

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF FLORENCE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, JANUARY 6, 2020, 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 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:**

Present: Tara Walter, John Anderson, Karen Wall, Kristen Larsen, Michelle Cordes (arrived late), Judy Hughes

Absent: Bill Hawkins

**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.

**PUBLIC HEARING AND PRESENTATIONS**

**Swearing in of Police Chief Bruce Walls.**

Ms. Lisa Garcia, Deputy Town Manager/Town Clerk, swore in Police Chief Bruce Walls.

Mr. Bruce Walls, Police Chief, thanked the Town for allowing him to be the Town's Police Chief and stated that it will be his privilege to serve the community. He recognized his family and friends who attended his swearing, some of which who flew in from Georgia and Florida.

**Swearing in of Human Resource Director Catherine Wilson.**

Ms. Garcia swore in Human Resources Director Catherine Wilson.



- The Planning and Zoning Commission sent the Town Council a favorable recommendation for this Conditional Use Permit request subject to the following Conditions of Approval:
  - The development of the subject site shall be in conformance with any applicable Town Codes, Ordinances, Building Codes and Fire Codes.
  - A final dimensioned site plan shall be submitted to accommodate required setbacks, building separations and parking lot layouts.
  - The final site plan, building elevations, material, signs and other elements of use will require Design Review approval from the Planning and Zoning Commission prior to issuance of building permits.
  - The subject building shall meet all occupancy requirements for this use as determined by the Town upon the review of building permit submittals.
  - Property owner shall combine APNs 200-24-0470 and 200-24-0480 into one parcel before issue of building permit.
  - The building is allowed to use a septic system until sanitary sewer is provided along Franklin Road within 350 feet of the property, at which time, the site must be connected to the sanitary sewer.
  - The owner must dedicate forty feet of right-of-way along the property's frontage of Franklin Road.
  - Access to the site will be provided by 28 feet of pavement material acceptable to Fire Marshall and Town Engineer.
  - This Conditional Use Permit may be revoked by the Town of Florence and become null and void if the conditions of approval are not met.
  - No Conditional Use approval shall be final until all conditions imposed have been met.
  - All the special conditions shall constitute restrictions that run with the land and that shall be binding upon the owner of the land, successors or assigns.
  - The special conditions imposed by the Planning and Zoning Commission and/or Town Council shall be consented to in writing by the applicant prior to issuance of a Conditional Use Permit.
  - The Resolution of the Town Council granting the application shall be recorded by the recorder of the County.
- The applicant is in agreement with the conditions.
  - Agree to improvements on the property and Franklin Road.
  - Shared contact information with the applicant and the two property owners on Franklin Road to see if they want to form a partnership to do additional improvements in the area.

Pastor Joe Bilbrey, Desert Rock Church, stated that they launched in 2018 and have grown rapidly. They are excited about continuing to be involved in the community but doing more by having their own building. He has pastored in the area since 2001 and is excited to continue to serve the community.

Mayor Walter opened the Public Hearing.

Councilmember Cordes asked for the timeframe for the building to be completed.

Pastor Bilbrey stated they have funding and would like to build as soon as possible. Their lease expires in May.

Vice-Mayor Anderson inquired if Franklin Road will be paved.

Mr. Harmer stated that the improvements will need to be approved by the Fire Department and Town Engineer as the road will need to handle fire equipment. He noted that it will not be fully paved. This may open up opportunities from the Walker Butte Planned Unit Development.

Mayor Walter closed the Public Hearing.

On motion of Councilmember Wall, seconded by Councilmember Hughes, and carried (6-0), to adopt Resolution No. 1730-20.

### **Florence Teen Council 2019 End-of-Year Presentation. (Stevie Lopez)**

Mr. Estevan "Stevie" Lopez, Recreation III Leader, Mr. Kim "Koko" Hunter, Consultant, and the Florence Teen Council (FTC) members provided a presentation in which they outlined the following:

- Mr. Lopez took over the FTC in October 2020
  - Learned that the teens are enthusiastic, talented and enjoy giving back to the community.
- The FTC participated in the following:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Spirit Show in conjunction with the Greater Florence Women's Club
    - Community members assisted the teens prepare and dress for the fashion show
    - FTC provided thank you cards to the sponsors
    - FTC was presented with a check to help with the FTCs future
  - Halloween Fright Fest
    - Created graveyard raid on Main Street
  - Produce on Wheels without Waste (P.O.W.W.O.W.)
    - Assisted participants with carrying their produce to their vehicles
  - Brown Bag Bingo at the Senior Center
    - Assisted the senior with their bingo cards, distribution of gifts, and serving their Thanksgiving meal
  - Jr. Parada Parade
    - Built float for Council to ride on
    - Continual rain made it difficult to assemble the float
  - Christmas on Main
    - Built float for Ms. Float, her elves and the Grinch
    - Had games available and provided gifts for winners
  - Breakfast with Santa
    - Set up props, built gingerbread kits, helped children with crafts
  - Christmas Party for FTC participants
    - Appreciation party for the FTC participants
  - Holiday Hoedown
    - Christmas party at the Senior Center
    - Catered by Kiss the Chef Catering and FTC served those in attendance.
      - Possible partnership with caterer for students to obtain part-time employment
- Upcoming events:
  - Mother Son Dance
  - Make a Difference Day
  - Cupid's Ball
  - Teen Leadership Symposium
    - Great motivational speakers are scheduled

- Invited a member of the Council to sit on the panel
- College Readiness Program
  - Have had a loss of members
  - Will offer a program that rewards teens with micro-scholarships
  - Students can earn money for their higher education for the events they participate in
  - Would like to offer a shadow program

Mayor Walter recognized the teens for their work. She offered to attend an FTC meeting, as an educator to discuss available programs and the possibility of college tours.

Mr. Hunter stated that he will be circulating letters to the local businesses requesting donations for college visits.

Councilmember Cordes stated she was part of the fashion show and commended the teen participants. The teens did a great job and is excited for the upcoming year.

Councilmember Larsen stated that Mr. Lopez will be an asset to the FTC and looks forward to what the teens will be doing this year.

### **Presentation on Arizona Traffic and Criminal Software**

Mr. Bruce Walls, Police Chief, provided a presentation, in which he discussed the following:

- What is TraCS
  - Traffic and Criminal Software (TraCS) is a mobile crash reporting software system, that can be used for electronic traffic citations, developing traffic crash reports, other Police templates, and other forms.
  - Auto populates ticket
  - Provides accurate information
- Benefits of TraCS
  - Reduces paperwork that takes away from valuable patrol time
  - Eliminates messy handwriting, misspellings, and incomplete or incorrectly filled in forms
  - Allows data (accidents, arrests, e-citations, e-crashes, etc.) to be collected accurately in the field where the incident happens instead of after the fact through the use of scanners, barcode/strip readers and signature tablets
  - Reduces the burden of manual paperwork on our partners
- Arizona Department of Transportation's (ADOT) Involvement
  - ADOT pays the yearly \$75,000 TraCS licensing fee
  - ADOT also provides tech support to TraCS users free of charge.
  - No cost to the Town
- Where are we?
  - IT and Police have completed testing
  - IT currently installing software on 3 MDCs (Ballard, Kennard and Chavez)
  - Projected start date of January 13, 2020
    - 30 Day Review (work out the bugs)
  - Full implementation (March 2020)

Vice-Mayor Anderson inquired if every officer would have the device.

Chief Walls stated that each police officer will have a device.

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**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. **Approval to purchase seven Public Safety radios/chargers and programming in an amount not to exceed \$51,490.00 using the Gila River Indian Community Fund Grant funds.**
- b. **Approval to purchase six Public Safety radios/chargers and programming, in an amount not to exceed \$43,506 using the AZ Department of Homeland Security Grant Funds.**
- c. **Approval of accepting the register of demands ending November 30, 2019, in the amount of \$2,267,544.96.**

On motion of Councilmember Cordes, seconded by Councilmember Wall and carried (6-0) to approve the items as listed on the consent agenda with removal of item A.

- a. **Approval to purchase seven Public Safety radios/chargers and programming in an amount not to exceed \$51,490 using the Gila River Indian Community Fund Grant funds.**

Vice-Mayor Anderson question if this will fully outfit the Police Department. He also inquired if they are the same units that the Fire Department is considering.

Chief Walls stated that all officers will have new radios. They are the same radios that the Fire Department is considering.

On motion of Vice-Mayor Anderson, seconded by Councilmember Cordes and carried (6-0) to approve the purchase of seven Public Safety radios/charges and programming in an amount not to exceed \$51,490 using the Gila river Indian Community Fund Grant funds.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Discussion/Approval/Disapproval of accepting the Municipal Court Audit for Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2019 and the Correction Plan to address audit findings.**

Ms. Rebecca Jimenez, Interim Finance Director, stated the audit for the Courts is completed every three years.

An audit of the Municipal Court for Performance of Agreed-Upon Procedures must be done every three years. The procedures are set forth by the Arizona Supreme Court and must also follow the audit of the Town of Florence. This year we had some exceptions noted in receipts, which was for cash handling of voided receipts. The court established a written procedure to address voiding of receipts. There were also issues with the receipt books so new receipt books have been ordered.

On motion of Councilmember Cordes, seconded by Councilmember Wall and carried (6-0) to accept the Municipal Court Audit for Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2019 and the Corrections Plan to address the audit finding.

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## **MANAGER'S REPORT**

Mr. Brent Billingsley, Town Manager, stated that the Fire Department has become a Premier Level EMA Agency, which is a prestigious recognition and received their certificate. The Town has met the new 2018 standards, which many agencies have not yet met. They are several criteria factors that are considered in becoming a Premier EMA Agency.

Mr. David Strayer, Fire Chief, explained all the elements that were needed in order for the certification to happen.

Mayor Walter inquired how many agencies have the certification.

Chief Strayer stated that there are 60 agencies who have the certification based on the 2009 standards; however, the total is much smaller for those who have received the certification based on the 2018 standards. It is a very elite group who have this designation.

The Town Manager thanked the Council for providing the funds to increase the Technology and allow the Town to meet the standards to receive the certificate.

## **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

**Community Services**  
**Courts**  
**Finance**  
**Fire**  
**Police**

Vice-Mayor Anderson inquired if they have scheduled the volunteer meeting for the Home Tour.

Mr. Billingsley stated that he will contact Community Services to find out when the meeting will be held and will advise Council of that date.

## **CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

There were no public comments.

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

Councilmember Wall wished everyone a Happy New Year and hopes 2020 is filled with lots of vision.

Councilmember Cordes apologized for her late arrival. She stated that Chief Walls has made a big impact on her son and hopes he makes a great impact on all of the youth.

Vice-Mayor Anderson stated that he is proud of Florence and for the support that Council receives.

Mayor Walter thanked everyone for attending the Council meeting. She congratulated the two new Department Directors. She stated that there are several upcoming events and invited

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everyone to participate. The Make a Difference Day is fast approaching and asked if anyone has any ideas for projects to please contact Alison Feliz.

### ADJOURN 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.
- Request for Proposal for the area of land west of Heritage Park for work force housing.
- Discussion on possibility of purchasing land.

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

### ADJOURN 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 Cordes, and carried (6-0) to adjourn to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m.



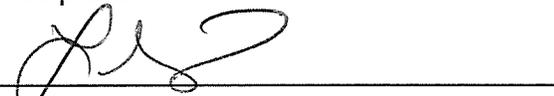
Tara Walter, Mayor

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 January 6, 2020, and that the meeting was duly called to order and that a quorum was present.



Lisa Garcia, Town Clerk