

MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF FLORENCE COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, MAY 4, 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 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Present: *Tara Walter, John Anderson, Karen Wall, Kristen Larsen, Michelle Cordes
(*All Councilmembers appeared by Video Conference via Zoom)

Absent: 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.

There were no public comments.

PRESENTATIONS

Proclaim May 2020 as Water Safety Month.

Mr. John Nixon, Interim Community Services Director, stated water safety is important for anyone around water. National Water Safety Month is an annual awareness campaign coordinated by the Association of Pool & Spa Professionals with support from the National Recreation & Parks Association, the American Red Cross and the World Waterpark Association.

Mr. Nixon stated that these organizations represent businesses and other individuals and agencies involved in bringing safe, enjoyable aquatic activities to the American public, from home pools and spas, to waterparks and resort, to public swimming and water recreation facilities.

Mr. Nixon stated that all department facilities are closed, and programming is suspended in compliance with the Governor's executive orders regarding COVID-19. It is unknown when restrictions will be lifted; however, when orders are issued to lift closures and restrictions, they will

Town of Florence Council Meeting Minutes

May 4, 2020

Page 1 of 7

then celebrate Water Safety Month with the annual Water Safety Day and season opening of the Aquatic Center. There will be a delay from when the orders are lifted and when they actually open because staff will still need to be trained and certified before they can open to the public.

Mayor Walter played a slide show of her reading the proclamation and declaring May 2020 as Water Safety Month.

Proclaim May 2020 as Historic Preservation Month.

Ms. Barbara Rice, Community Development Director, stated that the month of May is designated as National Historic Preservation Month throughout the country. By proclaiming May 2020 as Historic Preservation Month, the Town has the opportunity to highlight the contributions that historic preservation makes throughout Florence.

Ms. Rice stated that the celebration of National Historic Preservation Month gives the Town of Florence the opportunity to recognize our community's integrity as well as the individuals who have contributed their time and expertise to improving that integrity. Historic preservation provides an opportunity for all residents to be meaningfully involved in preserving the history of our community. The full benefits of historic preservation require the whole community to understand, support and demand excellence in the preservation of the historic fabric of their community.

Mayor Walter played a slide show of her reading the proclamation and declaring May 2020 as Historic Preservation Month.

Redevelopment Plan and General Plan updates due to COVID-19 precautions.

Ms. Rice stated that the Redevelopment Plan is on track and moving forward. The 2nd Public Open House was held on March 12, 2020 and there were approximately 30 participants who had the opportunity to review the potential land use map and several development scenarios. The input was gathered by the consultants and they are using the feedback to prepare a draft document. The online citizen's survey will remain on the Town's website to receive any additional comments. Staff expects to receive an initial draft around the first of May but may change due to the Covid-19 restrictions. Public Participation will continue once the COVID-19 precautions are lifted. That participation will include public meetings with the Planning and Zoning Commission, the Historic District Advisory Commission and, ultimately, the Town Council for adoption. They are still compliant with the Scope of Work per the contract. A hard timeline is not specified in the contract and, as such, no amendment to the original contract is necessary at this time.

Ms. Rice stated that regarding the General Plan Update, the Town's consultant is still in the research and data gathering stage of the project. The Scope of Work does not anticipate formal public input to be initiated until around mid-summer of this year. Staff is currently working with the consultant on gathering information and other preliminary work. We anticipate receiving initial data to review in the near future. They are still compliant with the Scope of Work per the contract. A hard timeline is not specified in the contract and, as such, no amendment to the original contract is necessary at this time. The only time sensitive issue might be at the end of the project in order to meet the schedule for a fall 2022 public vote as prescribed by State Statute.

Vice-Mayor Anderson inquired if there is a target date for the draft.

Ms. Rice stated that a target date has not be set as the consultants are also following Governor Ducey's Executive Order and they too have personnel restrictions regarding the Covid-19 pandemic. There may be an approximate 30-day delay from the original anticipated date.

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.

Resolution No. 1737-20:

Mayor Walter read Resolution No. 1737-20 by title only.

Adoption of A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF FLORENCE, PINAL COUNTY, ARIZONA, AUTHORIZING THE TOWN TO ENTER INTO A GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF TUCSON POLICE DEPARTMENT REGARDING THE ARIZONA HIGH INTENSITY DRUG TRAFFICKING AREA. (Bruce Walls/Jennifer Evans)

Resolution No. 1738-20:

Mayor Walter read Resolution No. 1738-20 by title only.

Adoption of A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF FLORENCE, PINAL COUNTY, ARIZONA, DESIGNATING THE CHIEF FISCAL OFFICER FOR OFFICIALLY SUBMITTING THE FISCAL YEAR 2021 EXPENDITURE LIMITATION REPORT TO THE ARIZONA AUDITOR GENERAL. (Rebecca Jimenez)

Authorization to contract with SJ Anderson Company, to address age and weather-related deterioration of the exterior of Town Hall, in an amount not to exceed \$58,623.92. (Chris Salas)

Approval of accepting the register of demands ending March 31, 2020, in the amount of \$2,021,754.84. (Rebecca Jimenez)

On motion of Vice-Mayor Anderson and Councilmember Wall, seconded by Councilmember Larsen, and carried (5-0) to approve the Consent Agenda, as written.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion/Approval/Disapproval of a contract with Terracon Consultants Inc., for construction material testing, in an amount not to exceed \$150,000 and void the existing professional services contract entered into on September 3, 2019.

Mr. Chris Salas, Public Works Director, stated that the Town previously entered into a contract with Terracon Consultants, Inc. for construction material testing consulting services related to geotechnical investigations as well as soil reports for structural design of roadways. The Town has already used the approved amount for the original contract for an asbestos investigation, a

Town of Florence Council Meeting Minutes

May 4, 2020

Page 3 of 7

geotechnical investigation and some construction materials testing. There are other projects that they would like to use Terracon Consultants Inc. for; however, they will need to enter into another contract for funding.

Vice-Mayor Anderson inquired what the \$150,000 will be used for.

Mr. Salas stated that they will utilize them for construction materials testing for the Arizona Farms Road Overlay Project and Hunt Highway Project, for an approximate amount of \$40,000. The rest would be used for future projects.

Vice-Mayor Anderson inquired what line item will be expensed.

Mr. Salas stated that it will be expensed from HURF funds.

On motion of Councilmember Wall, seconded by Vice-Mayor Anderson, and carried (5-0) to approve the contract with Terracon Consultants Inc., for construction material testing, in an amount not to exceed \$150,000 and void the existing professional services contract entered into on September 3, 2019.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Brent Billingsley, Town Manager, stated that The Town of Florence Transportation Planning Study was completed in draft form on January 3, 2020. It was advertised for public comment from January 7, 2020 to January 21, 2020 with the second public open house meeting held on January 21, 2020. Outside of Town staff, the project had over 32 participants attend two public open house meetings to provide comments and input. Input and guidance was also provided throughout the process from three meetings of the Technical Advisory Committee that included 20 participants, including representatives from the Town of Florence, CAG, Pinal County, Central Arizona Regional Transit (CART), ADOT, MAG, and Pulte Homes. All comments were integrated into a final document on February 28, 2020. There is a future presentation planned once the pandemic is better under control to present the final form. There will be one final public hearing which will take place once the Council meetings are open to the public to attend in person. The hearings scheduled in April have been pushed to May and now to June.

Mr. Billingsley provided an update on Covid-19. The numbers continue to increase, which is due to increased testing. They are as follows:

Covid-19 Cases:

In Arizona: 8,918 confirmed cases
 362 deaths

In Pinal County: 468 confirmed cases
 13 deaths

In Florence Zip Code: 75 confirmed cases

Mr. Billingsley stated that Governor Ducey held a press conference in which he discussed re-opening the Arizona economy starting on May 8, 2020 in which barbers and salons will be able to

Town of Florence Council Meeting Minutes

May 4, 2020

Page 4 of 7

re-open in a limited capacity and will need to adhere to the CDCs guidelines. Restaurants will be permitted to open on May 11, 2020 and they too must follow the CDCs guidelines. The State is still under the Stay Home Initiative, unless you are considered essential services, and they will re-evaluate it on May 15, 2020. The State is still recommending telecommute and telework as a best practice.

Mr. Billingsley stated with regards to Covid-19, they are as follows:

Eyman Unit	5 confirmed cases
Florence	47 confirmed cases with an additional 13 pending tests
ADOC	46 staff members with confirmed cases; 24 staff members have recovered
ICE Facility	10 confirmed cases
GEO	Information not provided
Core Civic	Information not provided

Mr. Billingsley stated that the Police Department is now operating on 12-hour shifts which the officers have requested this for several years. He had been working with Chief Dan Hughes (retired chief) since last year to implement the change. The change in shift hours increases staffing levels from four officers to five and there will be a sergeant on each shift. There will also be a reduction in overtime. He explained the benefits in working as teams and the growth that can occur from this change.

Mayor Walter inquired about the database that the prison utilizes to report their COVID-19 cases. She stated that there have been deaths in the 85132 zip code; however, the prison numbers for COVID-19 are not showing up on the zip code report. She stated that the numbers vary based on what report or agency you speak with. Unfortunately, staff tries to use the best information they receive. There seems to be mathematical discrepancies on the various reports and within the various agencies.

Mr. Billingsley stated that per Governor Ducey's most recent address, the Governor stated that he is reinvigorating the economy by allowing some businesses to reopen. He is meeting with the Department Managers as well as meeting with Pinal County to discuss how to proceed with re-opening. One consideration is to move from Phase 2 to Phase 1, which could mean opening up some of the Town's facilities; however, this is just in the discussion phase.

Mayor Walter thanked Police Chief Bruce Walls for him and his staff's services and added patrol on Main Street; specifically, with regards to the most recent issues.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

There were no public comments.

CALL TO THE COUNCIL – CURRENT EVENTS ONLY

Councilmember Larsen asked the public to support local businesses and is looking forward to some unique ways to socialize while still keeping the citizens safe.

Councilmember Wall stated that she attended the virtual Pinal Partnership Meeting. It is interesting how various communities are dealing with the COVID-19 Pandemic slowdown. Mr.

Town of Florence Council Meeting Minutes

May 4, 2020

Page 5 of 7

Billingsley did a great job presenting Florence's challenges, specifically as it relates to the prisons in our community. Some of the suggestions included:

- Drive through library
- Cross-training amongst employees
- Budget planning – is challenging
- How best to restart the Town services and businesses being impacted

Councilmember Wall stated that the week of May 3 – May 9, 2020 is National Clerk's Week. She thanked Ms. Garcia for her service to the Town and for all that she does for the Council.

Councilmember Wall inquired if the POWWOW event for May 23, 2020 has been cancelled.

Mr. Billingsley stated that it has not been decided as of yet if there will be a POWWOW event in May. If so, it will be advertised on the Town's social media platforms.

Councilmember Cordes stated that other communities have had POWWOW events throughout the state. Everything was already packaged, and you just drove through to obtain your produce. She stated that she is eager for businesses to re-open and understand everyone's concerns. She stated that she is a small business owner and has to go without a paycheck and lay off employees. The impacts are being felt worldwide and it will be quite some time before things return to normal. She asked everyone to help each other.

Vice-Mayor Anderson stated that he is disappointed that the people of Florence who are active in historical preservation cannot be recognized at this time because they are not able to attend the meeting due to social distancing. He asked that the Town do some type of recognition for them at one of the Town's events once the social distancing is lifted.

Vice-Mayor Anderson stated that the Greater Florence Chamber of Commerce has been promoting the trainings being offered.

Mayor Walter stated that some businesses have taken advantage of the trainings and two businesses have received funding.

Mayor Walter thanked everyone for their assistance in keeping the community informed. She thanked everyone who helps with historic preservation. Her hope is that the Council meetings can resume in the Council chambers in June.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Councilmember Wall, seconded by Councilmember Cordes, and carried (5-0) to adjourn the meeting at 6:42 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 May 4, 2020, and that the meeting was duly called to order and that a quorum was present.



Lisa Garcia, Town Clerk