She stated that those voting in favor of Proposition were 1,320, and those against were 567. Proposition 411 passed and the Town of Florence once again has Home Rule for the next four years starting the next fiscal year.

Ms. Garcia stated the Town received a 41.32% voter turnout for the 2016 Primary election. Compared to the last mayoral election, the voter turnout is down from 52%.

Vice-Mayor Walter stated the registered voters increased by approximately 800 voters.

Mayor Rankin thanked the voters for passing Proposition 411. It shows the Council that the voters have trust in the Council and how they are operating. He would like all voters to vote in the General Election and would like to see the turnout exceed 50%.

On motion of Councilmember Anderson, seconded by Councilmember Guilin, and carried to adopt Resolution No. 1599-16.

Resolution No. 1600-16:

Ms. Garcia read Resolution No. 1600-16 by title only.

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF FLORENCE, PINAL COUNTY, ARIZONA, DECLARING ITS INTENTION TO ESTABLISH A STREET LIGHT IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT TO PURCHASE ENERGY FOR LIGHTING THE PUBLIC STREETS AND PARKS IN THE AREA WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE TOWN OF FLORENCE, ARIZONA, DESCRIBED ON EXHIBIT A, ATTACHED HERETO; DECLARING SUCH IMPROVEMENTS TO BE OF MORE THAN LOCAL OR ORDINARY PUBLIC BENEFIT AND THAT THE EXPENSES THEREOF BE PAID FOR BY THE LEVY AND COLLECTION OF AD VALOREM TAXES UPON THE ASSESSED VALUATION OF ALL REAL AND PERSONAL PROPERTY IN A CERTAIN DISTRICT TO BE KNOWN AS "TOWN OF FLORENCE, ARIZONA, MERRILL RANCH STREET LIGHT IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO. 1"; AND ORDERING THAT SUCH IMPROVEMENTS BE PROVIDED FOR UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 48-572, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES.

Ms. Garcia stated that staff has asked that this item be tabled to the next Council Meeting.

On motion of Vice-Mayor Walter, seconded by Councilmember Guilin, and carried to table Resolution No. 1600-16.

Ratification of a contract for the Diversion Dam Road Project with Willdan, in an amount not to exceed \$172,078.50.

On October 25, 2012, staff entered into a Contract Task Order with Willdan for engineering work on Diversion Dam Road. Recently, the Town had additional work that needed to be completed and staff was considering a Change Order to be presented to Council on that contract. She stated that staff did its due diligence to be able to determine whether or not the amount had exceeded the value of the original authorization levels. Staff found that Willdan did not, at that time, have an approved contract by Council. The contract was approved by a department head. Staff has ensured that the contract with the Task Orders that need to be completed are packaged for Council to approve in the correct way, pursuant to Arizona State Statutes and Town Rules and Regulations.

Ms. Garcia stated that the contract has been reviewed by Willdan, and as of 4:45 pm today, Willdan's attorneys have agreed to the contract and will be signing it and returning it to the Town.

Ms. Garcia stated the original task order is for \$131,061, which was signed off on by the then Public Works Director for the work on the roads. In 2016, there was a follow-up agreement that was needed for \$21,600 and a second task order that would be considered a change order for \$19,443 for geological services that was needed for the project. The amount not-to-exceed is now for a fiscal impact of \$172,078.50. Staff has reviewed the policies and procedures to ensure that safeguards exist to prevent situations like this from occurring in the future.

Ms. Garcia stated that since 2012, the amount of work done on the project has been less than \$20,000 per year, which was why this was not found sooner. She stated that the Town owes Willdan approximately \$41,000 at the time the contract will be entered into. Staff is requesting that the ratification be approved and the Town will remit final payment to Willdan. She stated that all work associated with Willdan has been completed at this time and that the project is complete and done.

On motion of Councilmember Guilin, seconded by Councilmember Hawkins, and carried to ratify the contract for the Diversion Dam Road Project with Willdan, in an amount not to exceed \$172,078.50.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Brent Billingsley, Town Manager, thanked everyone for their well wishes and prayers due to his medical situation.

Mr. Billingsley stated an article appeared in the September 13, 2016 Casa Grande Dispatch's, titled "Tax Friendly Florence, A Comfy Home for Retirees, the County Seat ranks 8th by analysts by a New York Tech Firm". He asked Council to review the article which is another honor and another thing the Town should leverage in terms of economic development going forward.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Ms. Ruth Harrison, Florence Resident, requested that the June 29, 2016 HDAC minutes be amended to include the history of the reason for the plaque that was installed at the American Legion.

Mr. Jim Tchida, Florence Resident, thanked Councilmember Anderson for taking time to go through Main Street and review the Streetscape Project. He spoke to the business owners about the project and the possible impact on their businesses, but more importantly, documenting what was learned.

CALL TO THE COUNCIL – CURRENT EVENTS ONLY

Councilmember Anderson stated that some merchants on Main Street stated to him that the project has impacted their sales, while others weren't sure of the impact as this is their slow season. He stated that there were complaints of vibrations from the jackhammering. He was glad that he met with the merchants and that they shared their concerns. He stated that this project has taken ten plus years to come to fruition. He stated that the project is time sensitive as there are many things that are planned on Main Street in the near future. He is eager for the project to be completed.

Councilmember Hawkins stated that Mr. Jerry Ravert wrote a letter to the editor in the September 15, 2016 local newspaper, in which he referred to the beautification project, specifically the removal of the acorn lights. He stated that the article provides some mistruths regarding the acorn lights such as that the Council elected to remove the acorn light. He clarified that the acorn lights were removed per the grant requirement. If the Town elected not to comply with the removal of the acorn lights the Town would lose the grant plus the Town would have to pay approximately \$100,000 back and the Town would have nothing. He stated that when things are said publicly as fact, especially when it is negative and false, it does not help the Town grow as well as it sheds a negative light on the Town. It does not make the Town look like an appealing place. He stated that all those that work for the Town work diligently to make Florence a great community. Every Councilmember works to make the Town an appealing place. He asked that the facts be verified before publicizing their comments.

Vice-Mayor Walter stated that the Movie in the Park was a successful event. She likes that it was moved from Padilla Park. The new location provided more open space. She thanked everyone who attended. She stated that Koko did not attend the event. She asked that he provide a progress report to the Council outlining his progress, how many meetings he is having and how many students are attending the meetings. She said at the event, some of the students needed redirection and Town staff stepped in and provided redirection.

Vice-Mayor Walter stated that there will be a parade on October 21, 2016 and she has spoken with Mr. Knudson and Mr. Salas, Public Works Director regarding the Streetscape Project. They believe the project will be completed by then; however, she knows the businesses are suffering a hardship. There will be discussions in the near

future regarding barricading the hazards on Main Street and asked staff to be open to the suggestions.

Mayor Rankin stated that there will be a benefit for Gabby Lara, who is battling throat cancer, at the Elk's Club on October 15, 2016 at 3:00 pm. Ms. Lara is a recent Florence High School graduate. They are accepting donations for a raffle that they will have at the event, along with several other events.

Mayor Rankin stated that Town Hall will be lit purple in the month of October in awareness for Domestic Violence Awareness Month and the victims who have suffered domestic violence.

Mayor Rankin stated that he and Councilmember Woolridge met with Dr. Jacklyn Elliott, Central Arizona College (CAC) President. He discussed President Elliott's ideas on the continuation of CAC and ways to assist the students with continual education.

Mayor Rankin stated that he is not sure if the HDAC minutes can be amended but asked for the Town to issue a press release.

Mr. Billingsley stated that the minutes could be amended. He asked staff to prepare a presentation on the erection of the plaque at the American Legion.

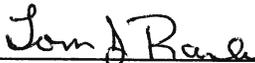
Councilmember Guilin stated that she is the liaison for the HDAC and stated that the plaque was discussed in detail when it was first brought up. She said that she was amazed and had no idea of the history prior to that conversation.

Councilmember Woolridge stated that the Historical Society suggested the plaque and the American Legion purchased the plaque. She stated that it is irrelevant who purchased it; however it needs to be acknowledged.

Mayor Rankin stated that Rose Mofford was the first female Governor of Arizona, who served when Governor Mechem was impeached. She did not run for re-election. She was the Secretary of State when she became Governor. He stated that the LB Inn, when owned by the Lizarraga family, had a "Rose's Corner" in the restaurant, in which they hung several photos of her. He shared stories of her kindness and said she will be missed.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Councilmember Woolridge, seconded by Councilmember Hawkins, and carried to adjourn the meeting at 6:44 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 September 19, 2016, and that the meeting was duly called to order and that a quorum was present.



Lisa Garcia, Town Clerk