

MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF FLORENCE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2018, 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: Walter, Woolridge, Hawkins, Guilin, Anderson, Wall, Larsen

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.

There were no public comments.

PRESENTATIONS

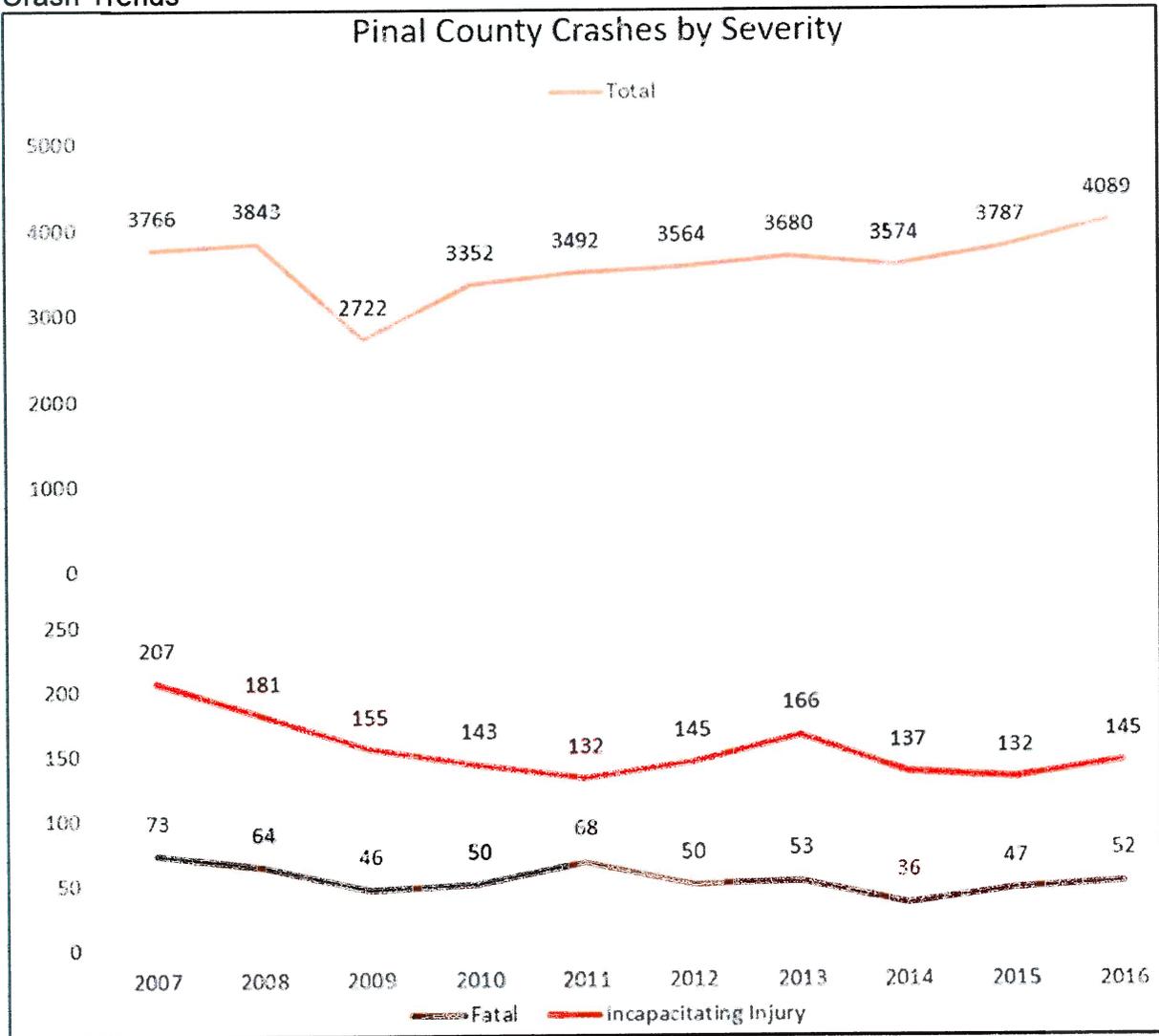
Pinal County Strategic Transportation Safety Plan. (Dan Hughes)

Mr. Daniel Hughes, Police Chief, stated that Pinal County has been studying how accidents happen in Pinal County and how to stop them. He introduced Mr. Mike Blankenship, P.E. Greenlight Traffic Engineering.

Mr. Blankenship provided a presentation, in which he outlined the following:

- Safety Plan Objectives
 - Reviewed accidents over the last 10 years.
 - Identify emphasis areas, safety strategies, and safety projects
 - 4 E's of safety:
 - Engineering
 - Enforcement
 - Education
 - Emergency services
- What are the 4 E's

- Statewide Fatalities:
 - 50% not using seat belt, child safety seat, helmet
 - 38% involved speeding
 - 34% involved impaired driving
- Crash Data Overview
 - Pinal County crashes for past 10 years (2007 – 2016):
 - 35,869 crashes
 - 539 fatal crashes
 - 1,543 serious injury crashes
 - 33,787 minor/no injury crashes
- Crash Trends

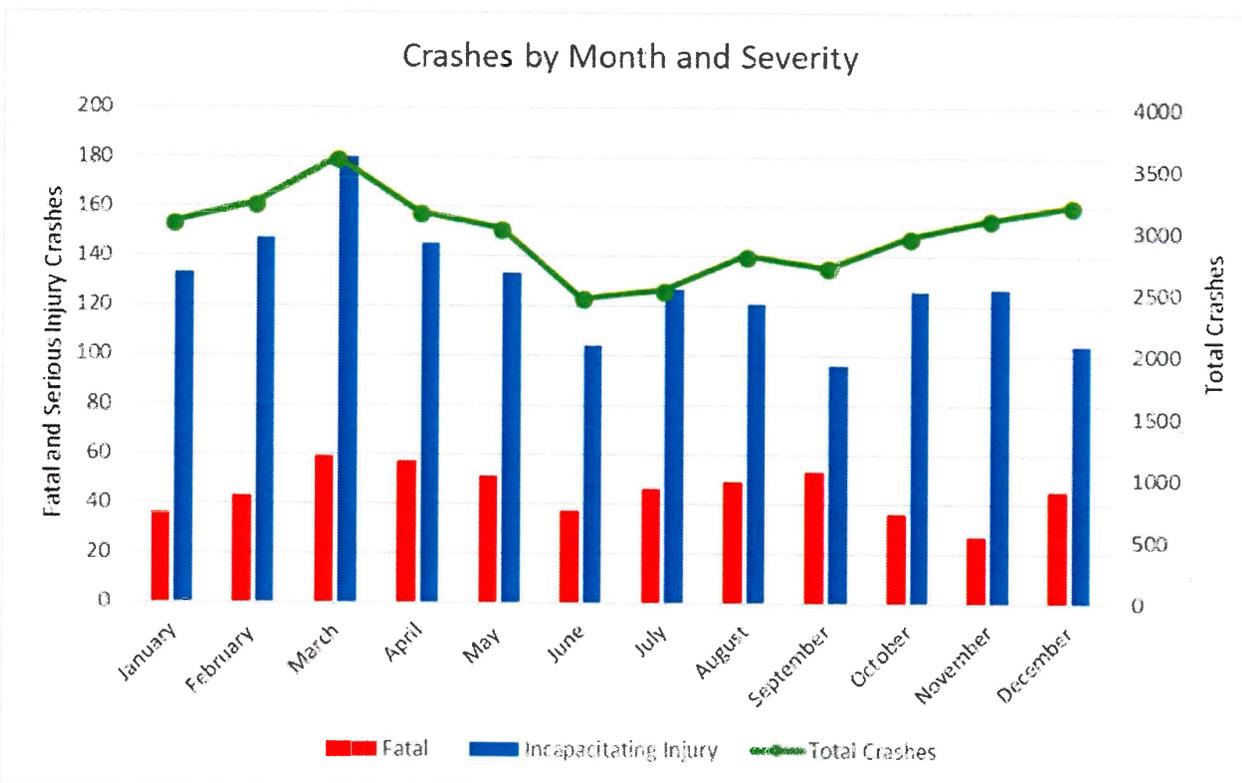


- Crash Data Analysis
 - Most frequent crash types:
 - 29% rear-end
 - 28% single vehicle
 - 12% angle

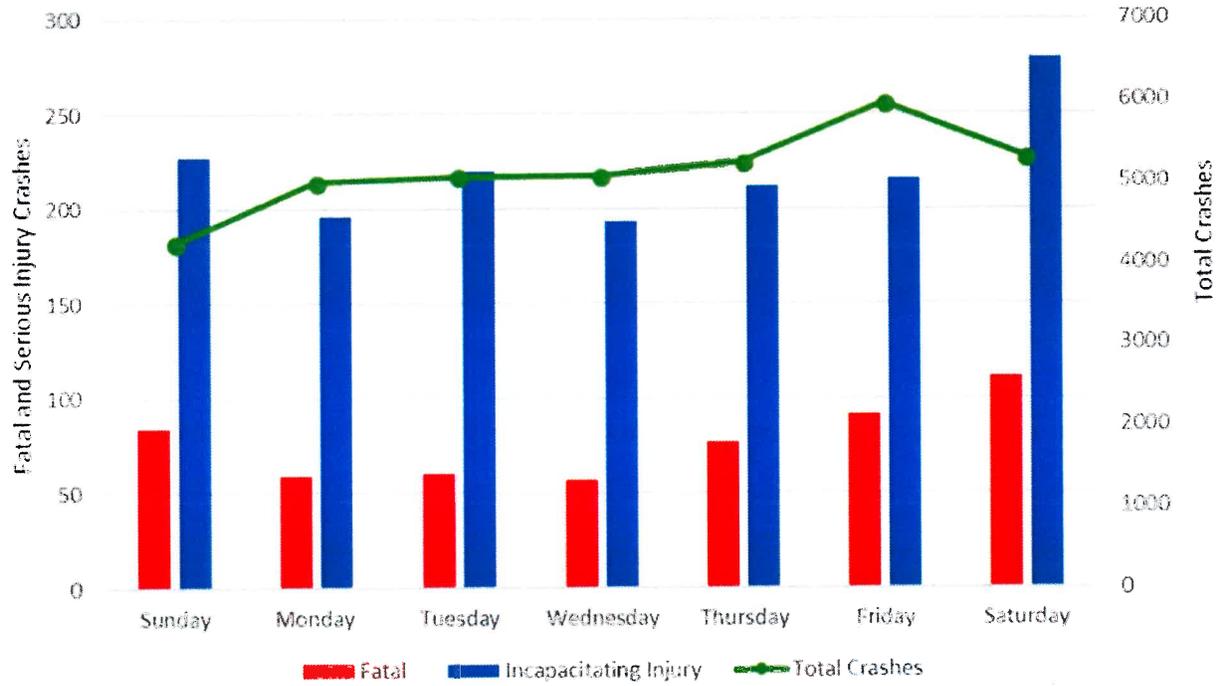
- 9% sideswipe same direction
- 8% left-turn
- Most frequent fatal crash types:
 - 44% single vehicle
 - 13% pedestrian
 - 13% head-on
 - 9% angle
 - 7% rear-end

- Crash type by severity

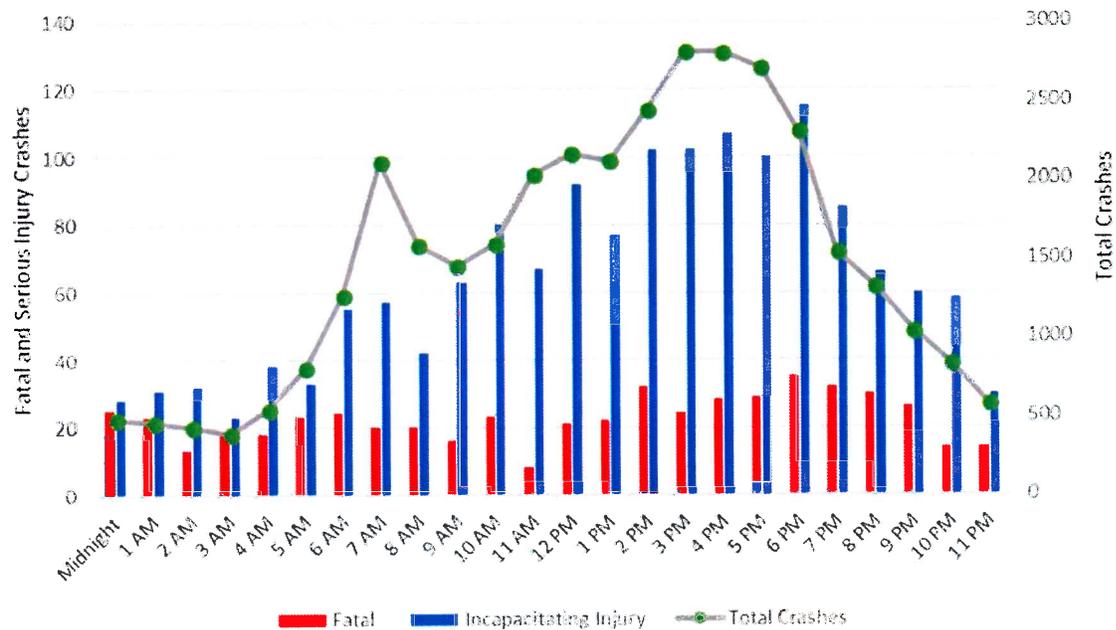
Collision Manner	Non-					Total
	Fatal	Incapacitating Injury	Incapacitating Injury	Possible Injury	No Injury	
Rear End	39	251	1061	1726	7281	10358
Single Vehicle	239	627	1566	1102	6585	10119
Angle	49	187	608	833	2768	4445
Sideswipe Same Direction	14	58	184	195	2848	3299
Left Turn	22	153	445	614	1797	3031
Other	21	59	150	167	1427	1824
Rear To Side	0	3	5	17	631	656
Sideswipe Opposite Direction	6	23	75	81	442	627
Head On	68	64	96	84	242	554
Bicycle	12	40	136	145	80	413
Pedestrian	69	76	125	72	52	394
Rear To Rear	0	2	16	15	116	149
Total	539	1543	4467	5051	24269	35869



Crashes by Day and Severity



Crashes by Hour and Severity



- Crash in Agency Boundaries

Collision Manner	Non					Total
	Fatal	Incapacitating Injury	Incapacitating Injury	Possible Injury	No Injury	
Ak-Chin Indian Community	6	3	13	6	41	69
Apache Junction	46	181	486	793	2869	4375
Arizona City	2	8	19	38	94	161
Casa Grande	64	198	914	1322	5927	8425
Coolidge	23	62	200	268	1203	1756
Eloy	23	51	170	156	863	1263
Florence	10	42	99	128	596	875
Gila River Indian Community	110	199	616	499	2783	4207
Kearny	1	1	5	4	19	30
Mammoth	0	4	0	3	11	18
Maricopa	24	50	236	293	1422	2025
Queen Creek	3	3	7	16	70	99
San Tan Valley	13	139	297	406	1887	2742
Superior	2	8	5	8	56	79
Tohono O'odham Nation	5	3	9	11	24	52
Unincorporated Pinal County	207	591	1391	1100	6404	9693
Total	539	1543	4467	5051	24269	35869

- Town of Florence crashes

Crash Type	Non-					Total
	Fatal	Incapacitating Injury	Incapacitating Injury	Possible Injury	No Injury	
Single Vehicle	1	21	33	37	71	263
Rear End	2	5	16	45	130	198
Angle	2	3	18	18	76	117
Left Turn		5	16	11	67	99
Sideswipe Same Direction			4	5	54	63
Other			3	2	1	46
Sideswipe Opposite Direction	1	2	3	5	19	30
Rear to Side		1		2	18	21
Head On	2	3	1		8	14
Pedestrian	1	2	2	1	1	7
Unknown			1	1	5	7
Rear to Rear				1	5	6
Bicyclist	1		2		1	4
Total	10	42	99	128	456	875

- Locate your concerns
 - Online Mapping
gci.mysocialpinpoint.com/pinal-county#/
- Next Steps
 - Determine emphasis areas
 - Develop safety strategies
 - Conduct network screening to identify priority locations
 - Identify and develop safety projects
 - Pinal County systemic rumble strip project includes Arizona Farms Road
- Contacts
 - Kathy Borquez
 - Pinal County
 - (520) 866-6406
 - kathy.borquez@pinalcountyz.gov

Jason Hafner
Sun Corridor Metropolitan Planning Organization
(520) 705-5153
jhafner@scmpo.org

Mike Blankenship, P.E.
Greenlight Traffic Engineering
(623) 308-6523
mikeb@greenlightte.com

Mayor Walter asked that they look at occupations with regards to the vehicular accidents, specifically correctional officers and how their work impacts accidents such as mandatory overtime, double time and mandatory time. She asked if any education and intervention has been done.

Mr. Blankenship stated that it would fall under the distracted driver category.

Mayor Walter inquired about safety strategies and asked for examples.

Mr. Blankenship stated that the list is extensive; however, some examples include:

- Rumble strips might be an engineering solution
- Only allowing left turns with an arrow at an intersection
- Recommendations to a Town Council to develop an ordinance for no texting and driving

Mr. Blankenship stated that distractive driving is rarely reported because it is difficult to verify unless the person self discloses. He stated that the information is collected, and they have that data.

Councilmember Hawkins stated that it is his understanding that distracted driving is the number one cause of accidents in the United States.

Mr. Blankenship stated that on the crash data reports it represents approximately 15% of the fatalities. Other problems are speed to fast for conditions. He stated that 95% of crashes are a result of human behavior.

Proclamation to participate in the Census 2020 Complete Count Committee and encourage every person to be counted.

Mr. Benjamin Bitter, Assistant to the Town Manager, stated that it is important to get every resident counted because the Town will receive approximately \$2,000 per person annually. The Town will be forming a Complete Count Committee whose goal will be to reach hard-to-reach individuals within the Town. He stated that there are some blocks in which the Town received less than 50% response rates; within certain blocks; the census likes to see 75% or higher. The goal with the Complete Count Committee will be to reach as many people in as many ways as effectively as possible so they can insure that the Town is being counted correctly and completely.

Councilmember Anderson inquired how someone can be a census taker.

Mr. Bitter stated that there will be a page on the Town's website that will be linked to census jobs as well as general information.

On motion of Councilmember Wall, seconded by Councilmember Anderson, and carried (7-0) to approve the proclamation to participate in the Census 2020 Complete Count Committee and encourage every person to be counted.

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. **Appoint Andrew Simmonds to the Planning and Zoning Commission with a term to expire December 31, 2021, to fill the vacancy left by Cari Bell; and to appoint Duane Proulx as an alternate to the Planning and Zoning Commission, with a term to expire December 31, 2019. (Lisa Garcia)**
- b. **Approval of the August 6 and August 20, 2018 Town Council Meeting minutes.**
- c. **Receive and file the following board and commission minutes:**
 - i. **July 31, 2018 Historic District Advisory Commission Meeting minutes**
 - ii. **August 2, 2018 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and Planning and Zoning Commission Special Joint Work Session Meeting minutes**
 - iii. **June 21, and July 19, 2018 Planning and Zoning Commission Meeting minutes**

On motion of Vice-Mayor Woolridge, seconded by Councilmember Hawkins, and carried (7-0) to approve the Consent Agenda, as written, with the exception of Item a.

- a. **Appoint Andrew Simmonds to the Planning and Zoning Commission with a term to expire December 31, 2021, to fill the vacancy left by Carl Bell; and to appoint Duane Proulx as an alternate to the Planning and Zoning Commission, with a term to expire December 31, 2019.**

Mayor Walter thanked everyone who has served on a board or commission and welcomed the new appointees.

On motion of Vice-Mayor Woolridge, seconded by Councilmember Larsen, and carried (7-0) to appoint Andrew Simmonds to the Planning and Zoning Commission with a term to expire December 31, 2021, to fill the vacancy left by Carl Bell; and to appoint Duane Proulx as an alternate to the Planning and Zoning Commission, with a term to expire December 31, 2019.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Discussion and possible reaffirmation of Ordinance No. 270-99 and scheduling a joint work session with the Caliente Board of Directors on date and location.

Mayor Walter stated that the Council would like to set up a work session on September 24, 2018 at 6:00 pm, in Caliente with their Board and the residents.

On motion of Councilmember Guilin, seconded by Mayor Walter, and carried (7-0) to reaffirm Ordinance No. 270-99 and to have a Work Session on September 24, 2018 at Caliente.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion/Approval/Disapproval of executing a purchase agreement with Greenstone Water Credits, LLC, for Pinal Active Management Area extinguishment credits.

Mr. Brent Billingsley, Town Manager, stated that The Town of Florence has an Assured Water Supply Designation (AWS), more commonly known as a Decision and Order (D&O), by Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR). For the Town to obtain and maintain this designation, it must demonstrate, among other requirements, that its water supplies will be physically, legally, and continually available for 100 years. For approximately one-year staff has been working toward modifying our designation to acknowledge an increase of water supply that could result from the acquisition of water supplies within the Pinal Active Management Area (AMA) and from groundwater recharge.

Mr. Billingsley stated that the Town currently utilizes a relationship with the Central Arizona Ground Water Replenishment District (CAGRDR) to assure a 100-year water supply. CAGRDR provides the opportunity for water providers to obtain paper water access to renewable resources without having to construct the infrastructure necessary to physically convey those resources to new developments. In effect, the water provider need only install a local groundwater system to supply the wet-water needs of the development. The CAGRDR is not mandated to hydrologically balance local ground-water withdrawals with aquifer replenishment. Instead, the CAGRDR relies on paper-water accounting that allows ground-water pumping in one area of an AMA to be offset by the recharge of Colorado River water in another area of the same AMA. Growth which solely depends on the CAGRDR to obtain an AWS designation would result in a paper-water balance of ground water withdrawals with ground water replenishment. Utilizing the CAGRDR in this fashion is not consistent with the Town's interests because reliance on paper-water accounting would circumvent the hydrologic-based principle of aquifer stewardship.

Mr. Billingsley stated that under the Assured Water Supply (AWS) Program, designated water providers are granted a volume of allowable ground water withdrawals without incurring a replenishment obligation (ground water allowance). This volume was considered a phase-in allowance to assist water providers in shifting from reliance on mined ground water to renewable supplies. Allowable ground water can also be credited over time. An annual incidental recharge credit is accrued based on 4% of the total potable and reclaimed water produced in the previous calendar year. Long-term storage credits are accrued when renewable water supplies are recharged to the aquifer for recovery in a subsequent year.

Mr. Billingsley stated that the owner of an irrigation grandfathered groundwater right has the option of permanently retiring his farmland, in full or in part at a time of his own choosing. Depending on a date specified in the Assured Water Supply Rules, he can create a groundwater credit that can be used by the developer to allow an orderly transition over time to non-groundwater supplies. Groundwater credits, also known as extinguishment credits, may be sold to another party and transferred to be used anywhere within the same Active Management Area, provided those credits have not already been pledged toward an Assured Water Supply certificate or designation and that the applicant has demonstrated that the water will be physically available for 100 years at the location of withdrawal.

Mr. Billingsley stated that if approved, this Purchase Agreement would facilitate purchase of Extinguishment Credits utilizing net proceeds of Town income from the Tonopah Irrigation and Drainage District/CAGRDR Long Term Storage Credit Agreements. The negotiated price of these Extinguishment Credits a fraction of the current 2018/2019 CAGRDR Total Assessment Rate of \$694 per acre foot and less than half of the 2018 Central Arizona Project (CAP) "Excess Water" value of \$205 per acre foot. Purchased credits can be used to offset potential CAGRDR charges.

Mr. Billingsley stated that there are very few options out there to purchase "paper water" in the Pinal Active Management Area. That said, staff reached out to other entities including Central Arizona Project and Salt River Project regarding purchase opportunities. Greenstone provided the best combination of volume, price, and flexibility.

On motion of Councilmember Hawkins, seconded by Councilmember Larsen, and carried (7-0) to approve a purchase agreement with Greenstone Water Credits, LLC, for Pinal Active Management Area extinguishment credits.

Resolution No. 1679-18:

Mayor Walter read Resolution No. 1679-18 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 28, 2018.

Ms. Lisa Garcia, Deputy Town Manager/Town Clerk, stated that once the Council adopts the resolution which canvasses the election, the Clerk's Office will issue Certificates of Election to three candidates that ran for office. As of August 1, 2018, Florence had 5,820 active registered voters. The number of ballots cast in the Primary Election was 2,312. The number of votes cast through mail ballot equaled 78% of the total ballots cast.

Votes cast for the candidates for council were as follows:

John Anderson	1,046
Michelle Cordes	1,199
Judy Hughes	1,134
Gary J. Pranzo	888
Vallarie Woolridge	851

The following Town Council candidate received the required amount of votes to be elected and are being issued a Certificate of Election:

Michelle Cordes
Judy Hughes
John Anderson

Ms. Garcia stated that they also had Proposition 422 on the ballot. She stated that Proposition 422 on the Permanent Base Adjustment passed with 1,179 (60.34%) voting yes, and 775 (39.66%) voting no.

Ms. Garcia stated that the ballot issued report was provided to Council which showed statistical information regarding Florence.

On motion of Councilmember Hawkins, seconded by Councilmember Wall, and carried (7-0) to adopt Resolution No. 1679-18.

Resolution No. 1680-18:

Mayor Walter read Resolution No. 1680-18 by title only.

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF FLORENCE, PINAL COUNTY ARIZONA, APPROVING THE FINAL PLAT FOR ANTHEM AT MERRILL RANCH UNIT 35A; AND AUTHORIZING EXECUTION BY THE TOWN MANAGER OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS.

Mr. Larry Harmer, Community Development Director, stated that the final plat is significant because DRH Horton is the new builder who will be developing this parcel along with several others. They will have an aggressive schedule and plan on vertical construction by Spring or Summer of 2019. This also triggers the extension of Merrill Ranch Parkway west of Hunt Highway.

Mr. Harmer stated that the property is located across the street from Fire Station 2 and will be 120 single-family residential lots on 29.65+/- acres which includes a one acre well site. He explained the general layout of the unit and where it is located in proximity to other units. He stated that preliminary site work has been done.

Mr. Harmer stated that the resultant density of this plat is 4.19 dwelling units per acre. This plat expands the current and planned network of green belts and walking trails. Should the Town Council approve this final plat, the resultant overall density for AMR based on final plat approvals will be 3.125 dwelling units per acre. The PUD zoning permitted an overall single-family residential density of 3.5 dwelling units per acre for the overall AMR development.

Councilmember Wall inquired if there will be any type of traffic control for the residents to get across the highway.

Mr. Harmer stated that there is a signalized intersection for their use.

Mayor Walter stated that they will also have an underpass for their use.

Mr. Billingsley stated that they will be able to use both pedestrian underpasses for the four parcels purchased. They will have access to the pedestrian crossing located on the far north end of their development as well as the pedestrian crossing on the south end. They will also have signalized accesses.

Councilmember Larsen inquired if the pedestrian trails will be continued.

Mr. Billingsley stated that they will continue with the trails and will increase the amenities.

Councilmember Guilin inquired if this will be located within Merrill Ranch Community Facilities District No. 2.

Mr. Billingsley responded that it will be located with Merrill Ranch Community Facilities District No. 2.

Councilmember Anderson inquired if the turn lane for the fire station will be completed.

Mr. Billingsley stated that the plans are completed, and the turn lane is the responsibility of the Town. The Town is working on funding to build the turn lane.

On motion of Councilmember Wall, seconded by Councilmember Larsen, and carried (7-0) to adopt Resolution No. 1680-18.

Resolution No. 1681-18:

Mayor Walter read Resolution No. 1681-18 by title only.

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF FLORENCE, PINAL COUNTY, ARIZONA, ADOPTING THE REVISED TOWN OF FLORENCE FY2018-2019 EMPLOYEE CLASSIFICATION PLAN. (Scott Barber)

Mr. Scott Barber, Human Resources Director, explained that in 2016 and 2017, our Public Works Director and our Community Development Director left Town employment. After analyzing the best approach to deal with those vacancies, the departments of Public Works and Community Development were merged to form the Development Services Department. It has become clear that the workload for the Development Services Director position is too great, especially taking into consideration issues that continue to need attention in our utility divisions. As a result, Brent Billingsley, Town Manager, has decided to split the department back into two separate departments. That move requires amendments to the current Employee Classification Plan. In addition, an upcoming vacancy in the wastewater division is being addressed by a consolidation

of the water and wastewater divisions back into a single Utilities Division, with one superintendent. This is a return to a prior structure and is reflected in the revised classification plan. And finally, the structure of the Finance Department has been under review for some time. And sometimes opportunities present themselves that don't particularly mesh with desired timelines. Such is the case with a resignation we've received from the incumbent in our Accountant position. After due deliberation, it is staff's desire to reclassify the existing Accountant position to Budget Analyst and thereby expand the role of this position which is envisioned in what is hoped to be the departmental structure submitted for consideration in the FY19/20 budget process.

Mr. Barber stated that the requested changes are:

FY2018-2019 EMPLOYEE CLASSIFICATION PLAN ADDITIONS:

Public Works Director/Town Engineer	Range 68
Community Development Director	Range 66
Utility Superintendent	Range 48
Budget Analyst	Range 47

FY2018-2019 EMPLOYEE CLASSIFICATION PLAN DELETIONS:

Town Engineer	Water Superintendent
Development Services Director	Wastewater Superintendent
Utilities Director	Planning Manager

Councilmember Anderson inquired about the \$27,000 impact to the General Fund.

Mr. Barber explained that 50% of an Administrative Assistant's salaries will be absorbed by the General Fund.

Mayor Walter stated that this shows that Florence appreciates and values their employees in their positions and not over-burden the staff.

On motion of Councilmember Anderson, seconded by Councilmember Larsen, and carried (7-0) to adopt Resolution No. 1681-18.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Billingsley stated that the Town has received comments regarding social media. He stated that in the course of day-to-day operations, it becomes necessary for the Town to share news, information or official position of the Town or Town Council with our partners in the media. The Public Information Officer, Benjamin Bitter, is tasked with many of these duties, and as such, maintains a media contact list which the Town uses from time to time to share its positions and to share information. Such was the case recently, when Mr. Bitter was directed to produce and dispense an official news release from the Town of Florence. That news release was specifically to clarify the Town's position as it relates to the Florence Copper Project. Mr. Bitter worked alongside the Town's attorneys to put together the release. The release was properly authorized and released to the Town's media contact. Despite unsubstantiated claims, the facts of the release were not the opinion of Mr. Bitter; they were a formal stated position of the Town. This is the practice of the Town and will continue to be the practice of the Town into the future as Florence

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has a need to clarify and provide our positions as well as clarify any misstatements or to provide additional information.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

There were no public comments.

CALL TO THE COUNCIL – CURRENT EVENTS ONLY

Councilmember Larsen stated that the actions taken are best served for the staff and for the community. She stated that she is looking forward to the staffing changes and that the Town is moving in the right direction.

Councilmember Anderson stated that he attended the CAP 50th Anniversary Celebration. Their facility in North Phoenix was impressive. Their control center is also impressive and is controlled by three operators. The operators control over 20,000 devices. He stated there are gates approximately one mile apart from one another along the canal, which is approximately 300 miles long. Those gates have multiple controllers. He explained how labor intensive the process it to move water. He appreciates being able to represent Florence.

Councilmember Guilin encouraged the citizens to support the local events, including those at the Windmill Winery.

Councilmember Hawkins welcomed the new Commissioners. He stated that the Town is close to filling all of the vacancies on the boards and commissions. It has been difficult to fill the positions for the last two years. It is great to see people participating and helping the Town to move forward.

Mayor Walter stated that Proposition 127 will be on the General Election Ballot and is a ballot measure that aims to amend the Arizona State Constitution with a mandate that public utilities must derive at least 50% of their power from renewable resources, not including nuclear, by 2030.

Mayor Walter stated that it was started in Arizona by Tom Streyer. She stated that schools are going to be hit really hard as the O & M, which would decrease the hire rates and lower property tax collection from having to close some plants. This will cause higher electricity rates for customers. This will make Arizona less competitive economically. This will also threaten the closure of Palo Verde generating station, which the largest carbon free energy producer in the USA, and the State's largest tax payer. This information is derived from APF, and they have some fact sheets that are available.

Councilmember Hawkins stated that the Town is not taking a position on the proposition. He stated that the information sheet that was received is against the proposition and individuals need to do their own research.

Mayor Walter stated that she is only sharing facts on the proposition. She stated that she is trying to raise awareness.

Mayor Walter stated that she will be attending the conference at the White House and is looking forward to sharing the information when she returns.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Councilmember Hawkins, seconded by Councilmember Anderson, and carried (7-0) to adjourn the meeting at 7:04 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 September 17, 2018, and that the meeting was duly called to order and that a quorum was present.



Lisa Garcia, Town Clerk