

MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF FLORENCE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, APRIL 1, 2019, AT 6:00 P.M., IN THE FLORENCE TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, LOCATED AT 775 N. MAIN STREET, FLORENCE, ARIZONA.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Walter called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Tara Walter, John Anderson, Bill Hawkins, Karen Wall, Kristen Larsen, Michelle Cordes, Judy Hughes

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mayor Walter called for a moment of silence.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Walter 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.

Mayor Walter stated that the demolition of the Cuen Building was halted due to some interest in the building.

Mr. Tom Smith, Florence Resident, stated that he believes in Florence and believes in the three points: preserving the past, embrace the present, and plan for the future. He, along with wife Lynn, would like the opportunity to rehabilitate the Cuen Building. He stated that there is no profit to be made, only the investment in three points previously mentioned. He stated that he can use everyone's help.

Mr. Jerry Ravert, Florence Resident, asked Council to make a public report on two suspicious fires in the Kokopelli Moon Saloon that led to the demolition of the three historic properties. He believes the residents deserve an explanation. He would like to see the records on how the Town arrived to demolish the national registered properties. He stated that the report should include details on several questions:

- Was the arson investigation ever completed and what were the results?
- What is the relationship between the Town of Florence and Mr. Ritter?
- Why did the process take so long?
- Was a structural report ever done, and if so, by whom?
- Who said the buildings were ready to fall down?
- Who filed for the demolition permit?

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- What was the Historic District Advisory Commission's final vote on demolition of the buildings?

Mr. Ravert stated that he is willing to discuss this with any of the Councilmembers and asked that the conversations be made public.

Mayor Walter asked Mr. Ravert to meet with Mr. Ben Bitter, Assistant to the Town Manager with regards to his questions.

Ms. Margaret Bussey, Florence Resident, stated that they are having issues with Christensen Road. She stated the cement company who is charged with maintaining South Christensen Road has closed and the road has not been maintained for the last six months. There is no way to exit their property except for San Carlos wash, which leads them into a private road, which is not maintained regularly.

Ms. Bussey is concerned with the impending monsoon season and has reached out to Pinal County Highway Maintenance Department, who state that Florence is responsible for maintenance of the road. When she contacted Florence, she was told Pinal County is responsible for the road.

Ms. Bussey stated that she sent a message to the Town Manager and someone came out and surveyed the area. She thanked Mayor Walter for responding. She appreciates the Town's assistance.

Mayor Walter asked Ms. Bussey to meet with Mr. Chris Salas, Public Works Director, to discuss her concerns.

PUBLIC HEARING AND PRESENTATION

Public Hearing to receive citizen's comments on rezoning from Neighborhood Office (NO) to Highway Business (B-2) for 470 South Main Street, Florence, Arizona, APN 202-09-0010; and second reading of Ordinance No. 671-19.

Mayor Walter read Ordinance No. 671-19 by title only.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF FLORENCE, PINAL COUNTY, ARIZONA, APPROVING THE HIGHWAY BUSINESS COMMERCIAL (B-2) ZONE CHANGE LOCATED AT 470 SOUTH MAIN STREET, APN 202-09-0010 (PZ-19-15).

Mr. Larry Harmer, Community Development Director, stated the Proposition 207 waiver has been executed. One member of the public came and spoke with staff and they are supportive of the request.

Mayor Walter opened the public hearing. There being no public comments, Mayor Walter closed the public hearing.

On motion of Vice-Mayor Anderson, seconded by Councilmember Wall, and carried (7-0) to adopt Ordinance No. 671-19.

Proclamation declaring the week of April 7 - 13, 2019 as National Library Week in the Town of Florence.

Mr. Jasper Halt, Library Manager, stated that National Library Week was founded in 1958 and occurs every year in April. Each year there is a theme, which becomes the theme for the bookmark competition. This year's theme is "Libraries equals strong communities". The primary celebration is the bookmark competition.

Mr. Halt highlighted the services offered at the library:

- Free Wi-Fi
 - Gets more use than any other place in Pinal County where the Wi-Fi is directly paid for by Pinal County Library District
- Offer e-books, streaming, downloadable audio and video
- Databases for the public to use on a variety of subjects
- Programs year round for all ages

Ms. Gloria Moreno, Librarian, stated that for the last 22 years, the Florence Community Library has celebrated National Library Week through its annual bookmark contest, which draws participation from K – 12 students throughout the Florence Unified School District (District) and home- schooled youth of the community. Entry forms were sent to all the schools in the District in January. The entries were collected in March and there were over 800 entries submitted. The entries are available for review. The panel of judges were comprised of members from the Library Board, Arts and Culture Commission, a past winner of the contest or an active Library patron or volunteer and Community Services Director Bryan Hughes.

Ms. Moreno stated that the winner has been selected and their artwork is being professionally printed into bookmarks. This year's Bookmark Awards Ceremony, recognizing the winners of the competition for each grade level, to be held on Wednesday, April 10, 2019. The grand prize winner will receive a \$50 gift card. She thanked the partners to help put on the event.

Mayor Walter read the proclamation for the record and proclaimed the week of April 7 – 13, 2019 as National Library Week in the Town of Florence.

Proclamation declaring April 2019 as Promise for the Future Month.

Ms. Evelyn Casuga, Senior Advisor, Community Relations, Office of the President, Central Arizona College, stated that Florence is the first municipality to issue a proclamation.

Ms. Casuga stated that the Foundation has been around since 2000 and was developed to help stop the high rate of high school dropouts. This effort provides tuition-free education for Pinal County High School graduates. Students must sign an agreement in 8th grade along with their parents ensuring that they maintain a certain grade point average as well as do community service. Upon completion, they can attend Central Arizona College (CAC).

Ms. Casuga stated that they have had over 4,000 students participate in the program. CAC is the only college offering tuition free opportunity to their students.

Ms. Margaret Dooley, Director at Central Arizona College Foundation, stated April is College Promise Month and the Promise for the Future celebrates students who have done well academically and have excelled in their ability to achieve the academic requirements to receive the Promise. They also celebrate the students because they have engaged in their community.

Ms. Dooley stated that they are also starting a campaign for Promise for the Future, which is called "25 Changes Lives". The multi-year campaign asks for everyone to donate \$25 to Promise for the Future. If they can get half of Pinal County residents to contribute, they can raise \$1 million for the Promise for the Future program. This will create a sustaining legacy for the program. Currently, they have a \$2 million endowment for Promise for the Future. It is important that they grow it to \$10 million.

Councilmember Hughes inquired how many Florence students have participated in the program.

Ms. Dooley stated that she does not have the total count; but 184 Florence students were eligible last year.

Councilmember Larsen inquired what is the required grade point average (GPA) for the students to maintain. She inquired if the program is open to all students in Pinal County.

Ms. Dooley stated that they must graduate from high school with a 2.75 GPA and must complete 20 hours of community service. Once enrolled at CAC, they must maintain a 2.5 GPA and enroll in at least 12 credits, completing nine. The students can take as many classes as they want. She stated that the program is open to all public and public charter schools.

Councilmember Wall inquired if students who move into Pinal County after the 8th grade can participate.

Ms. Dooley stated they must have signed up in the 8th grade in order to participate.

Mayor Walter read the proclamation for the record and proclaimed April 2019 as Promise for the Future Month.

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

Approval of an amendment to the Professional Services Agreement with Lantis Productions, Inc. (dba Lantis Fireworks and Lasers) increasing the total contract to \$36,000. (Bryan Hughes)

Approval of a contract with Zumar Industries Inc. to purchase various street, warning and informational signs as well as poles and pole accessories for all signage within the Town of Florence Town limits using the MCDOT Co-operative Contracts, Serial 16136-C and Serial 14105-C, in an amount not to exceed of \$60,000 (include a ratification of \$29,338.02). (Chris Salas)

Proclamation declaring April 2019 as Fair Housing Month. (Jennifer Evans)

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Approval of accepting the register of demands ending February 28, 2019, in the amount of \$2,258,477.17. (Becki Guillin)

On motion of Councilmember Wall, seconded by Councilmember Hughes, and carried (7-0) to approve the Consent Agenda, as written.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution No. 1692-19:

Mayor Walter read Resolution No. 1692-19 by title only.

A RESOLUTION OF TOWN OF FLORENCE, PINAL COUNTY, ARIZONA, APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING MAYOR TARA WALTER, TOWN MANAGER BRENT BILLINGSLEY, AND INTERIM FINANCE DIRECTOR BECKI JIMENEZ TO ACT AS SIGNATORIES FOR THE TRANSACTION OF BUSINESS ON THE TOWN OF FLORENCE BANKING ACCOUNTS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Ms. Lisa Garcia, Deputy Town Manager/Town Clerk, stated that Ms. Becki Jimenez became acting Finance Director, upon the resignation of Mr. Joe Jarvis, and will remain so until a new Finance Director is hired. This resolution changes the signatories on the Town's banking accounts.

Ms. Garcia stated that Mr. Ray Sanchez will be the new Finance Director and will be added as a signatory at the next Council meeting, effective May 1, 2019.

On motion of Vice-Mayor Anderson, seconded by Councilmember Larsen, and carried (7-0) to adopt Resolution No. 1692-19.

Discussion/Approval/Disapproval to modify the existing contract with Apache Underground, utilizing Pine-Strawberry Waterline Replacement and Water Facilities Improvement Construction Work – Job Order Contract, dated October 18, 2018, for CIP WU-38 Water line replacement, in an amount not to exceed \$1,314,779.20.

Mr. Chris Salas, Public Works Director, stated that the contract was previously approved by Council. The project is to bring proper fire flows to the Florence K-8 school as well as some commercial properties. The reason for the modification is because the original pricing structure was created based solely on assumed quantities using a Google Earth photograph. No detailed engineering drawings were available at the time. The timing was an overwhelming driver at the time due to the ability to order materials to start the job on time.

Mr. Salas stated that the first phase, titled Phase 3A has been completed. Phase 3A was taken from the W-83 plan set that was titled 12" Downtown Loop. He stated that in order to get the school the proper fire flows for the gymnasium to open on time they started at risk, knowing that the whole plan set had not been developed yet. As the plan set became developed, staff which amounted to hundreds of thousands of dollars. The increase is due to the cost of the unknowns

such as realignments, tie-ins, etc. The price difference is that the quantities have changed due to the completed design.

Vice-Mayor Anderson inquired if this 12-inch line ties into the 12-inch line on Main Street.

Mr. Salas stated that it does tie into the line.

On motion of Councilmember Hawkins, seconded by Councilmember Hughes, and carried (7-0) to modify the existing contract with Apache Underground, utilizing Pine-Strawberry Waterline Replacement and Water Facilities Improvement Construction Work – Job Order Contract, dated October 18, 2018, for CIP WU-38 Water line replacement, in an amount not to exceed \$1,314,779.20.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Ben Bitter, Assistant to the Town Manager, stated that the distracted driver bill (SB1165) did not make it out of the House Rules Committee so they amended another bill (HB2318) that had already made it through the House. This bill has been heard in the Senate Rules Committee and a vote is expected in the upcoming weeks. The Governor is supportive of a statewide bill.

Mr. Bitter stated that the legislature is in their 78th day, and by statute, they should meet for 100 days; April 23, 2019 is the 100th day. This may extend due the issues with the budget and may go into early May. There has been movement in the budget, and some issues still pending are: Possibility of conforming the Arizona Income Tax with the federal changes that were made Digital goods as a budgetary item opposed to a bill that passes through legislature. Staff continues to remain engaged with the legislature because changes in the budget can affect the Town's revenue.

Councilmember Wall stated that she spoke with the President Pro Tem of the House. She has been following the bill regarding the Heritage Fund and he indicated that they things are looking good for that budgetary item.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Ms. Garcia stated that the Town is thrilled that Mr. and Mrs. Tom Smith moved forward with saving the Cuen Building. There is a meeting scheduled with the architect, Mr. & Mrs. Smith, and staff to go over the architectural plans. The Town will also move forward with the bid procedure to sell the building at public auction. A notice will be published for 30 days as well as post it in three locations. The title will include the reverter clause in place in case nothing happens within the next year, the building will come back to the Town of Florence. This item will be brought back to Council on April 15, 2019 for action to rescind the authorization to demolish the Cuen Building.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Community Development Community Services

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Councilmember Hughes inquired about the turnout for the Concerts in the Park events that were held and what happened to the event scheduled for March 15, 2019. She also inquired if food trucks were brought in for the events.

Mr. Bryan Hughes, Community Services Director, provided the following statistics:

1 st event (January)	30 attendees
2 nd event (February)	60 - 70 attendees
3 rd event (February)	60 to 70 attendees
4 th event (February 22)	rained out; cancelled and rescheduled for March 15 th
March 15 th	low attendance due to weather

Mr. Hughes stated that the Ma's Kitchen was at the first two events and was unable to attend the 3rd event. He was not notified of the reschedule. He stated that it is nice to have a food truck available; however, it is not necessary, based on the attendance. He stated non-profits selling popcorn, etc. may be more successful.

Councilmember Wall inquired about the status of the citizen survey.

Mr. Bitter stated that they are nearly completed with the preparation. Staff is trying to minimize the cost so they are matching email addresses with those residents who have been drawn to receive the survey. This portion has taken longer than originally anticipated. The survey should be sent out within the next two weeks. They have drawn a sample of 1300 registered voters, with many being delivered via email and the remainder being sent via regular mail with an option to complete online.

The Department Reports were received and filed.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

There were no public comments.

CALL TO THE COUNCIL – CURRENT EVENTS ONLY

Councilmember Hughes congratulated the Greater Florence Chamber of Commerce (Chamber) for a great event on the GI 75th Anniversary Celebration event. She asked that the following items be put on a future agenda:

- Update of the Strategic Plan
- Update of the General Plan

Councilmember Cordes stated that she attended GI 75th Anniversary Celebration event and it was a great event. Everyone who attended appreciated the Town recognizing its veterans. She also attended the 45th Anniversary of LB Cantina and they had a full house. She also attended an Town of Florence Council Meeting Minutes

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event in front of the Cuen Building and is excited that there is movement on the project. She stated that the Town needs to work as a whole, and not as a subdivision, or old Florence, new Florence, etc. This is how the Town will succeed.

Councilmember Larsen invited everyone to attend the Road to Country Thunder and the Easter Eggstravaganza.

Councilmember Wall thanked Councilmember Cordes for reminding everyone that we are all one Florence. She thanked the Chamber for a great event. She was impressed with everyone's patriotism.

Councilmember Hawkins thanked Mr. & Mrs. Smith for stepping up on the Cuen Building. He stated that the Town is transparent and all the information is public. With regards to the Kokopelli Moon Saloon, the information becomes available as soon as the investigation is completed.

Vice-Mayor Anderson thanked the American Legion, which was also part of the GI 75th Anniversary Celebration event as well.

Vice-Mayor Anderson attended a conference titled "Water Now Alliance, in Austin Texas. He provided the Town Clerk with a copy of all of the presentations, should anyone be interested.

Mayor Wall stated that the Town has been busy. She outlined the following:

- Thanked the Police and Fire Departments for the Hurts Donuts escort. They sold in 19 minutes and promised to bring more the next time they come to Florence. The money was donated to a local girl who is fighting cancer.
- Thanked the Fire Department for Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) Training that did throughout the Town
- GI 75th Anniversary Celebration event was a great event
- Thanked Tom and Linda Smith for stepping up with regards to the Cuen Building
- Little League has started
- Road to Country Thunder event
- Camping at Heritage Park is now available

Mayor Walter appointed Councilmember Larsen as a liaison to Pinal County. Supervisor Goodman spoke before the Council. She and Councilmember Larsen will meet with Supervisory Goodman on a quarterly basis to discuss what is happening in our region.

ADJOURNMENT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

For the purposes of discussions or consultations with designated representatives of the public body and/or legal counsel pursuant to A.R.S. Sections 38-431.03 (A)(1)(A)(3), (A)(4) and (A)(7) to consider its position and instruct its representatives and/or attorneys regarding:

- a. **Town's position and instruct its attorneys regarding Arizona Department of Environmental Quality proceedings, related to Water Quality Appeals Board Case No. 16-002, including appellate proceedings to reviewing courts.**

- b. Town's position and instruct its attorneys regarding pending litigation in Maricopa County Superior Court: Town of Florence v. Florence Copper, Inc. CV2015-000325.
- c. Town's position and instruct its attorneys regarding pending litigation in Maricopa County Superior Court: Town of Florence v. Florence Copper, Inc. CV2015-000325 including those actions related to said litigation as authorized by Ordinance. No. 592-13.
- d. Town's position and instruct its attorneys regarding pending litigation in Pinal County Superior Court: Johnson Utilities, LLC, v. Town of Florence S-1100-CV-201900383 including those actions related to said litigation.
- e. Town Council duties and responsibilities in a Town Manager-Council form of government.

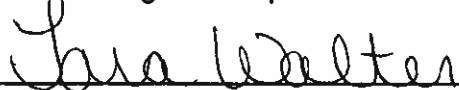
On motion of Councilmember Wall, seconded by Councilmember Hawkins, and carried (7-0) to adjourn to Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION


On motion of Vice-Mayor Anderson, seconded by Mayor Walter, and carried (7-0) to adjourn from Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT

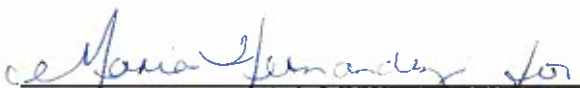
On motion of Mayor Walter, seconded by Councilmember Anderson, and carried (7-0) to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m.


 Tara Walter, Mayor

ATTEST:


 Lisa Garcia, Town Clerk Deputy Town Clerk

I certify that the following is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Florence Town Council meeting held on April 1, 2019, and that the meeting was duly called to order and that a quorum was present.


 Lisa Garcia, Town Clerk Deputy Town Clerk