MINUTES OF TOWN OF FLORENCE COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, AUGUST 3, 2020, AT 6:00 P.M., IN THE FLORENCE TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, LOCATED AT 775 N. MAIN STREET, FLORENCE, ARIZONA.

SPECIAL NOTICE REGARDING PUBLIC MEETINGS

Due to the risks to public health caused by the possible spread of the COVID-19 virus at public gatherings, the Town of Florence has determined that public meetings will be indefinitely held through technological means. Meetings will be open to the public through technological means. In reliance on, and in compliance with, the March 13, 2020 Opinion issued by Attorney General Mark Brnovich, and in conjunction with the Emergency Proclamation signed by Mayor Tara Walter, on March 18, 2020. The Town of Florence provides this special advance notice of the technological means through which public meetings may be accessed. While this special notice is in effect, public comment at meetings will only be accepted through written submissions, which may or may not be read aloud during meetings.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Walter called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Walter, Anderson, Wall, Larsen, Hughes
Absent: Cordes

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.

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.

Approval to enter into a contract with Zumar Industries Inc., to purchase various street, warning, and informational signs, as well as poles and pole accessories for all signage within the Town of Florence, in an amount not to exceed $35,000.

Approval of an agreement for professional services with The WATS Guys, utilizing Direct Selection, in an amount not to exceed $60,000.

Approval of accepting improvements to Anthem Merrill Ranch Unit 35B and starting the warranty period effective August 3, 2020.

Approval of the assignment and transfer of the Communications and Internet of Things Service Agreement between the Town of Florence, and Milandr, Inc., to IoT Advent, Inc.

Approval of accepting the register of demands ending June 30, 2020, in the amount of $3,101,808.78.

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

MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Brent Billingsley, Town Manager, stated that Arizona Public Service provides grants for solar. Vice-Mayor Anderson submitted an interest submission along with the Town submitting a grant application for the program. The Town was not awarded the grant initially; however, one of he originally recipients declined, and the Town was the offered the award. APS notified staff on July 28, 2020, that APS will be implementing the program for utility-owned solar distributed generation on covered parking at the Town of Florence Community Center and will install an approximate 198 kW-ac system. APS will pay all costs associated with the installation, ownership, operation and maintenance of the system. The Town will receive covered parking and rebates on its electrical bills for the next 20 years.

Mr. Billingsley stated In June, the United Food Bank reached out to the Town regarding their intent to stop providing food distribution in Florence. This decision was based on several factors; however, Florence felt like it was a much-needed service and partnered with them to continue service to the residents. United Food Bank shared with the Town what their issues were, including food storage and assistance with distribution. The Town, with a number of other entities got together and formulated a plan in which to assist.

Mr. Billingsley stated that Police Chief Bruce Walls agreed to take the lead in building collaboration between community members, non-profits, and the faith-based organizations in Town. A group of volunteers has been established, a food storage site has been identified, and our first food distribution event was held at Heritage Park on July 31, 2020, which went very well. He stated that 200 food boxes were distributed with a need for 100 more. United Food Bank will be back with the boxes for distribution.

Mr. Billingsley stated that several volunteers from Tucson, Apache Junction and several local organizations came to assist, which included: Curt Nelson, First Baptist Church, Word of Life Ministries, Desert Rock Church, Florence Baptist Church, Higher Dimensions Church, Florence

Unified School District, United Food Bank, Florence Lions Club and Town of Florence staff volunteers.

Mr. Billingsley provided an update on the following projects:

- Construction is complete on the Silver King Marketplace Balcony with the exception of light fixtures that are on backorder
- Gila River Bridge Replacement has been delayed by one year and is scheduled for 2023
- 500 Smart meters have been installation for the Smart Cities Project
  - All commercial meters have been installed
  - Currently installing residential meters
- Drunk buster vehicle has been received
  - Comes with specialized googles used to teach the youth about the dangers of drinking and driving

Mr. Billingsley outlined the various services that the Town is offering during this time. The newest service is Books on Wheels in which users of the Congregate Meal Program or Homebound Meal services, through the Senior Center, can now receive library materials through this partnership at no additional cost to the Town. The Town will also be offering Tutor-On-Demand in the near future and is seeking volunteers for anyone wishing to assist.

Mr. Billingsley outlined the following services being offered:

- Curbside service for meal pickup at the Senior Center
- Congregate Meal Program
- Shopping for Seniors
- Telephone Reassurance Program
- Give-A-Lift Program is limited at this time to medical rides only
- Zoom Phone-In Bingo will be starting soon
- Zumba in the Park will be starting soon
  - Participants will be properly distanced from one another
- Take and Make Kits
- Rec on the Go Program
- Corona Kick Rocks
- Durable Medical Equipment
- Yoga in the Park will be starting soon
- Sand Volleyball may be starting soon

Mr. Billingsley stated that staff is trying to be creative and come up with programming that are fun and get people to go out and exercise. He stated that the rock painting has been very successful and explained that the goal is to have people paint rocks and place them throughout Town. Whoever finds the rocks are to take a picture with the rock and post it on the Town's social media sites.

Mayor Walter inquired about the grant that was received for the "thumper" for the Fire Department.

Mr. Billingsley stated that the Fire Department submitted a grant and was funded for a system that is placed on a patient's chest and does chest compressions for you.

Councilmember Larsen inquired how often will the food bank take place.

Mr. Billingsley stated that initially it was to be distribution only for dry goods but has evolved to distribution and food bank and the distribution will be done on a monthly basis.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

- **Community Development**
- **Community Services**
- **Courts**
- **Finance**
- **Fire**
- **Police**
- **Public Works**

The Department Reports were received and filed.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

There were no public comments.

CALL TO THE COUNCIL – CURRENT EVENTS ONLY

Councilmember Wall stated that she is excited about the solar project at the Community Services Department. She thanked all those who assisted with the food bank and it is good to see a need being met. She congratulated the Main Street Fabric Company in the opening of their business.

Councilmember Hughes encouraged everyone to vote tomorrow.

Councilmember Larsen stated that she is proud of everything that is happening in Florence.

Vice-Mayor Anderson congratulated all of the candidates for running for office. He wished all of the candidates' good luck. He discussed the striping on the streets in the downtown area. He stated that the Town needs to do their job in cleaning up the Town and needs to restripe the downtown with better paint. He has also spoken with Chief Walls regarding the vandalism in his neighborhood in which someone has been egging cars and houses. He asked anyone to see the youth after curfew to please call the police.

Mayor Walter stated that staff will be reviewing costs for restriping. She is thankful for the projects that the Community Services Department is implementing. She encouraged everyone to know where their polling place is and to vote.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Vice-Mayor Anderson, seconded by Councilmember Larsen, and carried (5-0) to adjourn the meeting at 6:32 p.m.

T Walter

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 August 3, 2020, and that the meeting was duly called to order and that a quorum was present.

Lisa Garcia, Town Clerk