

MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF FLORENCE COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, MARCH 11, 2019, AT 4:00 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 4:00 pm.

ROLL CALL:

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

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mayor Walter called for a moment of silence.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Walter led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Walter stated that there is an individual considering the purchase and rehabilitation of the Cuen Building. More information to follow as it becomes available.

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. Tom Rankin, Florence Resident, stated that the Cuen Building is remembered as the telephone company during World War II. The Cuen Building is the only thing remaining that shows that a prisoner of war camp existed. The camp was located in the Florence Gardens and Caliente Casa De Sol area and no longer exists. He stated that the Town needs to restore what it has. The building holds a lot of memories for him as his grandmother ran the telephone exchange and his grandfather built the back part of the building. He believes that the \$300,000 estimate to restore the building is incorrect. He asked the Council to reconsider the demolition of the building and to remember how bad the condition of the Clark was before it was restored.

DISCUSSION WITH PINAL COUNTY BOARD SUPERVISOR MIKE GOODMAN.

Mr. Mike Goodman, Chairman of the Pinal County Board of Supervisor and Supervisor for District 2, is the newest member of the Board of Supervisors and was elected in January 2017 representing San Tan Valley south to Anthem. He was an insurance broker for 30 years in Arizona and has owned a litany of businesses.

Supervisor Goodman stated that he recognized the need for some intergovernmental agreements and/or coalition efforts. It is important to work together in some of the efforts. They have begun the process with Queen Creek and Meridian Road. They are also working with Mesa and Apache Junction.

Supervisor Goodman would like to schedule regular meetings between the Town of Florence, his staff, Pinal County Public Works and Planning and Zoning Departments and correlate projects.

Councilmember Wall inquired about the progress that EPCOR has made.

Supervisor Goodman stated that he will be at the Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC) tomorrow to speak regarding EPCOR and the progress that they have made. They are pleased with the work that EPCOR has done thus far; however, there is considerable work that remains to be done. He stated that the citizens need to be more engaged on some of the processes and things that are moving forward. There was a large turnout at the ACC And ADEQ Hearings, in February 2018, which is what motivated the ACC to move forward on some processes.

Supervisor Goodman stated that he and other staff member met with the ACC and ADEQ recently and discussed the issues regarding EPCOR and Johnson Utilities, and the legalities.

Supervisor Goodman stated that things need to move forward but recognizes that some issues are complex. He stated that they can help move the process by providing direction. He is confident with EPCOR and what they are doing, but unfortunately, their hands are tied to what they can and cannot do. He will be presenting the issues to the ACC and discuss how they can help to get EPCOR to do the job they were warranted to do.

Vice-Mayor Anderson inquired how do they create a working relationship with him.

Supervisor Goodman stated that his office can set up quarterly meetings with some of the Council, so as not to create a quorum, along with specific staff members, dependent on what topic(s) are being discussed. He would like to work on economic development that needs to be brought to Pinal County and Florence.

Mr. Brent Billingsley, Town Manager, stated that Town staff meets periodically with Pinal County departments. He also speaks to the Pinal County Manager and Pinal County Assistant Manager on a weekly basis. He proposed that the Mayor choose a member of Council to participate. He, along with Pinal County staff, can set an agenda on key projects to report before the Supervisor Goodman and the Council.

Councilmember Cordes stated that one of her issues is Johnson Utilities and rate increases. She is concerned if the system can handle the growth. She is concerned about low water pressure and debris in the water.

Councilmember Cordes is also concerned about the incorporation of San Tan Valley, Wildhorse Estates, Crestfield Manor and other areas. She stated that some of the areas feel as though they have not been represented well.

Supervisor Goodman stated that everyone has the same concerns regarding Johnson Utilities. The ACC pulled back the rate case and allowed one year's worth of improvements this next year included in the next rate increase. EPCOR is working on a general plan for the entire system and is expected to complete it within 90 days. They also have patch work that needs to be done. There is funding in Johnson Utilities to allow them to do the work.

Supervisor Goodman stated that the major repairs or upgrades will require investment, and this is where the public needs to be involved. Commissioner Tobin is scheduling a time to come and provide an update on where the ACC is at and take the public's concerns back to the ACC.

Mayor Walter stated that the roads need to be looked at if they incorporate. He is not aware of any plans and unfortunately, is not involved with annexations.

Supervisor Goodman stated that his office puts out a proposal seeking individuals who wanted to be on a committee to evaluate and review amenities that San Tan residents want such as ball fields and a public library.

Mayor Walter inquired if youth are on the committee.

Supervisor Goodman stated that they have youth on their committee. They pulled from the student body within the four high schools within District 2 and created a Youth Advisory Committee. They meet with them periodically. They have worked on cleanup efforts for the community and a talent show.

Mayor Walter inquired how far will the widening of Hunt Highway go.

Supervisor Goodman stated that the widening of Hunt Highway will go as far as Magma Ranch. There are some issues with the Tribe, so they are going to have to realign a portion of Hunt Highway. This is currently in the design phase.

Mayor Walter inquired if there are any plans to redesign the area in front of Magic Ranch subdivision which floods out.

Mr. Billingsley stated that he does not have an update.

Supervisor Goodman stated that dialogue will be great to be able to discuss these types of issues and perhaps move projects around to accommodate issues such as the flooding at Magic Ranch.

Councilmember Larsen asked that employees' compensation be reviewed. She knows that they received a 2.5% increase, but they took a hard hit during the recession.

Supervisor Goodman stated that there have been increases in benefits and have been absorbed rather than passed on to the employees. He will examine this further.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

There were no public comments.

CALL TO THE COUNCIL – CURRENT EVENTS ONLY

Councilmember Cordes stated that the “Say Yes to the Dress” event is being held this weekend and is open to all Pinal County high school students. They can choose a dress, shoes and accessories at no cost but must bring their school identification. She stated that she has limited clothing and shoes. She stated that she has community support and has received several donations.

Councilmember Hawkins stated that they received their information and quotes from commercial architects for the Cuen building.

Vice-Mayor Anderson stated that he agrees with Councilmember Hawkins and is proud of the work that Councilmember Cordes is doing.

Mayor Walter stated that the Town is on Spring Break and the Community Services Department offers child care programs.

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)(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. **Discussion of Notice of Claim received on January 25, 2019.**

On motion of Councilmember Wall, seconded by Vice-Mayor Anderson, and carried (6-0) to adjourn to Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

On motion of Vice-Mayor Anderson, seconded by Councilmember Larsen, and carried (6-0) to adjourn from Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Vice-Mayor Anderson, seconded by Councilmember Larsen, and carried to adjourn at 5:37 pm.



Tara Walter, Mayor

ATTEST:



Lisa Garcia, Town Clerk

I certify that the following is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Florence Town Council meeting held on March 11, 2019, and that the meeting was duly called to order and that a quorum was present.



Lisa Garcia, Town Clerk