

MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF FLORENCE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, MARCH 16, 2020, AT 5:30 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 5:30 pm.

ROLL CALL:

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

MERRILL RANCH COMMUNITY FACILITIES DISTRICT NO. 1

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Walter called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

ROLL CALL:

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

MERRILL RANCH COMMUNITY FACILITIES DISTRICT NO. 2

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Walter called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

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

ADJOURNMENT TO A JOINT EXECUTIVE SESSION WITH MERRILL RANCH COMMUNITY FACILITIES DISTRICT NO. 1, MERRILL RANCH COMMUNITY FACILITIES DISTRICT NO. 2 AND THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF FLORENCE.

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:

Discussion or consultations regarding a Notice of Claim filed by Merrill Ranch Owner's Agent, L.L.C., CMR/Casa Grande, L.L.C., Roadrunner Resorts, L.L.C. and Florence Copper,

Inc. against Merrill Ranch Community Facilities Districts No. 1, Merrill Ranch Community Facilities District No. 2 and the Town of Florence.

Discussion or consultation potential and threatened claims against the Town and Districts.

Motioned, seconded, and carried (6-0) to adjourn to a Joint Executive Session with Merrill Ranch Community Facilities District No. 1, Merrill Ranch Community Facilities District No. 2 and the Mayor and Council of the Town of Florence.

Tara Walter, John Anderson (M), Karen Wall (S), Kristen Larsen, Michelle Cordes, Judy Hughes

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

On motion of Vice-Chairman Anderson, seconded by Boardmember Wall, and carried (6-0) to adjourn from Merrill Ranch Community Facilities District No. 1 Executive Session.

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

On motion of Vice-Chairman Anderson, seconded by Boardmember Wall, and carried (6-0) to adjourn from Merrill Ranch Community Facilities District No. 1 meeting.

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

On motion of Boardmember Wall, seconded by Boardmember Cordes, and carried (6-0) to adjourn from Merrill Ranch Community Facilities District No. 2 Executive Session.

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

On motion of Boardmember Larsen, seconded by Boardmember Cordes, and carried (6-0) to adjourn from Merrill Ranch Community Facilities District No. 2 meeting.

ADJOURNMENT FROM THE FLORENCE TOWN COUNCIL EXECUTIVE SESSION AND TO RESUME REGULAR MEETING.

On motion of Councilmember Wall, seconded by Councilmember Larsen, and carried (6-0) to adjourn from Executive Session and to resume regular meeting.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mayor Walter called for a moment of silence in honor of Councilmember Bill Hawkins, who lost his battle to cancer on March 12, 2020. She stated that he devoted his life to Florence, caring deeply about this Town and our citizens.

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 PRESENTATION

Public hearing to receive public comment on the Text Amendment to the Town of Florence Land Development Code and first reading of Ordinance 689-20:

Mayor Walter read Ordinance No. 689-20 by title only.

An Ordinance of the Town of Florence, Pinal County, Arizona, amending the Town of Florence Code of Ordinances, Title XV Land Usage, Chapter 150: Development Code, Administration and Procedures Sections 150.000 to 150.019 and adding Sections 150.020 to 150.024, and relocating "Part 1. General Provisions," Sections 150.080 to 150.081 to the Administration and Procedures Sections 150.020 and 150.021, respectively. The proposed text amendment document was declared a public record by Resolution No. 1733-20, one paper copy is on file in the Office of the Town Clerk, and one electronic copy is available on the Town of Florence website.

Mr. Dana Burkhart, Consultant, stated that this is the first of two readings (second reading is scheduled for April 6, 2020) along with a public hearing on this proposed text amendment.

Mr. Burkhart, Consultant, provided a presentation on the Development Code Text Amendment: Administration & Procedures, in which he outlined the following:

- Why?
 - Correct code discrepancies and conflicts
 - Address statutory changes
 - No regulatory changes
 - Economic Development tool for the Town
 - Organize section to easily navigate
- Scope
 - Correct Discrepancies
 - Redundant design review processes
 - Codify Pre-Application Conference and added Temporary Use procedures
 - Meet with applicant prior to submittal of application
 - Update terminology to be consistent

- Update to reflect changes in statute
 - House Bill 2116 passed in 2017 – rezoning appeal
 - Arizona Revised Statute §12-1134 Claim and Diminution in Value
 - Inserted procedural language to give Town additional opportunity to appear regarding future claims
 - Will put Town in better situation
- No regulatory changes
 - Decennial General Plan Update and other leading policy studies coming soon
- General Plan/Strategic Plan
 - Master Plans: Transportation, Redevelopment, Parks and Open Space, etc.
 - Technical Codes: Development, Building, Fire, Flood Control, etc.
- Public Review and Recommendations
 - Started process in May 2019
 - Have had 10 public meetings
 - Community meeting and draft updates available for download and comment online
 - Historic District Advisory Commission (HDAC) and Planning & Zoning Commission recommend approval.

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

Census 2020 Presentation. (Jennifer Evans)

Ms. Jennifer Evans, Management Analyst, provided a presentation, in which she outlined the following:

- How to Respond
 - Respond online, by phone, or by mail
 - Partner Questionnaire Assistance Center at the Florence Community Library - Place with computers and information for community members to self-respond.
 - Event-Based Questionnaire Assistance - Census Bureau and Town staff will have a presence at community events.
 - Highly Mobile Questionnaire Assistance - As we receive self-response data, partners and the Census Bureau will ensure we have questionnaire assistance in areas that are not seeing expected self-response.
- Census Schedule
 - What we will send in the mail
 - March 12 – 20, 2020
 - An invitation to respond online to the 2020 Census. Some households will also receive paper questionnaires.
 - March 16 – 24, 2020
 - A reminder letter
 - If you haven't responded yet
 - March 26 – April 3, 2020
 - A reminder postcard
 - April 8 – 16, 2020
 - A reminder letter and paper questionnaire.
 - April 20 – 27, 2020
 - A final reminder postcard before we follow up in person

- Support the Census
 - Encourage people to respond online, by phone, or by mail
 - Remind people to cooperate with census takers if they visit their home.
 - Emphasize the census is safe and secure.
 - Information is retained for 72 years
 - Reach hard-to-count populations – farmworkers, children 0-5 years, non-English speakers, low-income families, veterans, winter residents
 - Response Rate Challenge
 - Challenge public to increase response rate
 - Would like to see the response rate to 90%
- More Information
 - Contact Jennifer Evans, Management Analyst, at 520-868-7549 or Jennifer.evans@florenceaz.gov
 - www.icount2020.info
 - www.2020census.gov
- Count everyone...once, only once, and in the right place

Mayor Walter inquired if there were as many platforms in which to respond ten years ago as there are now.

Ms. Evans stated that they did not have as many platforms to respond as there are now. This is the first time that online and phone options are available.

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 dispose of vehicles that are no longer needed and have outlived their useful life. (Rebecca Jimenez)

Approval of Lantis Fireworks and Lasers contract for the 2020-2021 Fireworks Display in an amount not to exceed \$37,000. (Alison Feliz)

Approval of a Change Order for the Poston Butte Preserve Project On-Call Engineering, pursuant to Council approved contract with WestLand Resources, Inc., for an additional \$2,500, increasing the total to \$199,913, which is within budget for this fiscal year. (John Nixon)

Authorize Town staff to proceed with negotiations with the five parks communities in drafting a special use agreement for future development of a Town parcel for use as a community dog park. (John Nixon)

Approval of the January 27, 2020 Town Council Meeting minutes.

Receive and file the following board and commission minutes:

January 9, 2020 Arts and Culture Commission Meeting minutes.

January 29, 2020 Historic District Advisory Commission Meeting minutes.

Florence Town Council Meeting Minutes

March 16, 2020

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December 5, 2019 Planning and Zoning Commission Meeting minutes.

On motion of Councilmember Wall, seconded by Councilmember Larsen, and carried (6-0) to approve the Consent Agenda, as written.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Ordinance No. 691-20:

Mayor Walter read Ordinance No. 691-20 by title only.

Second reading and Discussion/Approval/Disapproval of AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF FLORENCE, PINAL COUNTY, ARIZONA AMENDING SECTIONS OF CHAPTER 32.001 (D) TOWN BOARDS, COMMISSION, AND COMMITTEES. (Lisa Garcia)

Ms. Lisa Garcia, Deputy Town Manager, stated that this will correct the Town Code to be consistent with the ordinance that was adopted at the last meeting regarding boards and commissions.

On motion of Councilmember Wall, seconded by Councilmember Larsen, and carried (6-0) to adopt Ordinance No. 691-20.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion/Approval/Disapproval to adopt the Major General Plan Amendment Calendar for 2020. (Larry Harmer)

Mr. Larry Harmer, Senior Planner, stated that by State Statute, each community is allowed to process major plan amendments once per year. The Town is doing a major update to the overall plan; however, that will not be completed until next year. There may be some submittals for properties north of the Gila River so the Town is setting a calendar for Council's approval.

Mr. Harmer stated that there is a large gap between the submittal due date and the first public hearing because the application is distributed to neighboring jurisdictions and agencies for a 60-day comment period. A sampling of these agencies includes: APS, SRP, Arizona Department of Water Resources, Pinal County, Central Arizona Governments, City of Coolidge, Town of Queen Creek, Florence Unifies School District, Arizona State Land Department, and others. The proposed calendar for the Major General Plan Amendment for the 2020 year is as follows:

Completed Application Submittal due:	April 23, 2020
Planning and Zoning Commission 1 st Public Hearing:	August 6, 2020
Planning and Zoning Commission 2 nd Public Hearing and Recommendation:	September 3, 2020
Town Council Public Hearing and Possible Action:	October 5, 2020

The required Public Hearings include notifications of neighboring property owners, on-site advertising signs and legal advertisement in the local newspaper. At this time, staff has had only one inquiry regarding this year's process.

Vice-Mayor Anderson inquired why the Council is not provided as much time to review the application as the other entities.

Mr. Harmer stated that the calendar is tentative. Staff can also hold work sessions to discuss the applications if they are comprehensive. The calendar sets the public hearings.

On motion of Councilmember Wall, seconded by Councilmember Cordes, and carried (6-0) to adopt the Major General Plan Amendment Calendar for 2020.

First reading of Ordinance No. 692-20:

Mayor Walter read Ordinance No. 692-20 by title only.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF FLORENCE, PINAL COUNTY, ARIZONA, AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCE, ARIZONA, TITLE XI BUSINESS REGULATIONS, BY AMENDING CHAPTER 111, SECTION 111.05 (F) OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS.

Ms. Lisa Garcia, Deputy Town Manager/Town Clerk, stated that in 2018, Arizona passed a mobile food truck ordinance. The League of Arizona Cities and Towns did a model city code for all municipalities to adopt. There was a section to allow for residential to be 250 feet. This made it so mobile food trucks could not be on the streets, specifically in the downtown area because there are residential homes in near proximity. It is not the intention of the Town to eliminate food trucks from being able to operate in our community. Food trucks are utilized at special events. The State law allows them to park in any public parking space.

Ms. Garcia stated that once it was brought to the Town's attention, staff is requesting to modify the Code to allow for a mobile food vendor, including auxiliary generator and other related equipment, that projects less than 66 decibels at property line may be within 50 feet of a residential use.

Councilmember Wall asked for clarification with regards to how Section H 1. of Sec. 111.05 Operational Requirements will be interpreted.

Ms. Garcia stated that it would read: " A residential area, a mobile food vendors shall not operate in an area zoned for residential use or within 50 feet of the area zoned for residential use to use, not property line to property line and then outline the exceptions.

Councilmember Wall inquired what use-to-use means.

Mr. Clifford L. Mattice, Town Attorney, stated that there are issues when there are separation requirements and zoning regulations when measuring from point A to point B. By allowing the measurements to be from use-to-use, this will allow for some flexibility.

Resolution No. 1735-20:

Mayor Walter read Resolution No. 1735-20 by title only.

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF FLORENCE, PINAL COUNTY, ARIZONA, EXERCISING TOWN COUNCIL'S LEGISLATIVE DISCRETION TO NOT ENFORCE OR SUSPEND ENFORCEMENT OF CHAPTER 111, SECTION 111.05 (F) UNTIL THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF ORDINANCE NO. 692-20. (Lisa Garcia)

Ms. Garcia stated that the intent of this resolution is so that the Town will not enforce the Code as it is currently written until the adoption and effectiveness of Ordinance No. 692-20.

On motion of Councilmember Larsen, seconded by Vice-Mayor Anderson, and carried (6-0) to adopt Resolution No. 1735-20.

Resolution No. 1736-20:

Mayor Walter read Resolution No.1736-20 by title only.

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF FLORENCE, PINAL COUNTY, ARIZONA, ADOPTING REVISIONS TO THE TOWN OF FLORENCE PROPERTY LEASE POLICY. (Lisa Garcia/Jennifer Evans)

Ms. Garcia stated that per Council's direction, staff reviewed and modified the lease policy, Request for Qualifications (RFQ), Request for Proposals (RFP) and the lease. The Policy Committee and Town Attorney reviewed the documents.

Ms. Garcia stated that the following areas need clarification:

- Page 4 of the Memorandum regarding examples and lease rates
 - Ms. Cindy Sills, Florence Realtor provided commercial lease rates
 - Staff spoke with those who rented and confirmed rate
 - Council needs to make determination on what to charge
 - \$0.51 per square foot
 - Charge less than market rate because of the GPLET and charge a combined rate of \$0.51 per square foot

Ms. Garcia stated that staff is recommending that they do a Consumer Price Index (CPI) each year and the rates would increase if the CPI increased.

Ms. Garcia stated that the following was done:

- Lease was modified and there will be no utility charges for the common areas, as requested by Council.
- Modified the process to make it more user-friendly.
- Removed the language stating that the area would be used as an incubator since it is no longer used as such.
- Defined the RFP process which is 30 days per State Law.
 - Two spaces will be available
 - Outlined the RFP Process
 - Use comes before Council
 - The 30-day appeal process begins once Council approves the use
 - After the 30 days has lapsed, the Town Manager can negotiate and sign off on the lease.

Councilmember Wall inquired about Space 4. She also inquired about the telephone changes, which is more than the electrical for the common area.

Ms. Garcia stated that Space 4 is the Brunenkant Building and their square footage will change because currently the lower floor (891 square feet (sq. ft.) was the only part of the building being leased; however, they will now include the upstairs which will be a total of 1,782 sq. ft.

Discussion occurred on various leased scenarios.

Ms. Garcia stated that the Fudge Shop has sold and will now be for-profit. The business upstairs is vacating effective April 30th so there will be two spaces vacant upstairs.

Ms. Garcia explained the process to fill those upstairs vacancies at the Silver King Market Place.

Ms. Garcia explained that the telephone changes includes the alarm system and fire sprinkler system, for a total of four lines.

Councilmember Wall inquired if the electrical for the common areas is on a separate meter.

Ms. Garcia explained that the common areas have a separate electrical meter from the suites. The water usage would be for the common restroom.

Councilmember Wall inquired if the renter pays GPLET tax on the Brunenkant Building.

Ms. Garcia stated that they do pay GPLET tax.

Councilmember Cordes stated that the lease is listed as a modified gross lease basis, which means that it is inclusive of all costs (i.e. rent, taxes, insurances, utilities, etc.); however, this is not how the leases are and the tenants pay separate for each of those items.

Discussion occurred on the verbiage and it will be changed to modified triple net rather than modified gross lease. She inquired if the tenants contribute to the cost of the phone line.

Ms. Garcia stated that she will change the verbiage to modified triple net lease and explained that the tenants do not pay for the phone line.

Councilmember Cordes stated that the GPLET should be included in their lease rate. If they are charged the going rate along with the GPLET tax, this may raise the cost more than the market can handle. She suggested that the rates be combined to what the going rate is. During the summer months (May – August) she suggested that some type of relief, such as a 30% decrease in rent be offered to the tenants because business is seasonal in Florence. She suggested the rate be decreased if they maintain the minimum of hours open as outlined in the lease; otherwise they may choose to close early but would forego the discount.

Ms. Garcia stated that staff can incorporate Councilmember Cordes' suggestions should Council agree. She asked if Council is in agreement with Scenario Two which is for a combined rate of \$0.51 sq. ft. She stated that staff will develop a summer program with the modified rates for those

businesses who will remain open for the 32 hours per week. Those who choose not to remain open will not receive the discounted rate.

Councilmember Larsen inquired how this will be managed. It may appear that the Town is micro-managing the businesses.

Councilmember Cordes stated that the tenant needs to notify the landlord if they are making changes to their hours of operation.

Discussion occurred on various scenarios with regards to closing early or opening late.

Ms. Garcia asked that Council modify the motion to allow for staff to advertise the RFP so that they can start the process to fill the two vacancies.

Councilmember Wall stated the discount would result in the square footage to be approximately \$0.24 sq. ft.

Councilmember Hughes inquired if the ingress/egress issue has been resolved.

Ms. Garcia stated that the issue will be resolved no later than June 2020.

On motion of Vice-Mayor Anderson, seconded by Councilmember Cordes, and carried (6-0) to advertise for RFPs and to have staff bring back to Council options on the discussed changes to the Lease Policy.

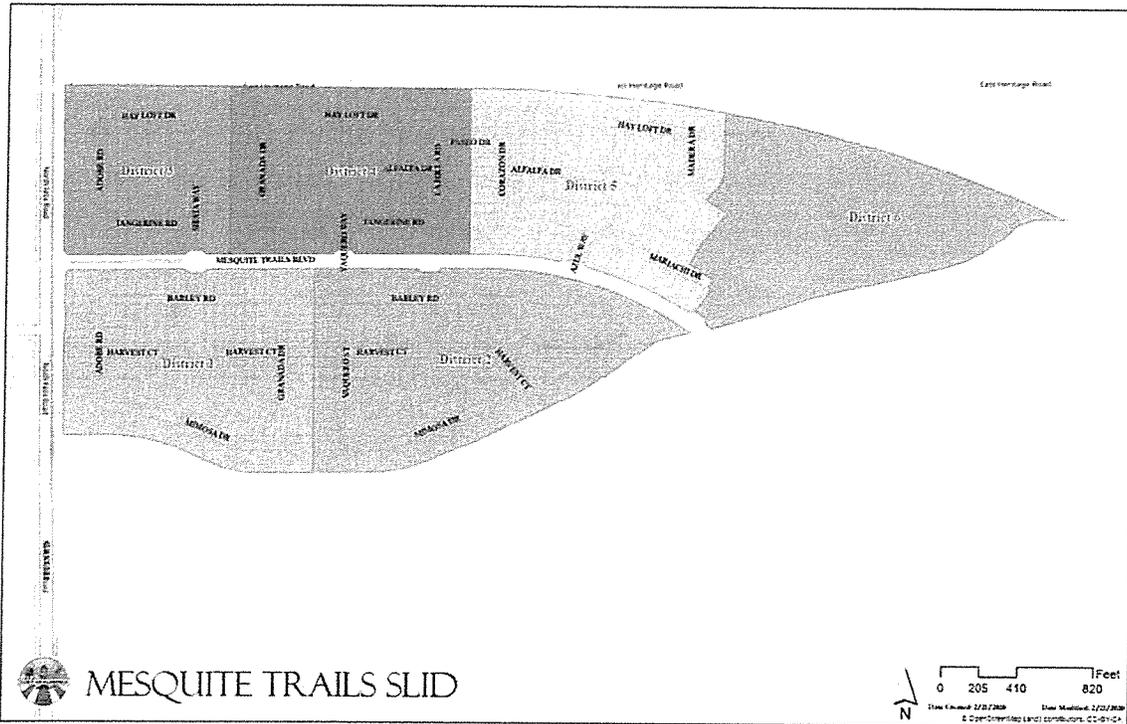
WORK SESSION ON STREET LIGHT IMPROVEMENT ORDINANCE AND POLICY (Chris Salas)

Mr. Chris Salas, Public Works Director, provided a presentation, in which he outlined the following:

- Definition
 - A Street Light Improvement District (SLID) is a neighborhood partnership and very common practice in which property owners in a defined area agree to pay the costs to operate and maintain their immediate area's streetlights through a property tax.
- Other communities that have SLID's
 - All new developments in the City of Surprise require a SLID for streetlights on collector or local roadways.
 - The City of Apache Junction utilizes a special district mechanism to fund the installation and energy costs of streetlights placed in residential subdivisions.
 - Maricopa County - A Street Lighting Improvement District (SLID) may be formed for the sole purpose of paying for the energy to power streetlights on the public streets and parks. The SLID provides the means for purchasing energy for lighting public streets and parks. The SLID also provides a mechanism to split these energy costs among all property owners in the SLID.
 - The City of Scottsdale's streetlight improvement districts were established beginning in 1971 to allow taxpayers residing in the benefiting area to pay for the operation of the streetlights. The City currently has 355 streetlight improvement districts formed by petition

of the property owners for the sole purpose of purchasing electricity for the lighting of public streets.

- Buckeye - All new development is subject to the implementation of a Streetlight Improvement District (SLID) in accordance with Town of Buckeye Ordinance 43-05 as found in Chapter 20, Article 20-15-1 of Town Code and in Resolution No. 109-12.
- Queen Creek - The Town is the administrator of over 100 Street Light Improvement Districts (SLIDs) at the time of budget development. The fund receives revenues through an assessment on secondary property tax that pays for the electricity consumption in the districts.
- Showlow
- Litchfield Park
- Gilbert
- Peoria
- New SLID's forthcoming
 - Each new sub-division is required to form a SLID before the Final Plat is recorded.
 - Mesquite Trails has already submitted their application
 - Many, many more to come



- Use of HURF for streetlights
 - Previously asked, 'Is still an opportunity to determine how many streetlights could be paid by the HURF fund in the Anthem area so that the residents will not have to pay for those streetlights. The lights would be the ones in the arterial roadways as well as density lights.
 - Response – The State law covering the use of HURF doesn't delineate to this level. Several communities pay both the lights on the arterial streets as well as the lights interior to the sub-division.
- HURF Revenues – Gas Tax

- Arizona gas taxes were last increased in 1991
- Cars are more fuel-efficient reducing total revenue per mile driven
- Tires pressures have increased, causing the roads to see more of the loads and increase wear to the roads
- Electric and hybrid vehicles cause similar wear to the roads but don't contribute as much to the revenue stream to repair the roads
- Public Works Street Departments across the nation, including at the State and Federal level, have been asked to do the same with less for a long time
- House Bill 2899 aims to increase gas \$.06 per year over the next three years
- House Bill 2899 aims to increase registration fees for electric vehicles
- HURF Revenues – Prison closing
 - Highway Users Revenue Fund (*HURF*) – Decreases from \$2,028,423 in FY20 to \$1,752,019. This is an annual loss of \$276,404 to the HURF/Street Maintenance Fund
 - Loss of Pinal County Transportation Excise Tax (*TET*) Revenues – Decreases from \$1,274,910 in FY20 to \$1,110,121. This is an annual loss of \$164,789 to the HURF/Street Maintenance Fund
 - Total revenue reduction of \$441,193
- Conclusion
 - Revenue streams continue to decrease
 - The streets CIP is not fully funded based on the improvements needed for Hunt Highway both in terms of maintenance and widening
 - Paying for streetlights out of HURF will mean less money available for maintaining the streets, the primary purpose of HURF

Councilmember Larsen stated that though she feels that the SLIDs should be paid for by the Town, it would be irresponsible to request so, specifically with the anticipated reduction in HURF revenues.

Mr. Salas explained that HURF and TET funds are used for salaries. The various completed projects have reduced patch repairs and crack sealing as well as materials used. One of his concerns is how to find funds to widen Hunt Highway and to maintain the interior lanes because the road is used as a main highway. The City of Mesa has a separate tax that is earmarked for maintaining their roads.

Councilmember Wall inquired if the cost to install the streetlights included in the bonding. She inquired if Mesquite Trails will have a Community Facilities District (CFD).

Mr. Brent Billingsley, Town Manager, explained that the Streetlight Improvement District (SLID) does not pay for the light poles but rather for the maintenance of the infrastructure and for the monthly usage. He stated that developers have the option to establish a CFD; however, Mesquite Trails have not discussed the option of forming a CFD at this time.

Mr. Salas explained how CFDs work.

Councilmember Wall inquired if the SLIDS are mandated.

Mr. Billingsley stated that with the exception of Sunrise Estates Phase II, the Code mandates that all new development form SLIDs. They are not mandated to form a SLID because their plat was approved as a rural dark sky subdivision many years ago.

Discussion occurred on various scenarios regarding when SLIDS would be required.

Mr. Salas stated that developers can do more than what is required.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Billingsley stated that the Police Department is going to offer a Youth Citizens Police Academy for 6th – 8th grade students. Topics will include:

- Crime Scene Investigations
- Fingerprinting
- Dangerous Drugs Education
- Firearms Safety
- Equipment Demos
- Internet Safety
- Alcohol Abuse Education
- Crime Reporting
- Team Building
- Working with the Town's K-9 Officer.

Mr. Billingsley stated that the intent is to have a one-week course in June.

Mr. Billingsley stated that Police Chief Wall was elected as President of the Pinal County Law Enforcement Agency.

Mr. Billingsley stated that today, the Town released two press releases regarding COVID-19 and the coronavirus. The development that the Town has received is continually changing and staff is taking this information very seriously. Staff is in constant contact with the State, County, and local medical professionals. A State of Emergency has been declared at a Federal and State Level. The Pinal County Department of Public Health has activated their Incident Command System. Mountain Vista Medical Center is the operator of Florence Anthem Hospital and have vowed to provide the best community support possible. He said in light of this pandemic, the Town is:

- The Town is cancelling all special events through the end of April. This will include POWWOW, Eggstravaganza, Road to Country Thunder, and Movie in the Park.
- Town representatives have also reached out to the organizers of Country Thunder, Gallagher Softball Tournament, Third Fridays on Main, and the upcoming Rail 3 Ranch Rodeo to make them aware of the CDC guidance.
- The Town is cancelling all Recreation, Active Adult Center, and Library programming until Monday March 30th.
- Due to the nature of the activities performed at the Fitness Center, and our customer base, the Fitness Center is being closed until further notice.

- The Give A Lift Program is being suspended at this time, as the program depends on volunteer drivers.
- The Medical Equipment Loan Program will continue to be offered but patrons will need to contact Community Services staff at (520) 868-7040 to arrange for pickup and drop-off.
- Due to the updated CDC guidelines, and the nature of program participants, closing the Florence Active Adult Center is imperative. Getting seniors meals is a top priority, therefore we will continue the Meals on Wheels Program and are working to provide meals for pickup at the Active Adult Center, instead of hosting meals at the facility.
- Consistent with the Maricopa County Library District and several Pinal County Libraries, the Florence Library will be closed on Wednesday March 18th, until further notice.
- All room reservations at the Florence Community Center and facility rentals are suspended at this time.
- All Town parks will remain open. Park restrooms will remain open and will receive cleaning and supply service as resources allow.
- There are currently no plans to suspend the Intersession and After School Programs sponsored by the Town. Protocols are being put in place and partnerships are being researched to be sure that we can meet the community need.
- Suspended all volunteer programs because all of the Town's volunteers fall into the high-risk categories under the CDC requirements.
- Municipal Court will remain open

Mr. Billingsley asked that citizens that are not feeling well or are showing symptoms of the coronavirus not utilize the Fire Department as they have no ability to test or treat at this site. Florence Anthem Hospital is putting protocols in place for COVID-19. The Poison Control System is now a COVID-19 Call Center and asked that they be contacted if you are having symptoms.

Mr. Billingsley stated that the Florence Town Council has the ability to hold remote meetings through technological means and if it takes place, it may limit public involvement. This would mean that there would be no public hearings. All board, commission and task force meetings and all meetings have been cancelled until further notice.

Mr. Billingsley stated that the Town is working with multiple agencies to ensure that accurate information is disseminated to the public so that people can protect themselves and their families. Town departments have an established protocol and are using the appropriate precautionary measures to ensure to have an established protocol in providing service to our residents and businesses.

Vice-Mayor Anderson inquired if there are any businesses that are closed due to the pandemic.

Mr. Billingsley stated he does not know of any businesses closing due to the pandemic.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

There were no public comments.

CALL TO THE COUNCIL – CURRENT EVENTS ONLY

Councilmember Wall stated that McDonald's will only offer drive-thru service effective immediately. L & B Cantina is open for business and offers take out service.

Councilmember Larsen stated that she appreciates the public notices that are being sent out and the Council is doing its best to protect its residents.

Councilmember Cordes stated that she attended the 7th Annual Caliente Car Show. She dressed as a clown. There were 75 cars that were in attendance. She also attended the music festival; unfortunately, the attendance was low. Everyone made sure to wash their hands and to continually sanitize. She also extended her condolences to the Hawkins family.

Vice Mayor Anderson stated that he would miss Councilmember Hawkins' friendship. He was a good friend and he is saddened by his passing.

Mayor Walter stated that the attendance was low for the Music Festival. She stated that many people are electing to distance themselves. She asked that you limit your shopping to what you need so that there will be enough for everyone. She also asked that you check on others to ensure that everyone is doing well.

Councilmember Hughes stated that she is saddened with Councilmember Hawkins passing.

ADJOURNMENT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

- a. **Town's position and instruct its attorneys regarding pending litigation in Maricopa County Superior Court: Town of Florence v. Florence Copper, Inc. CV2015-000325, including counterclaims.**
- b. **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.**
- c. **Town's position and instruct its attorneys regarding pending litigation in the U.S. District Court for the District of Arizona: (Case No. CV-14-01304-PHX-DMF) Walt Hunter and Jarris A.H. Varnrobinson Von Zombie v. Town of Florence, et al.**
- d. **Town's position on purchasing, leasing and or selling land.**

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

ADJOURNMENT FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

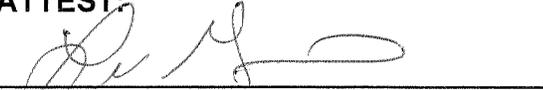
ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Councilmember Cordes, seconded by Councilmember Larsen, and carried (6-0) to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 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 March 16, 2020, and that the meeting was duly called to order and that a quorum was present.



Lisa Garcia, Town Clerk