

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF FLORENCE COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 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 6:02 pm.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

Ms. Cathy Adam, Pinal County Historical Museum Representative, stated that they are open for the season, from Wednesday through Sunday, 11:00 am – 4:00 pm. They are showcasing an exhibit on the Junior Parada. They have received several grants and are excited to showcase the changes they have made.

Ms. Adam thanked everyone who has assisted with the restoration of the fire trucks, especially Fire Chief Dave Strayer. The museum also has an extensive bullet collection along with the guns. She thanked Police Chief Dan Hughes and Mr. Larry Harmer for their assistance with this collection.

Ms. Adam expressed her appreciation to Councilmember Wall and Ms. Garcia for their discussion with regards to a potential intern. She stated that they need to review the logs to determine where their visitors are from to collect data points. She also thanked Mr. Bryan Hughes, Community Services Director.

**PRESENTATIONS**

**Recognition of Florence Police Officer Jeff Palmer and Pinal County Sheriff Deputy Sergeant Roderick “RJ” Harrison.**

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Florence Police Lieutenant Terry Tryon recognized Police Officer Jeff Palmer for his 13 years of service. He has served as the Community Relations Liaison Officer and his duties include security surveys for citizens and businesses and reviews plans for new development in Florence for safety and security as part of the Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design Program.

Lt. Tryon stated that Officer Palmer also works for the safety of the youngest citizens by remaining trained and certified through the Governor's Office of Highway Safety to inspect and install car seats. He also participates in local events and visits Florence High School to educate drivers on the use of car seats, seat belts, and other safe-driving practices. He visits the K-8 schools to educate students through the GREAT (Gang Resistance Education and Training) Program. He truly stands out for his dedication to the safety of our community members and to uphold his oath to serve as well as protect our citizens.

Congressman Gosar stated that his department works closely with law enforcement. He stated that around the country, we have not shown the respect to the men and women in law enforcement. They go to work every day and put their best foot forward watching out for us, so we just want to take the time to acknowledge the people right under our nose for a job well done.

Pinal County Sheriff's Chief Deputy Matt Thomas stated that Pinal County Sheriff Deputy Sergeant Roderick "RJ" Harrison exemplifies hard work, passion and pride. He is in charge of the Pinal County Sheriff's Office Community Relations Unit.

Chief Deputy Thomas stated that Sergeant Harrison started his career with Arizona Department of Corrections (ADOC) as a COTA graduate in 1995. He worked for ADOC as part of the Community Supervision Bureau. In 2000, he attended the Mesa Community College Police Academy to become certified as a Special Investigator for ADOC. He also became a Reserve Deputy Marshall for the Fountain Hills Marshall's Office. In 2003, he became a reserve deputy for Pinal County and within the year became a full-time deputy.

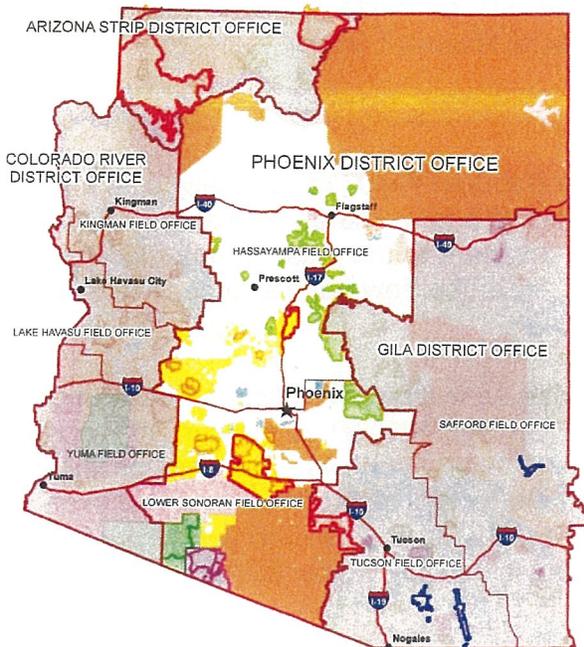
Chief Deputy Thomas stated that Sergeant Harrison has worked in the Pinal County Sheriff's Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Unit, Traffic Enforcement Unit and Criminal Investigations Bureau, and is now head of the department's new Community Relations Bureau. This new department directly ties the Pinal County Sheriff's Office to the community members with the events that he participates in and runs logistics for. He also manages the Sheriff's schedule, which is a huge job in itself.

Congressman Gosar acknowledged Officer Palmer's and Deputy Harrison's dedication to the community and expressed his appreciation to both and thanked them both for their service.

#### **Presentation by Bureau of Land Management on upcoming projects.**

Ms. Ed Kender, Lower Sonoran Field Manager for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Phoenix District, introduced Brandon Colvin, LSFO Assistant Field Manager and Sonoran Desert National Monument Manager. He provided the following presentation:

- BLM Phoenix District Profile



Mr. Kender stated that the Phoenix District manages nearly 2.4 million acres of public lands within seven Arizona counties and administers mineral estate in an additional two counties on the Navajo Indian Reservation. Visitor use has especially increased within the 14 units of the National Conservation Lands that include two national monuments, one national historic trail, 11 wilderness areas, as well as a national recreation trail used for solitary hikes, bike rides, horseback trips, to competitive motorized events and people who seek diverse recreational opportunities on public lands. While there is a soaring demand for recreational opportunities, the District also manages a high volume of major realty actions to accommodate renewable energy and electric transmission projects, natural gas, telecommunications, and mineral processing. Traditional resource management programs in livestock grazing and wild burro herd management continue.

Mr. Kender stated in order to better serve the public the Phoenix District is organized into two field offices – the Hassayampa Field Office, which includes the Agua Fria National Monument, serves population northwest of Phoenix. The Lower Sonoran Field Office, which includes the Sonoran Desert National Monument, manages lands southwest of the city. Additionally, the District manages two wildland fire stations and a regional federal law enforcement communications center for BLM, the National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, US Forest Service, and Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Mr. Kender stated that BLM Lower Sonoran Field Office manages 1.4 million acres of public land in south-central Arizona, including the Sonoran Desert National Monument. The lands are managed for multiple use and provide diverse recreational opportunities, mining, wildlife habitat, grazing, and wilderness, all overlaying a rich cultural past.

Mr. Kender stated that they oversee six wilderness areas, four Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, the congressionally designated Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail and Painted Rock which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

### **Poston Butte R&PP Application**

Mr. Kender stated that in November 2017, the Lower Sonoran Field Office received an application under the R&PP Act from the Town of Florence to lease approximately 200 acres of public land for recreational facilities. The selected parcels are adjacent to the existing patented land of the Poston Butte Preserve which is under the management of the Town of Florence. The two parcels flank the original R&PP.

Mr. Kender stated that the Poston Butte Environmental Assessment Application was submitted in 2017, and they expect to have lease approval in the Spring 2020. They are currently working on the project design, baseline studies and biological and cultural surveys. They are currently doing the Notice of Realty action that must be published in the federal registry notice and is expected to be approved in the near future. Once published, it will start the environmental process. The Environmental Assessment will be ready for public review in the Winter 2019. The final step will be the lease approval.

Mayor Walter inquired if he had received any questions. She stated that this ties into the Town's Strategic Plan.

Mr. Kender stated that he has not received any questions, and this is in part due to the great outreach that the Town has done.

Mr. Bryan Hughes, Community Services Director, stated that they did a kickoff of the Environmental Assessment last Thursday. They discussed the project and did a site visit. It has been an educational experience. He stated that it has been a learning experience for all and thanked BLM.

### **Presentation and acceptance of donations from Avangrid Renewables, and McClellan-Parsons American Legion Post 9, for the Veterans Memorial Project.**

Mr. Hughes, Community Services Director, stated that the American Legion Post 9 donated \$15,000 that they raised in donations this year. Avangrid Renewables has donated \$1,500 as well. They will have a dedication on November 11, 2019. They are excited for this project.

Mr. Jose Maldonado, American Legion Post 9 Commander, stated that he is very excited for Florence to have a Veterans' Park. He thanked the local businesses who donated, it is much appreciated. He stated that Ms. Kathy Sichling, Vice-Commander, has been instrumental in the fundraising effort.

On motion of Councilmember Wall, seconded by Councilmember Cordes and carried (5-0) to accept donations from Avangrid Renewables (\$1,500), and McClellan-Parsons American Legion Post 9 (\$15,000), for the Veterans Memorial Project.

Mayor Walter thanked everyone for the donations.

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Vice-Mayor Anderson stated that this project started from a conversation that he had with veterans in the Sun City community. A group was formed and they worked with the American Legion. They have spearheaded the project and the project is near completion. He thanked everyone for their support.

**Presentation to promote the Fire Prevention Week Open House scheduled at Fire Station 542, on October 5, 2019.**

Mr. Dave Strayer, Fire Chief, stated that this is their second annual event. Ms. Rumdoul In was instrumental in having a successful event last year and will be spearheading this year's event as well.

Ms. Rumdoul In, Firefighter/Paramedic, invited everyone to their Second Annual Open House at Fire Station 542 on October 5, 2019. They will have a variety of activities including a tour of the facility. The ladder truck will also be on display. Partnering agencies will also be in attendance to provide information about the services they offer. They will provide information on the Town's fire safety and prevention programs and will be doing an extrication demo to show what happens during a live extrication.

Vice-Mayor Anderson asked Chief Strayer why the fire station is called Station 542 rather than Station 2.

Chief Strayer stated that there is a statewide numbering system for the statewide mutual aid which numbers the stations, so that Station is No. 542, but it is also known as Fire Station 2 locally.

Mayor Walter liked that they alter the stations each year. This event is very informational and an overall fun event.

**Presentation on the Florence Police Department Five Year Strategic Plan.**

This item has been postponed to the October 7, 2019 Regular Meeting.

**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.**

**Authorization to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement between Pinal County, and the Town of Florence, to remediate the State Route 79 drainage issue at the Pinal County Superior Courthouse. The amount to be paid to Pinal County shall not exceed \$1,225.**

**Authorization to contract with Florence True Value Hardware, to provide maintenance, repair, operating supplies, industrial supplies, and related products and services, in an amount not to exceed \$28,000.**

**Approval of Resolution No. 1717-19:**

Mayor Walter read Resolution No. 1717-19 by title only.

**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF FLORENCE, PINAL COUNTY, ARIZONA, DESIGNATING REY SANCHEZ, FINANCE DIRECTOR OF THE TOWN OF FLORENCE, ARIZONA, AS CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, DESIGNATED TO OFFICIALLY SUBMIT THE EXPENDITURE LIMITATION REPORT FOR THE TOWN OF FLORENCE, ARIZONA.**

**For the Town of Florence, motion to approve and ratify a legal services Engagement and Retention Agreement with Sims Mackin, LTD. and Cathy Bowman for legal representation of the Town of Florence, Merrill Ranch Community Facilities District No. 1 and Merrill Ranch Community Facilities District No. 2 for the purpose of defending claims and litigation, including alternative dispute resolution, discovery, trial, post-trial motions, appeals and authorization to enter into related common interest agreements.**

**Approval of the August 5 and August 19, 2019 Town Council Meeting minutes.**

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

**May 9, 2019 Arts and Culture Commission Meeting minutes.**

**June 26 and July 31, 2019 Historic District Advisory Commission Meeting minutes.**

**July 25, 2019 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board minutes.**

**July 18, 2019 Planning and Zoning Meeting minutes.**

On motion of Councilmember Cordes, seconded by Councilmember Wall, and carried (5-0) to approve the Consent Agenda, as written except for item d.

**For the Town of Florence, motion to approve and ratify a legal services Engagement and Retention Agreement with Sims Mackin, LTD. and Cathy Bowman for legal representation of the Town of Florence, Merrill Ranch Community Facilities District No. 1 and Merrill Ranch Community Facilities District No. 2 for the purpose of defending claims and litigation, including alternative dispute resolution, discovery, trial, post-trial motions, appeals and authorization to enter into related common interest agreements.**

Vice-Mayor Anderson inquired why the Town is paying for this fee rather than the Merrill Ranch Facilities Maintenance Districts.

Mr. Clifford L. Mattice, Town Attorney, stated that the Town and each of the Districts are contributing to the overall fee. There have been a series of letters written by the Merrill entities to the Districts and the Town that necessitate a more in depth specialized legal analysis and potential litigation defense. It is for the expense or the cost of defending the Town and each of the Districts. It is likely that there could be reimbursement or payment from the Town's and Districts' insurance carrier but those decisions are not finalized. He stated that this a precautionary matter that is on the agenda for each entity to retain counsel including working through some of the coverage issues.

On motion of Vice-Mayor Anderson, seconded by Councilmember Wall and carried (5-0) to approve and ratify a legal services Engagement and Retention Agreement with Sims Mackin, LTD. and Cathy Bowman for legal representation of the Town of Florence, Merrill Ranch Community Facilities District No. 1 and Merrill Ranch Community Facilities District No. 2 for the

purpose of defending claims and litigation, including alternative dispute resolution, discovery, trial, post-trial motions, appeals and authorization to enter into related common interest agreements.

## NEW BUSINESS

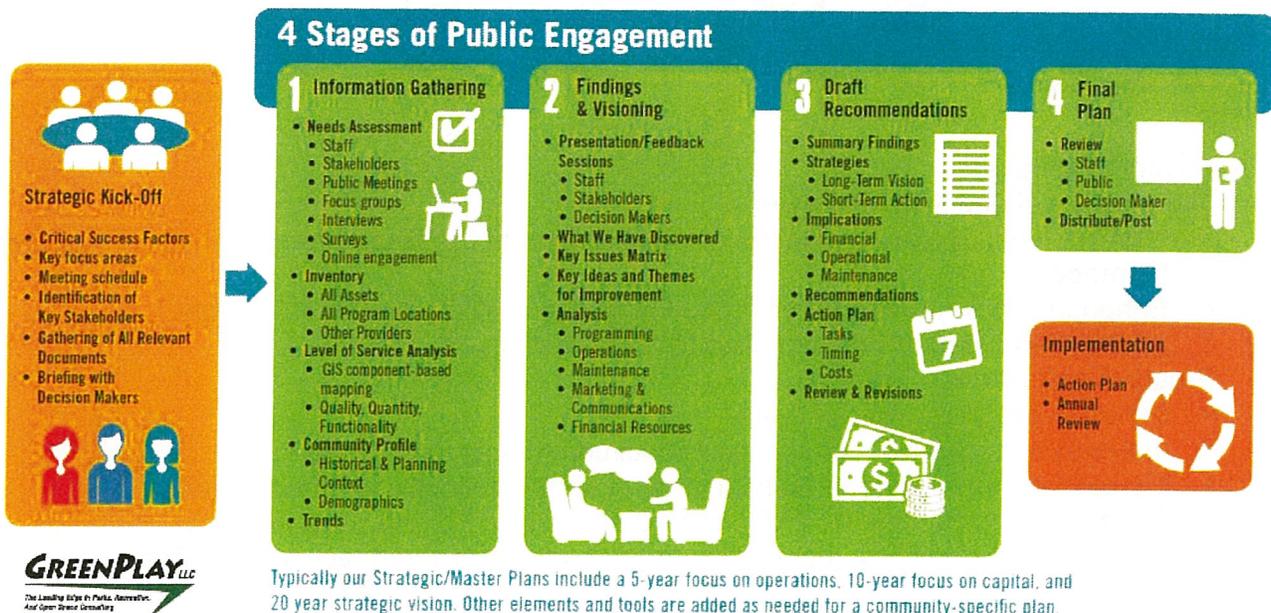
### Discussion on the Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan.

Mr. Bryan Hughes, Community Services Director, stated that the kickoff began in January 2019. They met with stakeholders and had public meetings. They followed up with a survey that was sent to a direct group along with an open survey, in which approximately 400 surveys were returned. They also did a public presentation in June 2019.

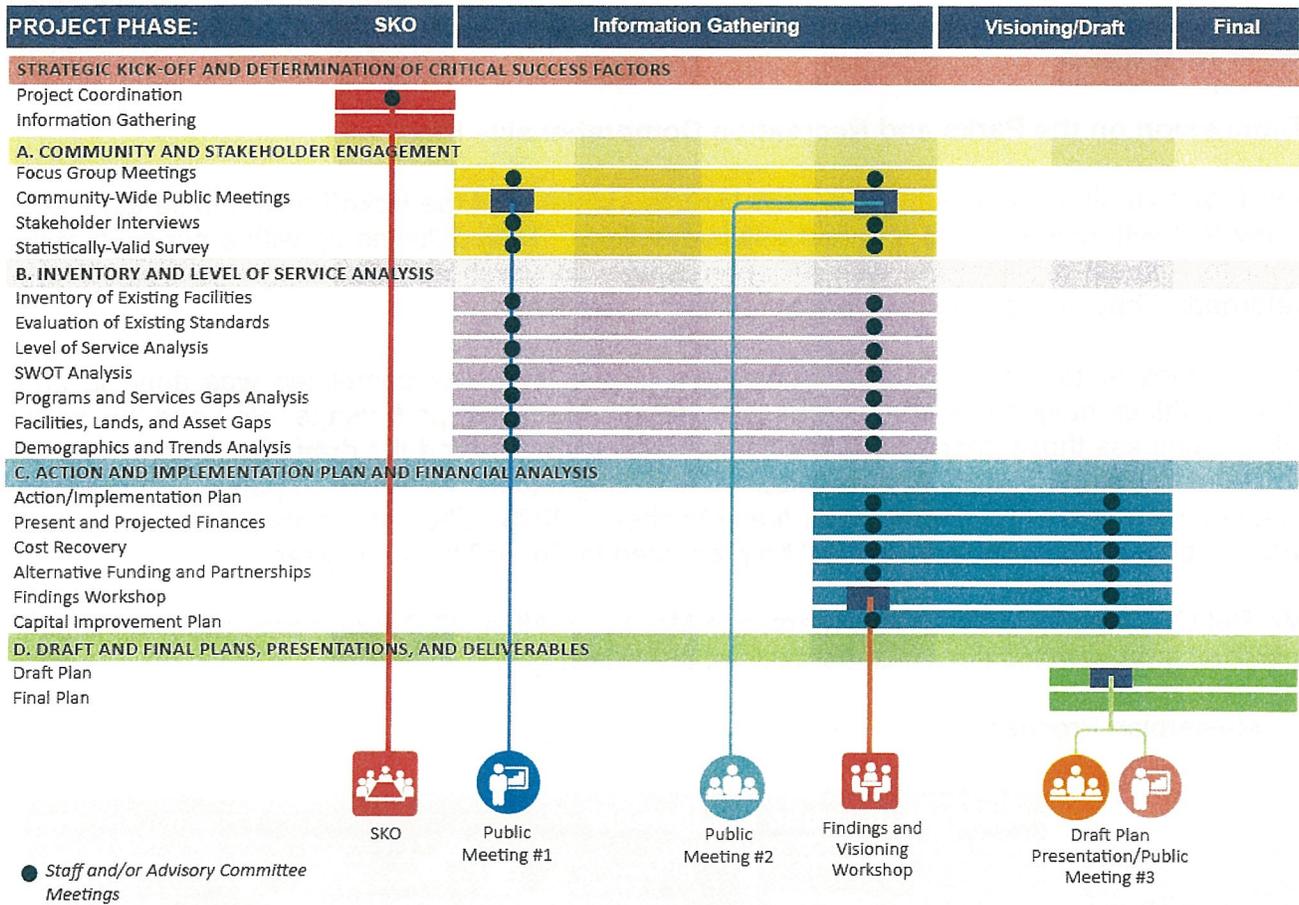
Mr. Hughes stated that the last comprehensive plan that was completed was done in 2008. Several things have changed (such as population projections, park usage, etc.) and this update will encompass those changes. They have previously presented the draft plan to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and are presenting it tonight to the Council and public. He requested that comments be submitted no later than October 7, 2019. The comments will be incorporated into the plan and the final version will be presented to Council later this year.

Mr. Pat O'Toole, GreenPlay Consultant, and Mr. Aaron Allen, J2 Design Landscape Architect provided a presentation in which he outlined the following:

- Masterplan Process



- Schedule



- Goals and Objectives

- Organizational and Administrative
  - Improve level of communication and awareness of the Department with all residents of Florence
  - Enhance and improve marketing and branding with residents and visitors
  - Address and identify opportunities for sustainability
- Program and Service Delivery
  - Enhance programming for teens
  - Increase opportunities for special events/community gatherings
  - Increase opportunities for special interest and non-traditional programming
  - Enhance opportunities for Outdoor Recreation and Fitness programming
  - Address opportunity for therapeutic recreation and program accommodations
  - Reevaluate program delivery/hours/locations
  - Improve program evaluation process
- Facilities/Amenities/Level of Service
  - Improve trail and path connectivity
  - Address opportunities for recreation center improvements
  - Build upon demand and success for pickleball
  - Plan and strategize for additional community parks

- Address accessibility in facilities and parks
- Plan for existing and future park amenity improvements
- Improve partnerships and relationships to increase level of service
- Financial
  - Consider the following:
    - Financing opportunities for capital funding
    - Future growth
    - Improvement projects
  - Reevaluate current budget policies and consider establishing new policies that address future growth and development
- Site-Specific Goals and Objectives
  - Main Street Park
    - Consider plans and improvements to address:
      - Ramadas
      - Site furnishings
      - Restrooms
      - Circulation
      - Accessibility
      - Shade structures
  - Little League Park
    - Consider plans and improvements to address:
      - Field and dugout fence need to be replaced
      - Dog park amenities
      - Ball park amenities
      - Shade structures
  - Heritage Park
    - Consider plans and improvements to address:
      - Restrooms/concessions
      - Park amenities
      - Irrigation system
      - Parking lot
      - Accessibility
      - Shade structures

- Action Plan
  - Organizational and Administrative

<b>Objective 1.1: Improve level of communication and awareness of the Department with all residents of Florence</b>			
<b>Actions</b>	<b>Capital Cost Estimate</b>	<b>Operational Budget Impact</b>	<b>Timeframe to Complete</b>
1.1.a Enhance awareness of programs and facilities to the Town of Florence, Anthem, Sun City, and Florence Gardens.	N/A	Staff Time	Short-Term
1.1.b Continue to serve core of Florence while reaching out to non-core areas.	N/A	Staff Time	Short-Term
1.1.c Consider innovative solutions to bridge awareness gaps.	N/A	Staff Time	Mid-Term
<b>Objective 1.2: Enhance and improve marketing and branding with residents and visitors</b>			
<b>Actions</b>	<b>Capital Cost Estimate</b>	<b>Operational Budget Impact</b>	<b>Timeframe to Complete</b>
1.2.a Develop strategic marketing and branding plan to establish identity of Community Services, staying consistent with the standards of the Town of Florence.	N/A	Staff Time or \$25,000 if contracted	Short-Term
1.2.b Update signage standards.	\$20,000	Staff Time	Mid-Term
1.2.c Budget additional funds for event promotions.	N/A	\$2,500 per event	Short-Term

- Organizational and Administrative

<b>Objective 1.3: Address and identify opportunities for sustainability</b>			
<b>Actions</b>	<b>Capital Cost Estimate</b>	<b>Operational Budget Impact</b>	<b>Timeframe to Complete</b>
1.3.a Research and develop conservation measures that are ecologically beneficial.	N/A	Staff Time	Mid-Term
1.3.b Develop best practices for sustainability throughout community services department, including water conservation and open space preservation.	N/A	Staff Time	Mid-Term

- Program and Service Delivery

<b>Objective 2.1: Enhance programming for teens</b>			
<b>Actions</b>	<b>Capital Cost Estimate</b>	<b>Operational Budget Impact</b>	<b>Timeframe to Complete</b>
2.1.a Build upon teen advisory council, engaging them to understand and adopt generations' desires.	N/A	Staff Time	Short-Term
2.1.b Consider teen classes such as fitness/health programs, beginner gymnastics, community volunteerism, video game tournaments, kids theater, and technology classes.	N/A	Staff Time	Short-Term
<b>Objective 2.2: Increase opportunities for special events/community gatherings</b>			
<b>Actions</b>	<b>Capital Cost Estimate</b>	<b>Operational Budget Impact</b>	<b>Timeframe to Complete</b>
2.2.a Continue to provide high-quality special events for the entire community.	N/A	Staff Time Volunteers	Short-Term
2.2.b Provide opportunities for produce and artisanal offerings through a variation of a local market (Farmers Market).	N/A	Staff Time Volunteers	Mid-Term
<b>Objective 2.3: Increase opportunities for special interest and non-traditional programming</b>			
<b>Actions</b>	<b>Capital Cost Estimate</b>	<b>Operational Budget Impact</b>	<b>Timeframe to Complete</b>
2.3.a Continue to offer more special interest programs that offer non-traditional programs such as cooking, theater, STEM programs, and tech/vocational training.	N/A	Staff Time \$25 per hour instructors	Mid-Term
<b>Objective 2.4: Enhance opportunities for Outdoor Recreation and Fitness programming</b>			
<b>Actions</b>	<b>Capital Cost Estimate</b>	<b>Operational Budget Impact</b>	<b>Timeframe to Complete</b>
2.4.a Develop outdoor recreation programs, or partner with other organizations, to offer experiences in nature. Examples include Hiking, Biking, Disc Golf, Geocaching, Archeology, ASU (partner).	N/A	Staff Time Volunteers	Mid-Term
2.4.b Capitalize on natural resources such as Poston Butte, River Corridors, and the trails mentioned in the Active Transportation Plan.	N/A	Staff Time Volunteers	Short-Term
2.4.c Continue expanding on fitness offerings and offer classes such as yoga, Zumba, barbell, HIIT, etc.	N/A		Short-Term

<b>Objective 2.5: Address opportunity for therapeutic recreation and program accommodations</b>			
<b>Actions</b>	<b>Capital Cost Estimate</b>	<b>Operational Budget Impact</b>	<b>Timeframe to Complete</b>
2.5.a Develop accommodations for people with disabilities.	N/A	Staff Time \$25 per hour instructors	Short Term- Ongoing
2.5.b Consider therapeutic recreation programs for the 12 - 18% of population that requires accessibility.	N/A	Staff Time \$25 per hour instructors	Short-Term
<b>Objective 2.6: Reevaluate program delivery/hours/locations</b>			
<b>Actions</b>	<b>Capital Cost Estimate</b>	<b>Operational Budget Impact</b>	<b>Timeframe to Complete</b>
2.6.a Consider extending hours of operations to address earlier morning and later evening availability to accommodate participants in fitness and aquatics programs.	N/A	\$10,000	Short-Term
<b>Objective 2.7: Improve program evaluation process</b>			
<b>Actions</b>	<b>Capital Cost Estimate</b>	<b>Operational Budget Impact</b>	<b>Timeframe to Complete</b>
2.7.a Implement standardized feedback system, such as an online survey that is sent to all participants after the program.	N/A	Staff Time	Short-Term

- Facilities/Amenities/Level of Service

<b>Objective 3.1: Improve trail and path connectivity</b>			
<b>Actions</b>	<b>Capital Cost Estimate</b>	<b>Operational Budget Impact</b>	<b>Timeframe to Complete</b>
3.1.a Acquire acreage for multi-use trails for activities such as hiking, mountain biking, ATV, and equestrian.	TBD Per Acreage Cost Range	Staff Time	Long-Term
3.1.b Improve Poston Butte Hiking trails and walking paths by working collaboratively with County.	TBD Capital Cost Range	Staff Time	Mid-Term
3.1.c Ensure new development is connected with trails and greenways based on current plans, esp. with Active Transportation Plan.	TBD Per Mile Cost	Staff Time	Long-Term
3.1.d Connect Florence with Anthem/Sun City area via trail.	TBD Per Mile Cost	\$5,000	Long-Term
3.1.e Expand and improve existing pedestrian paths and bikeways to promote health, recreation and connectivity among neighborhoods.	TBD Per Mile Cost	\$1,000 per mile	Long-Term

**Objective 3.2: Address opportunities for recreation center improvements**

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Capital Cost Estimate</b>	<b>Operational Budget Impact</b>	<b>Timeframe to Complete</b>
3.2.a Pursue feasibility study for multi-generational recreation center.	\$57,000	Staff Time	Short-Term
3.2.b Provide space for classes, fitness/health, kitchen, gymnasium, senior programs, etc.	Feasibility will determine		Mid-Term
3.2.c Develop modern, ADA accessible fitness gym.	Feasibility will determine	Staff Time	Long-Term
3.2.d Sell or repurpose current fitness and senior facility, both of which need extensive repairs.	Capital Gains TBD	TBD	Long-Term

**Objective 3.3: Build upon demand and success for pickleball**

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Capital Cost Estimate</b>	<b>Operational Budget Impact</b>	<b>Timeframe to Complete</b>
3.3.a Consider building additional pickleball courts to accommodate demand.	Cost per Court	\$1,500 per court	Mid-Term

**Objective 3.4: Plan and strategize for additional community parks**

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Capital Cost Estimate</b>	<b>Operational Budget Impact</b>	<b>Timeframe to Complete</b>
3.4.a Identify land and acquire space for community/pocket parks in North Florence.	TBD \$30K-\$40K/a.c.	Staff Time	Long-Term
3.4.b Develop strategy for utilization of Development Impact Fees.	N/A	Staff Time	Long-Term

**Objective 3.5: Address accessibility**

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Capital Cost Estimate</b>	<b>Operational Budget Impact</b>	<b>Timeframe to Complete</b>
3.5.a Develop ADA transition plan for parks and facilities to accommodate the 12 - 18% of population who require ADA accessibility.	TBD	Staff Time	Short-Term

**Objective 3.6: Plan for existing and future park amenity improvements**

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Capital Cost Estimate</b>	<b>Operational Budget Impact</b>	<b>Timeframe to Complete</b>
3.6.a Plan and provide shade structures in facilities and parks.	Cost per Ramada	Staff Time	Short-Term
3.6.b Develop a replacement program for amenities in need of repair/replacement (Examples: benches, trash cans, etc.)	Cost per amenity (bench, trash cans, etc.)	Staff Time	Mid-Term
3.6.c Establish Town standards for all amenities to ensure consistent styles, brands, etc. are at used throughout the facilities	N/A	Staff Time	Mid-Term

**Objective 3.7: Improve partnerships and relationships to increase level of service**

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Capital Cost Estimate</b>	<b>Operational Budget Impact</b>	<b>Timeframe to Complete</b>
3.7.a Create strong partnerships with alternative providers through public private partnerships to increase service and provide specialized programs, as well as increase quality and quantity of youth sports.	N/A	Staff Time	Mid-Term
3.7.b Create opportunities to better utilize existing resources to offer inclusive programs and events.	N/A	Staff Time Volunteers	Mid-Term

- Financial

**Objective 4.1: Consider financing opportunities for capital funding, future growth, and improvement projects**

Actions	Capital Cost Estimate	Operational Budget Impact	Timeframe to Complete
4.1.a Consider bond referendum for future capital projects.	TBD	Staff Time	Long-Term
4.1.b Increase resources towards grants and/or philanthropic efforts.	N/A	Staff Time Or \$30,000 new position	Mid-Term
4.1.c Ensure staff, utility, and supply budgets increases with new development and improvements.	N/A	3% per year minimally	Mid-Term

**Objective 4.2: Reevaluate current budget policies and consider establishing new policies that address future growth and development**

Actions	Capital Cost Estimate	Operational Budget Impact	Timeframe to Complete
4.2.a Establish fund or funds to ensure deferred maintenance, repair, replacements and capital projects are addressed and funded properly.	N/A	Staff Time	Long-Term
4.2.b Ensure cost recovery policy consistently guides pricing for programs, special events, rentals, and public private partnerships.	N/A	Staff Time Or \$40,000 if contracted	Mid-Term

- Action Plan – Site Specific Parks
  - Main Street Park

**Objective 1.1: Consider Plans and Improvements to address Main Street Park**

Actions	Capital Cost Estimate	Operational Budget Impact	Timeframe to Complete
1.1.a Ramadas- poor condition	\$230,000	N/A	
1.1.b Site Furnishings- poor condition	\$25,000	N/A	
1.1.c Restrooms- need for a facility to enhance the park	\$150,000	Staff Time	
1.1.d Circulation- improve circulation/walkways to amenities, improve ADA accessibility throughout the park and provide site lighting	\$145,000	N/A	

- Little League Park

<b>Objective 2.1: Consider Plans and Improvements to address Little League Park</b>			
<b>Actions</b>	<b>Capital Cost Estimate</b>	<b>Operational Budget Impact</b>	<b>Timeframe to Complete</b>
2.1.a Field and Dugout - Updated for irrigation, field layout, fencing, and dugouts. Existing conditions do vary from good condition to poor such as the home side dugout which has extensive termite damage. Replace lighting.	\$510,000	Staff Time	
2.1.b Dog Park Amenities- Replacement plan for equipment. Repair/replace water fountain. Add Lighting to dog park.	\$128,000	Staff Time	
2.1.c Ball Park Amenities- Restroom has plumbing issues, access issues, and vandalism. Add Shade structures. Replace Concession Stand.	\$518,000	Staff Time	

- Heritage Park \*Capital Estimates TBD

<b>Objective 3.1: Consider Plans and Improvements to address Heritage Park</b>			
<b>Actions</b>	<b>Capital Cost Estimate</b>	<b>Operational Budget Impact</b>	<b>Timeframe to Complete</b>
3.1.a Restrooms/Concessions- Restroom has plumbing issues, access issues, and vandalism. Replace Concession Stand.		Staff Time	
3.1.b Park Amenities- Ball field fencing and gates have areas of wear and gates that are not functioning properly. Ramadas are dated, some minor structural damage, need lighting. Overall lighting could be added and updated throughout the park to enhance user experience and safety. Amenities are in a fair condition but could definitely be refreshed and updated to current park standards and trends. Add Shade structures.		Staff Time	

3.1.c Irrigation System- Nearing end of life cycle and should be replaced.		Staff Time	
3.1.d Parking Lot- Areas of cracking and deterioration, no shade, no real definition of circulation and vehicle containment.		Staff Time	
3.1.e Accessibility- There is not ADA accessible access to all park amenities. Walking pathways (loops) could be added to enhance user experience.		Staff Time	

- Next Steps

- September 23, 2019
  - Town of Florence to provide GreenPlay final edits of the Draft
- November/December 2019
  - Schedule Final Presentation/Plan Delivery

Vice-Mayor Anderson expressed his concern with regards to the cost to implement the Plan. He would prefer that the Town look at the Strategic Plan and see where the plans align and what priorities need to be made.

Councilmember Hughes stated that this is the first draft and they have time to review the Strategic Plan and prioritize accordingly. She stated that they have started on some of the objectives and action plans. The presentation and some of the project pages will be uploaded to the website.

Mayor Walter stated that there is a lot of momentum and positive feedback regarding this plan. She asked that the public provide their feedback no later than October 7, 2019.

**Presentation proposing the Florence Veterans Memorial Plaza as the formal name of the new memorial located south of the Library and Community Center.**

Mr. Hughes stated that the project committee suggested that the plaza be named so that it was a destination for individuals. The plan is to install a plaque which will recognize the donors and the official name. The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board agree with the committee's suggestion. If approved, the name would be Florence Veterans Memorial Plaza.

Vice-Mayor Anderson thanked Mr. Hughes for his work and determination in getting the project completed. There has been some difficulty in getting contractors to bid on the project, since it is a small project.

Mayor Walter inquired if they have contracted with anyone to pour the concrete as of yet.

Mr. Hughes stated that they are meeting with ACI for inmate labor.

Councilmember Cordes stated that Arizona Homescapes/Landscapes may be able to assist with the project. He works in the Anthem area. He has volunteered his time and supplies to the Anthem K-8 School.

On motion of Vice-Mayor Anderson, seconded by Councilmember Cordes, and carried (5-0) to name the veterans memorial the "Florence Veterans Memorial Plaza" as the formal name.

**Discussion and possible action on setting Work Sessions on the fourth Monday of the month from October 28, 2019 to March 27, 2020.**

Mayor Walter stated that this is pertaining to the Strategic Plan.

Ms. Lisa Garcia, Deputy Town Manager, Town Clerk, stated that they would prefer the work sessions to be on the last Monday of the month. The policy outlines it as the second Monday of the month and after reviewing the calendar, there are multiple dates that fell on an actual holiday. She stated the meeting dates will be October 28, 2019, November 25, 2019, December 30, 2019, January 27, 2020, February 24, 2020, and March 30, 2020.

Councilmember Wall stated that there is normally no meeting on the second Monday in December. She asked if they could have the work session on December 16, 2019.

Ms. Garcia stated that they could meet on December 16, 2019. The meeting would be approximately two hours per each meeting. The meeting start time will be at 6:00 pm.

On motion of Councilmember Cordes, seconded by Councilmember Wall, and carried (5-0) to set the work sessions for the last Monday of the month except for December.

**Discussion and possible action on the Town of Florence participating in the Center for the Future of Arizona, Beat the Odds Leadership Academy in partnership with the National Institute for School Leadership/Criterion Education, LLC.**

Mayor Walter stated that Florence, along with other municipalities partnered with the Progress Meters Arizona Achieves 360. She stated that education is a vital component for every child and it ties into government and our community. Florence grows its future leaders through the Teen Council and Florence Youth Commission. Through various studies and accumulated data, it was determined that only 11% of the community will reach out to an elected official.

Mayor Walter stated that she along with Ms. Lisa Garcia, Deputy Town Manager/Town Clerk, attended an educational component training at the League Conference. They provided information on a variety of topics such as economic prosperity, quality of life, civic health, percentage of Arizonians without health insurance, cost of insurance, obesity, access to primary care practitioners, air quality, physical activity and infant mortality.

Mayor Walter stated that infrastructure was a large topic discussed and noted that Florence has invested in its infrastructure. She stated that they went through all of the data at this training and had discussions on the various topic and how it all ties together. It was determined that the foundational piece is the educational component.

Mayor Walter explained how the Town was invited to participate in a program at a reduced cost.

Ms. Lisa Garcia, Deputy Town Manager/Town Clerk, stated that part of the main focus of the League Conference was how will they create a future for Arizona, and it ties back to having

students that are ready for the workforce. She stated that one of the levels discussed is having a Leadership Academy Program and are looking for industry partners that are outside of the school system to bring back real-world experiences and expose them in an educational program. She stated that every progress meter is tied together. In order to move the needle and create economic development, growth and viability for the future it all starts and ends with education and ensuring we have a viable workforce for the future.

Ms. Garcia stated that once she goes through the program, they would like to do a Pinal County Town Hall to be able to express the importance to all of the communities. They would also like to work with "Arizona We Want" to be able to develop progress meters for Pinal County as well as each community within Pinal County. She stated Pinal County would take a leadership role and this is something that will take time. This will change the future and may take as much as 15 to 20 years for real change to occur.

Ms. Garcia stated that the Town was invited to participate should the Council wish.

Councilmember Wall inquired if the Florence Unified School District (FUSD) will contribute to the cost of the program. She inquired if Mayor Walter will bring what she learns to the Town and FUSD, as she is an educator for the FUSD.

Mayor Walter stated that the FUSD will have someone participate as well. She stated that they will be bringing back a variety of trainings that are open to the Council and the community. The data will be used to create different commissions or committees. She would like to tie in education to the various components that affect the Town. It will be an investment in the community as a whole.

Councilmember Cordes inquired if the Council budget would cover the expenses for the two members at a cost of \$6,000 each to attend the National Cities and Towns conference. This would eliminate the Mayor's opportunity to go to Washington.

Councilmember Cordes stated that the course consists of 12 two-day units over the course of a 12 to 15 months. She inquired if the Mayor will delegate some of the committees that she is on to other Councilmembers so as not to overwhelm her schedule.

Mayor Walter stated that she hadn't thought of delegating some of the committees to someone else but will consider this.

Councilmember Hawkins inquired who will be do the teaching.

Ms. Garcia stated that Florence will partner with other entities to provide training opportunities. She explained that one program is inviting 7<sup>th</sup> graders to tour the wastewater treatment plant and explain to them what a wastewater operator does and how much they make. This may spark an interest in the student if they are interested in science. Another component is letting students know about certification programs that they may be interested in rather than seeking a college degree.

Ms. Garcia stated that are two units that focus on education and the remainder is leadership development. She will attend the “Best in Class” component in which she will be provided an additional six facilitation classes so she can facilitate for them when they come to Pinal County.

Ms. Garcia stated that they have forwarded a contract to the Town for a three-year commitment for herself. Mr. Billingsley has reviewed the contract.

Ms. Garcia stated that the kickoff will be held in Florence along with one of the sessions. The Town has also offered its facilities for future sessions.

Mayor Walter stated that Ms. Evelyn Casuga, Central Arizona College, is also part of the program and they are partnering with APS as well.

Councilmember Wall stated that the terms of many of the Council end in 2020 and she inquired what happens to the knowledge that Mayor Walter has gained if she is not re-elected.

Mayor Walter stated that she will still contribute as part of one of the committees that she is proposing.

On motion of Councilmember Cordes, seconded by Councilmember Wall, and carried (5-0) approving the Town of Florence to participate in the Center for the Future of Arizona, Beat the Odds Leadership Academy in partnership with the National Institute for School Leadership/Criterion Education, LLC.

## **MANAGER’S REPORT**

Mr. Billingsley stated that the Town hosted the Inaugural Patriot’s Day Lunch for first responders, which was held on September 11, 2019. The sponsors include EJ & C Heating and Cooling, Baca Studios, Total Concepts, Pinal County Mounted Posse, Mount Athos, Florence Café, American Legion Post 9, Old Pueblo and McDonalds. There were two 9/11 responders from New York City who attended the luncheon. He thanked Mayor Walter for her attendance.

Mr. Billingsley stated that the Town hosted a series of meetings with the Lincoln Institute of Land Use Law, The Babbitt Center of Water, and the U of A Water Research Center. He thanked Councilmember Anderson for his contribution in assisting to set up and participate in the meetings.

Mr. Billingsley stated that he attended a luncheon with the Industrial Commission of Arizona. He thanked Councilmember Hughes for her attendance.

Mr. Billingsley stated that the first Produce on Wheels Without Waste (P.O.W.W.O.W) will be held on November 23, 2019, at Heritage Park. The P.O.W.W.O.W will bring fresh fruits and vegetables to Florence. He thanked Mayor Walter for her assistance.

Mayor Walter stated the Florence Mosaic Church has offered to do the training for the Pow Wow. She inquired who should the public reach out to for more information so that they can become a volunteer.

Mr. Billingsley stated that there will be two to three lead staff members who will attend a P.O.W.W.O.W event to see how it works and to receive training. Training will be provided at the Florence Town Council Meeting Minutes

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first event by P.O.W.W.O.W Representatives and those who have received the training previously.

Mr. Bryan Hughes, Community Services Director, stated that Mr. John Nixon, Recreation Superintendent, is the point of contact for the Town. He will be responsible to the training and recruitment.

**CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

There are no public comments.

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

Councilmember Cordes stated that she is excited to see that there will be improvements to the parks. She is excited to see what Mayor Walter and Ms. Garcia will bring to Florence through their training. She invited the public to the Spirit Fashion Show hosted by the Florence Teen Council and the Florence Women’s Club on September 21, 2019.

Councilmember Cordes invited the public to the 20 Amateur Bout hosted by Robles Boxing on September 21, 2019.

Councilmember Wall thanked everyone who contributed to the Veteran’s Memorial Plaza donations. She was impressed with the total donation amount. She is looking forward to the P.O.W.W.O.W events along with all of the other planned events. She also attended the pre-opening of the Florence Hospital and it will be wonderful having the hospital in Florence. They will grow as the needs develop. They will also have a surgical center and various types of imaging along with a full lab.

Vice-Mayor Anderson is very proud of the progress of the Veteran’s Memorial. He stated that the water meeting with the Babbitt Center was a great meeting in which many people attended. He also attended the stair climb at the Pinal County Superior Court. He was impressed with those first responders who walked up four flights of stairs in full gear 16 times in memory of their fellow firefighters for 9/11.

Mayor Walter stated that Florence is very active and is continually planning events for its residents. She thanked everyone who participated in the events and invited everyone to attend any future events.

Mayor Walter stated that there are openings on the Town’s boards and commissions and invited anyone interested to submit an application.

**MERRILL RANCH COMMUNITY FACILITIES DISTRICT NO. 1 CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Walter called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:**

Present: Tara Walter, John Anderson, Bill Hawkins, Karen Wall, Michelle Cordes

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Absent: Kristen Larsen, Judy Hughes.

**Discussion and possible action to approve Merrill Ranch Community Facilities District No.1 July 1, July 15, and September 3, 2019 Special Meeting minutes.**

On motion of District Board Member Anderson, seconded by District Board Member Hawkins, and carried (5-0) to approve the July 1, July 15, and September 3, 2019 Special Meeting minutes.

**Discussion and possible action to approve and ratify a legal services Engagement and Retention Agreement with Sims Mackin, LTD. and Cathy Bowman for legal representation of the Town of Florence, Merrill Ranch Community Facilities District No. 1 and Merrill Ranch Community Facilities District No. 2 for the purpose of defending claims and litigation, including alternative dispute resolution, discovery, trial, post-trial motions, appeals and authorization to enter into related common interest agreements.**

Mr. Clifford L. Mattice, District Counsel, stated the request is to retain the services of Sims Mackin, Ltd., and Cathy Bowman, to assist with specialized legal representation with regards to a lawsuit filed by the Merrill entities against Merrill Ranch Community Facilities District No. 1.

On motion of District Board Member Wall, seconded by District Board Member Anderson, and carried (5-0) to approve and ratify a legal services Engagement and Retention Agreement with Sims Mackin, LTD. and Cathy Bowman for legal representation of the Town of Florence, Merrill Ranch Community Facilities District No. 1 and Merrill Ranch Community Facilities District No. 2 for the purpose of defending claims and litigation, including alternative dispute resolution, discovery, trial, post-trial motions, appeals and authorization to enter into related common interest agreements.

**MERRILL RANCH COMMUNITY FACILITIES DISTRICT NO. 1 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) to consider its position and instruct its representatives and/or attorneys regarding a lawsuit filed against Merrill Ranch Community Facilities District No. 1. C20419-012347 dated September 6, 2019**

On motion of District Board Member Cordes, seconded by District Board Member Hawkins, and carried (5-0) to adjourn to Executive Session.

**ADJOURNMENT FROM MERRILL RANCH COMMUNITY FACILITIES DISTRICT NO. 1 EXECUTIVE SESSION**

On motion of District Board Member Anderson, seconded by District Board Member Wall, and carried (5-0) to adjourn from Executive Session.

**ADJOURNMENT FROM MERRILL RANCH COMMUNITY FACILITIES DISTRICT NO. 1 MEETING**

On motion of District Board Member Wall, seconded by District Board Member Anderson, and carried (5-0) to adjourn from the meeting.

## **MERRILL RANCH COMMUNITY FACILITIES DISTRICT NO. 2 CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Walter called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m.

### **ROLL CALL:**

Present: Tara Walter, John Anderson, Bill Hawkins, Karen Wall, Michelle Cordes

Absent: Kristen Larsen, Judy Hughes

**Discussion and possible action to approve and ratify a legal services Engagement and Retention Agreement with Sims Mackin, LTD. and Cathy Bowman for legal representation of the Town of Florence, Merrill Ranch Community Facilities District No. 1 and Merrill Ranch Community Facilities District No. 2 for the purpose of defending claims and litigation, including alternative dispute resolution, discovery, trial, post-trial motions, appeals and authorization to enter into related common interest agreements.**

Mr. Mattice stated the request is to retain the services of Sims Mackin, Ltd., and Cathy Bowman, to assist with specialized legal representation with regards to a lawsuit filed by the Merrill entities against Merrill Ranch Community Facilities District No. 1 but there are additional claims that have been asserted by correspondence against the Town of Florence and Merrill Ranch Community Facilities District No. 2.

On motion of B District Board Member Wall, seconded by District Board Member Hawkins, and carried (5-0) to approve and ratify a legal services Engagement and Retention Agreement with Sims Mackin, LTD. and Cathy Bowman for legal representation of the Town of Florence, Merrill Ranch Community Facilities District No. 1 and Merrill Ranch Community Facilities District No. 2 for the purpose of defending claims and litigation, including alternative dispute resolution, discovery, trial, post-trial motions, appeals and authorization to enter into related common interest agreements.

## **MERRILL RANCH COMMUNITY FACILITIES DISTRICT NO. 2 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) to consider its position and instruct its representatives and/or attorneys regarding MRCFD2.**

On motion of District Board Member Wall, seconded by District Board Member Hawkins, and carried (5-0) to adjourn to Executive Session.

## **ADJOURNMENT FROM MERRILL RANCH COMMUNITY FACILITIES DISTRICT NO. 2 EXECUTIVE SESSION**

On motion of District Board Member Wall, seconded by District Board Member Anderson, and carried (5-0) to adjourn from Executive Session.

**ADJOURNMENT FROM MERRILL RANCH COMMUNITY FACILITIES DISTRICT NO. 2 MEETING**

On motion of District Board Member Wall, seconded by District Board Member Cordes, and carried (5-0) to adjourn from the meeting.

**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:

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 counterclaims.

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.

Town's position on potential land purchase.

On motion of Councilmember Wall, seconded by Vice-Mayor Anderson, and carried (5-0) to adjourn to Executive Session.

**ADJOURNMENT FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION**

On motion of Councilmember Wall, seconded by Vice-Mayor Anderson, and carried (5-0) to adjourn from Executive Session.

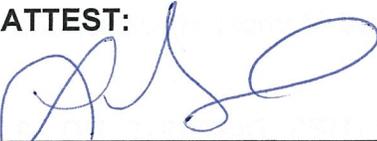
**ADJOURNMENT**

On motion of Councilmember Wall, seconded by Vice-Mayor Anderson, and carried (5-0) to adjourn the meeting at 10:05 p.m.



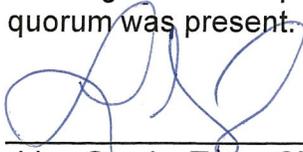
Tara Walter, Mayor

**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 16, 2019, and that the meeting was duly called to order and that a quorum was present.



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Lisa Garcia, Town Clerk