

MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF FLORENCE SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2020, AT 4:00 P.M., IN THE FLORENCE TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, LOCATED AT 775 N. MAIN STREET, FLORENCE, ARIZONA.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Walter called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Tara Walter

Telephonically: John Anderson, Karen Wall, Kristen Larsen, Michelle Cordes, Judy Hughes

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion/Approval/Disapproval of the Town of Florence declaring a local emergency.

Mr. Brent Billingsley, Town Manager, stated that he, along with Mayor Walter and Fire Chief David Strayer attended the Pinal County Board of Supervisor's Meeting today in which they discussed several items pertaining to the COVID 19. He stated that Town staff is monitoring the situation around the clock. They have also attended a variety of meetings pertaining to COVID 19 virus.

Mr. Billingsley stated that at the Pinal County Board of Supervisor's Meeting, the Pinal County Department of Public Health Director provided a presentation in which he discussed the status of the virus nationally, statewide, countywide, and locally. Other items discussed were things that they are emphasizing amongst Pinal County and its employees, amongst other governmental entities, healthcare organizations in Pinal County and advice for the public.

Mr. Billingsley stated that the Town has set up a specific link for specific resources regarding COVID 19 resources on the Town's website.

Mr. Billingsley stated that following the Pinal County meeting, he has had meetings with the Town's Management Team as well as the Town's Emergency Response Team. The things that Pinal County asked the Town to consider include the following, but they may not all be implemented at the same time, are:

- Implement changes to visitor policies in public areas
 - Meeting with more than 10 people will be conducted telephonically
 - Postings advising people if they feel ill or having symptoms to not enter the building and do business telephonically and report to a healthcare professional for assistance.
- The doors to the Administration portion of the building will be locked and all visitors will be sent to the window to obtain assistance.
- The Town is working with the Anthem Hospital with regards to CDCs recommendations regarding triage of patients.
 - Mountain Vista Medical Center put out a press release and he encouraged everyone to read it.
- Have been asked to actively monitor health of Town employees
 - Town will implement same policies as Pinal County.
- Monitoring of personal protective equipment (ppe)

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- Ensure that the Town has enough supplies for employees who are coming into contact with the public
- Proper training on how to use equipment
- Federal reserve of emergency equipment and supplies has been released
 - Arizona will receive supplies
 - Florence has submitted their order
- Town is encouraging places of gatherings (church, restaurant, etc.) where 10 or more are gathered to practice social distancing.
 - Social distancing is a six-foot requirement between individuals.
 - Discussing ways to serve special-needs population of the Town
 - The Town is cancelling all gatherings of more than 10 people.
 - Management Team meetings will be held telephonically.
 - Certain employees are in the at-risk population
 - Working with IT Department to ensure they can telework.
- All non-essential work travel has been cancelled.
- Health screening of employees
 - Sending employees home and suggesting medical care if they are exhibiting symptoms
- Considering alternate work schedules or staggering times for employees
- Educating employees
 - Have provided information via mailers and flyers from the Human Resources Department regarding the virus and to have a household plan in terms of how to react and stress awareness.
- Advising everyone to not have large gatherings or to travel in order to limit exposure

Mr. Billingsley stated that Pinal County's next meeting is on March 20, 2020 to consider their emergency declaration. The governments in Pinal County are working together to ensure consistency. He noted that certain processes have been put in place to ease procurement requirements to free up funding and to shorten time frames for decision making regarding key decisions as it pertains to this pandemic.

On motion of Councilmember Wall, seconded by Councilmember Larsen, and carried (6-0) to declare a local emergency.

Emergency Proclamation issued by Mayor Walter Declaring a Local Emergency in the Town Florence.

Mayor Walter read the proclamation into the record, which states:

**TOWN OF FLORENCE
EMERGENCY PROCLAMATION
DECLARING A LOCAL EMERGENCY IN THE TOWN OF FLORENCE**

WHEREAS, A.R.S. § 26-311 authorizes the Mayor of the Town of Florence, Arizona or her designee to proclaim the existence or threatened existence of a local emergency when the Town of Florence is affected or likely to be affected by a public calamity; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Florence adopted Resolution No. 1034-07 adopting the Town of Florence Emergency Response and Recovery Plan (the "Florence Emergency Response Plan"); and

WHEREAS, the novel coronavirus, COVID-19, was first detected in Wuhan Town, Hubei Province, China in December 2019, and the Centers for Disease Control ("CDC") considers this virus to be a significant public health threat that has, and continues to spread globally; and

WHEREAS, on January 30, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the COVID-19 illness a public health emergency of international concern and on January 31, 2020 the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services declared a public health emergency due to the COVID-19 illness; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, Governor of the State of Arizona, Douglas A. Ducey, determined that the COVID-19 outbreak presents conditions in Arizona that justified his declaration of a State of Emergency; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States of America, Donald J. Trump, found and proclaimed that the COVID-19 outbreak in the United States constituted a national emergency; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention-in an effort to control the COVID-19 outbreak-are currently recommending social distancing, the cancellation of non-essential large gatherings of more than 50 people, and that individuals older than 60 years of age, and those with chronic medical conditions should not attend gatherings of more than 10 people; and

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, the President of the United States of America, Donald J. Trump, issued "The President's Coronavirus Guidelines for America: 15 Days to Slow the Spread," which recommends that all individuals avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10 people; and

WHEREAS, the Town continues to plan and prepare for event and facility closures, modified staffing plans, work-from-home programs, and enhanced communications to employees to ensure effective continuity of operations of the Town's government; and

WHEREAS, prudence requires that precautionary measures be taken proactively due to the widespread nature of COVID-19 and its threat to public health, safety, and welfare as referenced in the Governor's Declaration of Emergency, and that impacts from the same threaten public health and safety and the economic recovery of Florence; and

WHEREAS, the widespread nature of COVID-19 constitutes an immediate threat to life, public health, safety, and welfare, and to the economic recovery of Florence; and

WHEREAS, this local declaration of emergency will help ensure the economic recovery of Florence and mitigate the spread of COVID-19, protect the public health, and provide essential protections to vulnerable Florence residents, and it is reasonable and necessary to impose limited and temporary restrictions on certain uses in our community; and

WHEREAS, the immediate threat of COVID-19 is widespread across the State and precautionary measures are necessary to curtail the imminent impact on numerous homes and businesses in

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Florence because it is a threat to the health, safety, and welfare of the general public in Florence;
and

WHEREAS, the above facts give credence to the conditions of extreme peril and public health emergency; and the declaration of a local emergency will enable the Town of Florence to provide emergency resources, request additional resources and receive mutual aid from other political sub-divisions and entities and, thereafter, to impose all necessary regulations to preserve the peace and order of the Town.

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY PROCLAIMED AND DECLARED as follows:

Section 1. Pursuant to the Code of the Town of Florence, Arizona ("Town Code"), Section 33.01, and A.R.S. Section 26-311(A), a local emergency now exists throughout the Town of Florence, Arizona due to the COVID-19 outbreak which presents conditions in the Town that endanger life and justifies this proclamation.

Section 2. Pursuant to the Town Code, Section 33.15, the Town of Florence's Emergency Response Plan is hereby reaffirmed, adopted and incorporated herein by reference as if set out in full.

Section 3. Pursuant to A.R.S. Section 26-308, the Florence Town Manager is hereby appointed as the Town of Florence Local Emergency Director ("Local Emergency Director") of all local emergency management programs within the Town of Florence, including the programs enumerated in the Florence Emergency Response Plan.

Section 4. The Local Emergency Director may make, amend and rescind orders, rules and regulations necessary for emergency functions but such shall not be inconsistent with orders, rules and regulations promulgated by the Governor of Arizona or the Mayor of the Town of Florence.

Section 5. The Town Manager is ordered, directed, and authorized to implement any and all actions necessary to carry out the intent of this Proclamation.

Section 6. During the existence of said local emergency, the powers, functions, and duties of the emergency organization of this Town shall be those prescribed by State Law, by Ordinances, and Resolutions of Town of Florence.

Section 7. Citizens are urged to cooperate with this emergency declaration and, to every degree possible, abide by and cooperate with the safety announcements, advisories, and restrictions established the community's public safety agencies and emergency services personnel.

Section 8. Town facilities will remain open for the time being but programs, events, and activities that are not essential will be suspended until further notice. Further details regarding suspended programs, events, and activities will be forthcoming. Closures of Town facilities may occur as needed in the future and the Town, acting through the Local Emergency Director and/or Mayor, will monitor those needs on an ongoing basis.

Section 9. *This Proclamation shall remain in full force and effect until amended or terminated by order of the Mayor of the Town of Florence.*

PURSUANT TO A.R.S. §38-431.02, as amended, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to the general public that during the declared State of Emergency a possible quorum of the Florence Town Council may be in attendance during the periodic County Health Emergency Operations Center and incident debriefs, however, no formal discussion/action will be taken by members in their role as the Florence Town Council.

PROCLAIMED, DECLARED, AND ADOPTED BY THE MAYOR OF THE TOWN OF FLORENCE, ARIZONA THIS 18TH DAY OF MARCH 2020.

Mayor Walter stated that the Town is following the guidelines put forth by the CDC, President Trump, and Governor Ducey. The guidelines are recommendations and the Town is not making them enforceable. She stated that she has been in contact with local businesses and some have made the choice to close to the public, while others have made their services available telephonically. The Town is honoring the decisions of our business owners. Many restaurants will remain open but will only offer take out service and some may offer delivery as well.

Mayor Walter pointed out that the grocery shelves look bare; however, there is product available and we need to be patient while they stock the shelves. She asked that you please patronize our local businesses.

Mayor Walter stated that there are policies and protocols in place to ensure the safety of our employees and residents.

CALL TO THE COUNCIL – CURRENT EVENTS ONLY

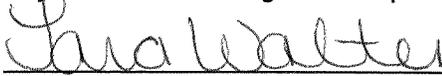
Councilmember Hughes asked everyone to be safe.

Vice-Mayor Anderson stated that it is important to help our local businesses.

Councilmember Wall thanked everyone who has helped prepare the Town during the pandemic and asked that we assist our local businesses.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Vice-Mayor Anderson, seconded by Councilmember Hughes, and carried (6-0) to adjourn the meeting at 4:24 pm.



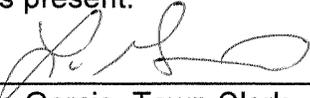
Tara Walter, Mayor

ATTEST:



Lisa Garcia, Town Clerk

I certify that the following is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Florence Town Council meeting held on March 18, 2020, and that the meeting was duly called to order and that a quorum was present.



Lisa Garcia, Town Clerk