

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF FLORENCE COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, AUGUST 17, 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**

Vice-Mayor Anderson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**MOMENT OF SILENCE**

Vice-Mayor Anderson called for a moment of silence.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Vice-Mayor Anderson 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**

**Introduction of Ben Littlefield, Superintendent of Casa Grande Ruins.**

Mr. Roger Biede, Executive Director, Greater Florence Chamber of Commerce, stated that the Casa Grande Ruins is a local tourist attraction. Many will come to visit the Casa Grande Ruins and then to Florence to visit our sites.

Mr. Ben Littlefield, Superintendent of Casa Grande Ruins, stated that this is his first posting as Superintendent. He is new to Arizona. He provided a brief overview of his work history and how he became the Superintendent. He is excited to work with the local community and various groups. He outlined the following regarding the Casa Grande Ruins:

- Re-opened in June 2020, following the closure due to the pandemic
- Visitation is consistent for this period
- Eliminated the Fee Program in March 2019
- Friends Group sponsoring a pollenating garden
  - Will provide distance learning equipment to reach classrooms who otherwise would not be able to visit
- Support from Congress to expand unit boundary which includes a parcel of land that is the Town of Florence's municipal boundary.

### **Presentation regarding Florence considering becoming Autism Certified Town.**

Mr. Roger Biede, Executive Director, Greater Florence Chamber of Commerce, stated that Mesa, Arizona, has become the first autism certified town world-wide. He explained that one in six people are affected by autism and do not attend many day-to-day activities and events because of their sensory issues. The City of Mesa's Tourism Director has personal experience with a family member having autism and thought it would be great to educate the community about autism and how to work with someone who has it.

Mr. Biede suggested that the Town have a work session to discuss working towards a certification for Florence. This means that front facing and client facing employees would obtain certifications. Their level of interaction will vary on the type of certification needed. Obtaining buy-in from the many stakeholders is vital. Some things may be as simple as signage notifying someone of loud noises that may be emitted which may affect a specific sensory.

Mr. Biede outlined the benefits to a family if a city/town is autism certified.

Ms. Amy Kennett, Florence Unified School District Educator, spoke of the benefits of Florence becoming an autism certified town, which included:

- Area schools
  - Having the training can make the difference to better help the students
- Employment for those with autism
  - Can work in local businesses or open their own business
- Transportation
  - Option to be able to commute
  - Can bring them into the shops, library, etc.
- Will be treated with respect and kindness
  - Will frequent the community and businesses because they are accepted
- Specialty housing
  - Want to live independently but in a safe community

Ms. Kennett has several letters of support from local residents on becoming an autism certified town and read a letter from Sheena Smith, Educator with Florence Unified School District, as one example of the support they received.

Mr. Biede stated that there is much more to discuss, including cost and requested a work session so he can discuss this further with the Council. He stated that there has been an increase in profitability to the businesses that are located within a certified city/town as well as increase in moral and grants.

Mr. Biede stated that Mayor Walter has spoken with the Mayor of the City of Mesa and discussed grants. The cost for certification varies per individual and there will be an upfront expense. This program can affect many people.

Councilmember Cordes stated that the Florence Fudge Shop offers employment to high school students that are uniquely intellectually designed and learns life skills while employed. She thinks this is a wonderful idea and would like to have a partnership with the Florence Unified School District and various business owners where autistic children can find employment. Becoming autism certified may help them achieve their goal as well.

Ms. Lisa Garcia, Deputy Town Manager/Town Clerk, stated that the next date available for a work session will be September 14, 2020.

Councilmember Wall stated that this is an excellent opportunity since it is very important for families with autism to have the ability to participate socially, intellectually, and educationally in the public space. She is supportive of this effort. She understands that it is a large project and will entail several stakeholders; and there is a lot of education that would need to take place. It would be a measurable benefit to the Town.

### **Presentation on Enterprise Fleet Management.**

Mr. Chris Salas, Public Works Director, stated that he was skeptical of the program at first but understands that there are benefits in utilizing Enterprise Fleet Management.

Mr. John Bell, Enterprise Fleet Management, provided a presentation, in which he outlined the following:

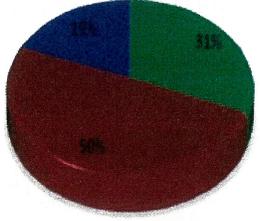
- The Enterprise Story
  - In the early 1940's Jack Taylor answered the call of duty and joined the Navy during World War II.
  - Jack was a decorated naval aviator and flew off both the USS Essex and the USS Enterprise.
  - When Jack returned home to St. Louis, he founded what would become Enterprise with seven cars in the basement of a Cadillac dealership.
  - We are still privately held and Chrissy Taylor, Jacks granddaughter, is our CEO.
  - Today, we operate two-million vehicles in over 10,000 locations. We buy and sell around one-million vehicles each year.
  - Enterprise Fleet Management has over 50 locations and manages over 500,000 vehicles. We have 20 employees in AZ.
- Current Fleet Situation

- Current fleet age is negatively impacting the overall budget and fleet operations
    - 81% of the light duty fleet is currently 10 years or older
    - 15 years is the current age of the fleet
    - 26 years is the time it would take to cycle the entire fleet at current acquisition rates
    - Older vehicles have higher fuel costs, maintenance costs, reduce productivity due to increased downtime, and less safety features.
  - Identify an effective vehicle life cycle that maximizes potential equity at time of resale creating a conservative savings of \$434,139 in 10 years
    - Shorten the current vehicle life cycle from over 25 years and 195,000 miles to three years and 25,000 miles
    - Streamlined resale process for future leased vehicles to maximize return of equity (average 12% above auction and speed of sale 10 – 20 days)
    - Over 83% reduction in maintenance costs by vehicle remaining under factory warranty coverage.
    - Continually reduce the overall fuel spend by finding the most fuel-efficient vehicle in the class and right typing the fleet to the use.
  - Increase employee safety with newer vehicles
    - Currently, 14 vehicles predate anti-lock brake standardization (2007)
    - Currently, 23 vehicles predated electronic stability control (ESC) standardization (2012)
      - ESC is the most significant safety invention since the seatbelt: (IIHS)
- Budget Model Analysis

<b>Current Fleet</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>Fleet Growth</b>	<b>-0.88%</b>	<b>Proposed Fleet</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Current Cycle</b>	<b>26.00</b>	<b>Annual Miles</b>	<b>7,900</b>	<b>Proposed Cycle</b>	<b>3.20</b>
<b>Current Maint.</b>	<b>\$200.00</b>			<b>Proposed Maint.</b>	<b>\$34.04</b>
<b>Maint. Cents Per Mile</b>	<b>\$0.30</b>	<b>Current MPG</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>Price/Gallon</b>	<b>\$2.00</b>

- Fleet Cost Analysis

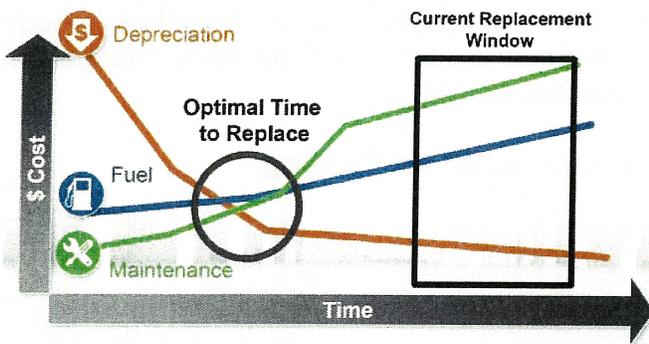
Fiscal Year	Fleet Mix				Fleet Cost							Annual
	Fleet Size	Annual Needs	Owned	Leased	Purchase	Lease*	Equity (Owned)	Equity (Leased)	Maintenance	Fuel	Fleet Budget	Net Cash
<b>Average</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>24,360</b>	<b>0</b>			<b>62,400</b>	<b>39,520</b>	<b>126,280</b>	<b>0</b>
'20	25	21	4	21	0	107,611	-59,868	-1,489	18,179	30,913	95,346	30,934
'21	25	5	0	25	0	128,727	-35,940	-78,799	10,213	29,274	53,476	72,804
'22	25	12	0	25	0	128,727	0	-21,553	10,213	29,274	146,661	-20,381
'23	25	5	0	25	0	128,727	0	-78,799	10,213	29,274	89,415	36,864
'24	25	12	0	25	0	128,727	0	-153,788	10,213	29,274	14,426	111,854
'25	25	16	0	25	0	128,727	0	-78,799	10,213	29,274	89,415	36,864
'26	25	12	0	25	0	128,727	0	-21,553	10,213	29,274	146,661	-20,381
'27	25	5	0	25	0	128,727	0	-78,799	10,213	29,274	89,415	36,864
'28	25	12	0	25	0	128,727	0	-21,553	10,213	29,274	146,661	-20,381
'29	25	5	0	25	0	128,727	0	-211,033	10,213	29,274	-42,819	169,099



■ Fuel ■ Maintenance ■ Purchase

<b>10 Year Savings</b>	<b>\$434,139</b>	<b>Avg. Sustainable Savings</b>	<b>\$40,413</b>
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- Effective Vehicle Life Cycle



- Safety



Vice-Mayor Anderson inquired how much time will it take to replace all of the Town's vehicles.

Mr. Bell stated that they would lease 21 vehicles the first year and five the following year. Based on current budget, it may need to be extended an additional year. They are flexible to assist the Town with their needs.

Mr. Salas stated that the Town has a CIP which outlines the vehicles that are to be replaced. Mr. Bell is proposing a series of vehicles that can be leased for the same price in the first year. The Town will be able to get more for the actual expenditure under the first limit. The budget was already set when staff researched the program. Staff could bolster the budget for the next year if the Town would like to lease more vehicles. Initially, they only were looking at Public Works Fleet and has now grown Town-wide. The inclination is to replace more Police vehicles. They would be leasing eight police vehicles rather than purchase three. His concern is to ensure that they save money in the long run. The purpose of the presentation is to give the Council an opportunity to familiarize themselves with the possibility of utilizing this program and the option of moving forward with this in the near future.

Councilmember Cordes inquired about the specialized equipment that is installed in public safety vehicles. She inquired how the Town is absorbing the cost of removing the equipment and re-installing the equipment on the new vehicle every two years. She asked if the public safety vehicles come equipped with everything that is needed. She asked what happens to the equipment when they sell the vehicles.

Mr. Bell stated that the vehicles come fully outfitted. They work with the Town's current vendor to get the vehicles fully outfitted. They are able to save money by shortening the life cycle. When keeping the vehicle longer, you are not able to use the same parts because the vehicle's body style change and the parts cannot be re-used. They can predict when the body change will happen, and they can reuse up to 50% of the installed equipment.

Ms. Garcia read the questions posed in the chat, which included the following:

Mike, no last name provided, inquired if the Town is self-insured.

Ms. Garcia explained that the Town is insured through Southwest Risk and is not self-insured.

Ms. Courtney Ramirez, Florence resident, inquired why Florence does not shop local, such as Garrett Motors for the vehicles.

Ms. Garcia explained that the Town bids the vehicles through the bid process and explained how the bid process works.

Councilmember Wall stated that all of the Town vehicles have GPS and asked if that equipment will be transferred to the leased vehicles.

Mr. Salas stated that the equipment will be transferred. Enterprise uses a GPS system and it will be integrated.

Councilmember Wall inquired what the total amount of vehicles that the Town has.

Mr. Salas stated that the Town has slightly more than 50 vehicles.

Councilmember Hughes inquired what will happen to the personnel who handle fleet maintenance.

Mr. Salas stated that the plan is to move one of the employees into the Wastewater Department so there will be no loss of jobs. They will not be able to continue with the same amount of mechanics. They will still need mechanics to do the work on Public Works vehicles.

Vice-Mayor Anderson inquired about the grants to purchase vehicles. How can that funding be used.

Mr. Salas stated that they will need to review the details of the grant to determine how the funds can be used. He will discuss this with Mr. Bell and Ms. Jennifer Evans, Management Analyst.

Mr. Salas explained how the savings is derived from leasing a vehicle versus purchasing a vehicle. Enterprises has the capability of offloading the vehicles through their million plus sales that they do countrywide, which is something the Town is not able to do.

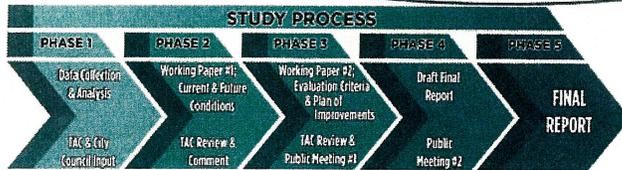
**Presentation on the Florence Transportation Study.**

Mr. Salas explained the various avenues that the public could view the Florence Transportation Planning Study and provide public input. All comments were incorporated, and the presentation is for the final version of the Florence Transportation Planning Study.

Kevin Kugler, Project Manager, Michael Baker International, provided a presentation in which he outlined the following for the Florence Transportation Planning Study:

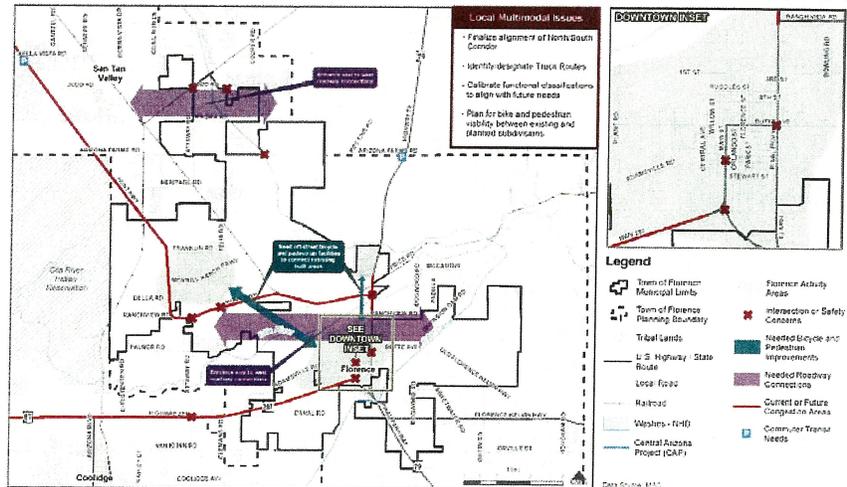
- Project Status

- TASK 1:** Develop Project Work Plan
- TASK 2:** TAC Meeting # 1
- TASK 3:** Town Council Briefing
- TASK 4:** Working Paper #1
- TASK 5:** TAC Meeting #2
- TASK 6:** Working Paper #2
- TASK 7:** TAC Meeting #3
- TASK 8:** Public Meeting #1
- TASK 9:** Draft Final Report
- TASK 10:** Public Meeting #2
- TASK 11:** Town Council Briefing
- TASK 12:** Public Involvement Summary
- TASK 13:** Final Report



- Transportation Needs and Issues

- ▶ Improve E/W Connectivity
- ▶ Functional Classifications
- ▶ Roadway Cross sections
- ▶ Safety Considerations
- ▶ Bike & Ped Mobility – connection Merrill Ranch, Five Parks and downtown
- ▶ Town Regulations & Policies – site triangle, bus bay, truck routes, subdivision connectivity

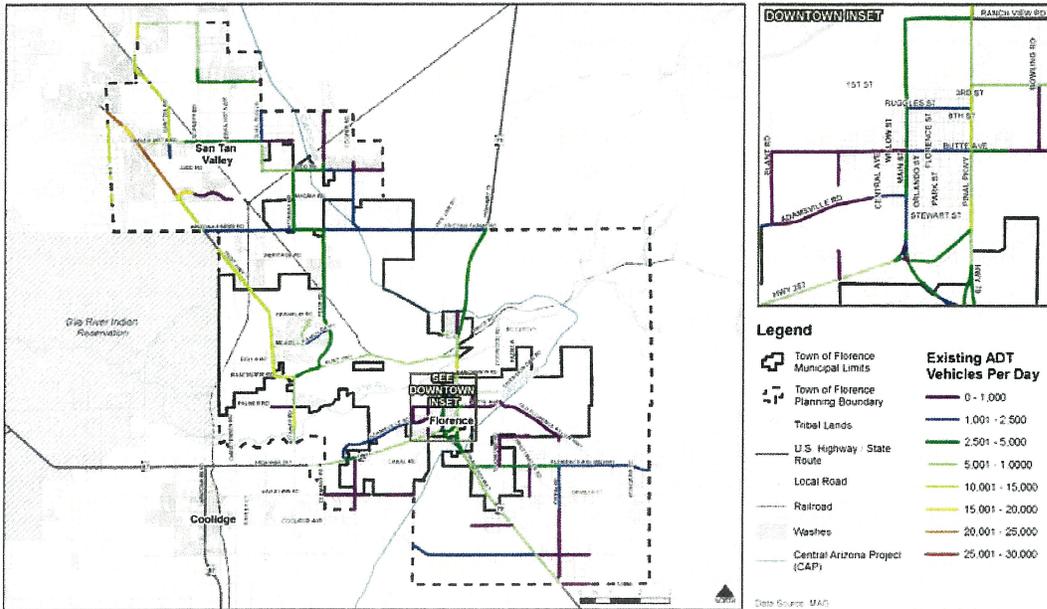


- Future Growth & Vehicle Trip Projections

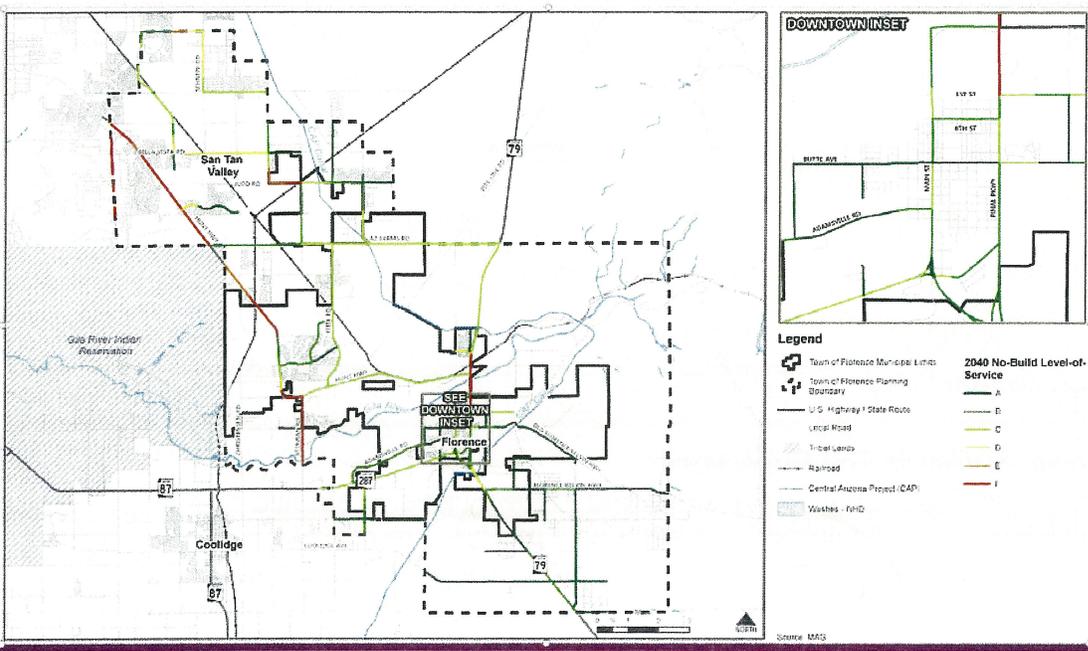
- Evaluated existing average daily traffic and roadway level of service
- Existing transportation plan reflects surplus capacity – pre-recession condition
- Collaborated with MAG in preparing the travel demand model for Florence
- Process included sorting out some glitches in MAG data sets, led to delays

- LOS is determined by the ratio of traffic volume on the roadway versus the capacity of the roadway
- Apply 2040 growth projections against the 2015 roadway network
- Analysis of growth rates for every roadway conducted = average annual growth rate of 4%
- 4% growth rate is fairly progressive and exceeds annual population growth rate = confidence in the results

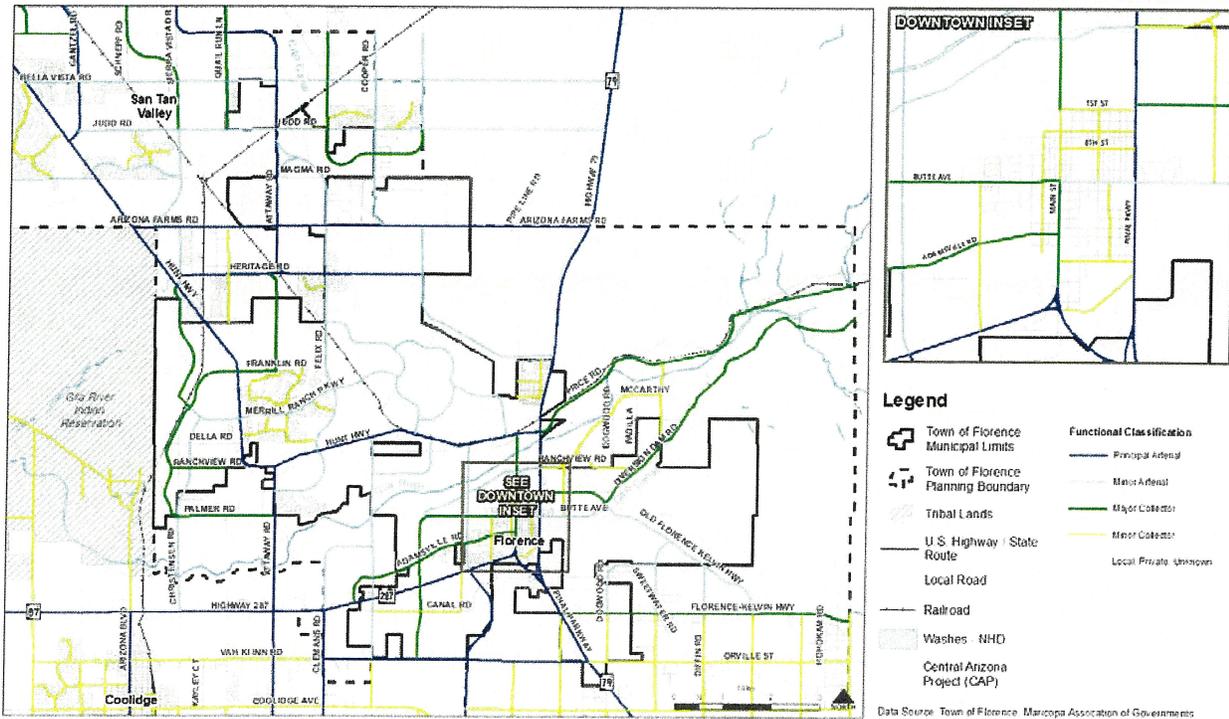
- Existing Average Daily Traffic (ADT)



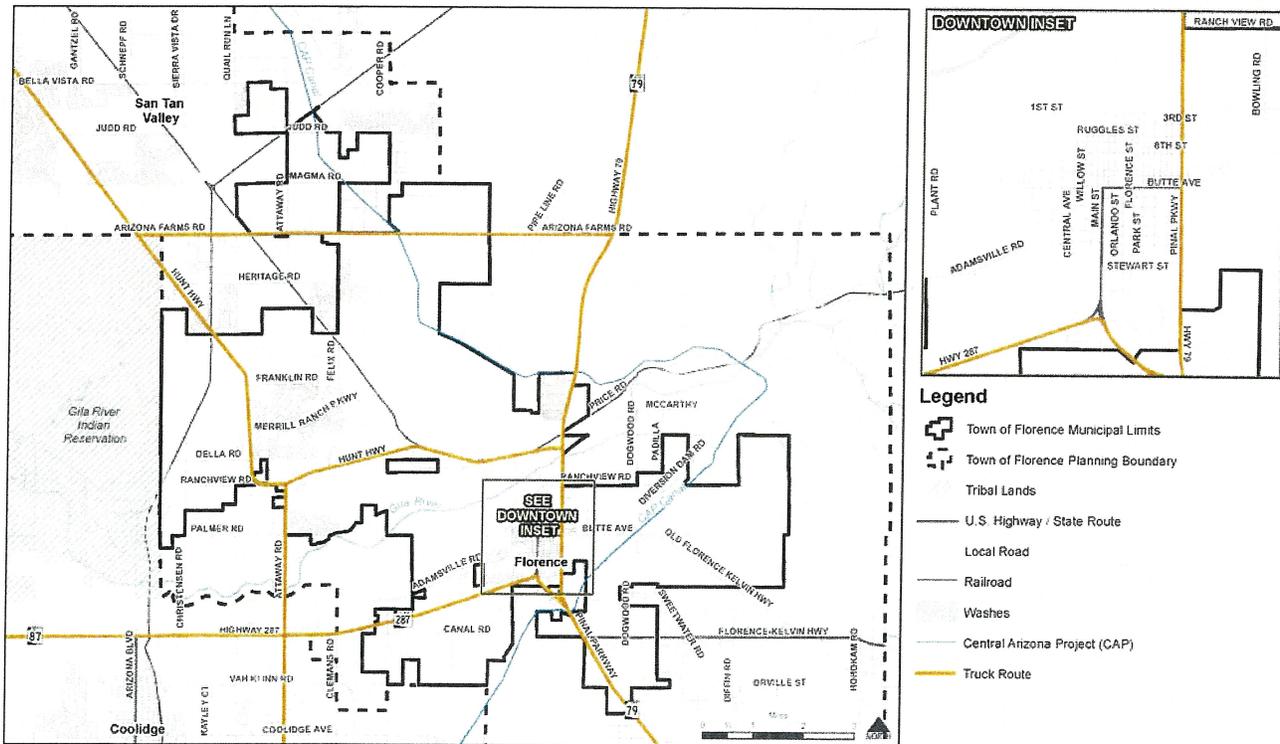
- 2040 No Build Level of Services



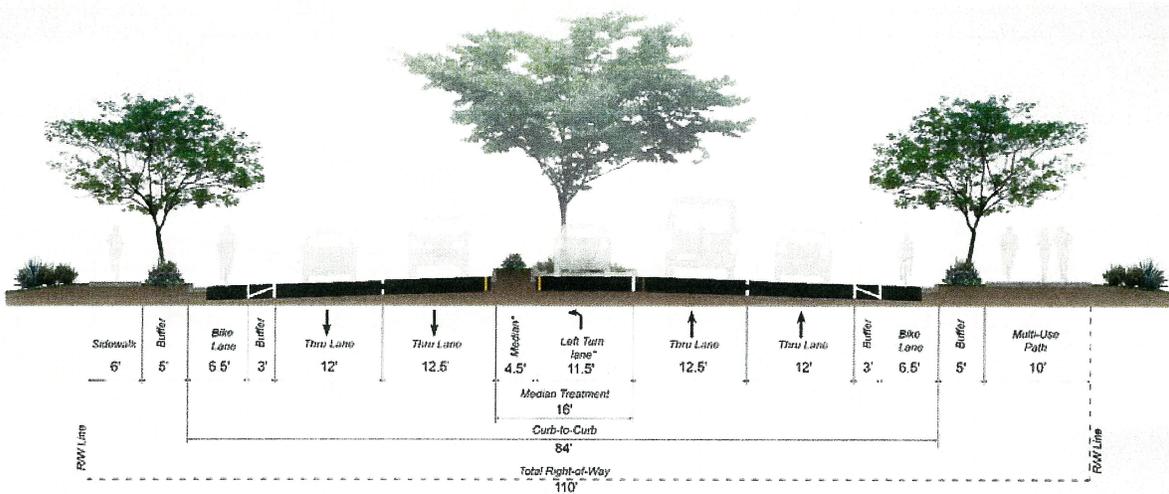
- 2040 Functional Classification Map



- Truck Routing Plan



- Sample Roadway Cross Section



**Typical Design Features**

Right-of-Way Width	Number of Lanes	Average Daily Traffic	Design Speed Limit	Posted Speed Limit	Cost Per Mile
110 feet	4 Lanes	25,000 – 30,000 ADT	45-55 MPH	45 MPH	\$1,357,249*

\*Costs include all items shown in Cross section divided by total number of vehicular lanes

- Recommended Roadway Improvements

Roadway Segment	2040 No Builds		2040 Built		Implementation Phase <sup>1</sup>	Cost <sup>2</sup>
	# of Lanes	LOS	# of Lanes	LOS		
Judd Road: Quail Run Road to Attaway Road	2	E	4	B	Short-Term: Coordinate with Pinal County	\$2,714,498
					Mid-/Long-Term: Construct upon annexation	
Quail Run Road: Judd Road to 0.5 miles North	2	E	3	B	Short-Term: Coordinate with Pinal County	\$1,141,980
					Mid-/Long-Term: Construct upon annexation	
Hunt Highway: Stone Creek Drive to Paseo Fino Way	4	F	6	C	Short-Term: Coordinate with Pinal County	\$2,128,878
					Mid-/Long-Term: Construct upon annexation	

Hunt Highway: Paseo Fino Way to Bella Vista Road	3	E	6	B	Short-Term: Coordinate with Pinal County	\$1,232,508
					Mid-/Long-Term: Construct upon annexation	
Hunt Highway: Bella Vista to Arizona Farms Road	2	F	6	B	Short-Term: Coordinate with Pinal County	\$10,644,387
					Mid-/Long-Term: Construct upon annexation	
Hunt Highway: S. of AZ Farms Road to Mirage Avenue	2	E	F	B	Short-Term: Coordinate with Pinal County	\$4,885,214
					Mid-/Long-Term: Construct upon annexation	
Hunt Highway: Mirage Avenue to Franklin Road	2	F	4	C	Near-Term Construction	\$3,473,432
Hunt Highway: Fire Station #2 to Attaway Road	2	F	4	C	Near-Term Construction	\$1,747,920
SR 79: Gila Drive to Hunt Highway	2	F	4	C	Mid-Term Construction	\$1,568,647
SR 79: Hunt Highway to Ranch View Road	2	F	4	D	Long-Term Construction	\$1,680,693
SR 79: Ranch View Road to 1 <sup>st</sup> St	2	F	4	C	Long-Term Construction	\$1,187,690
Attaway Road: South of Hunt Highway <sup>3</sup>	2	F	4	C	Mid-Term Construction	\$13,653,927
<b>Total Cost</b>						<b>\$21,787,071</b>

<sup>1</sup> The Implementation Phase is a recommendation and is subject to change. Near-Term refers to 0-5 years, Mid-Term is 5-10 years, and Long-Term is 10+ years after publication

<sup>2</sup> Cost estimates are to be considered preliminary planning-level cost estimates

<sup>3</sup> First half-mile of this recommendation is within Town of Florence limits and coordination with Pinal County is required for the southern extension.

- Recommended Intersection Safety Improvements

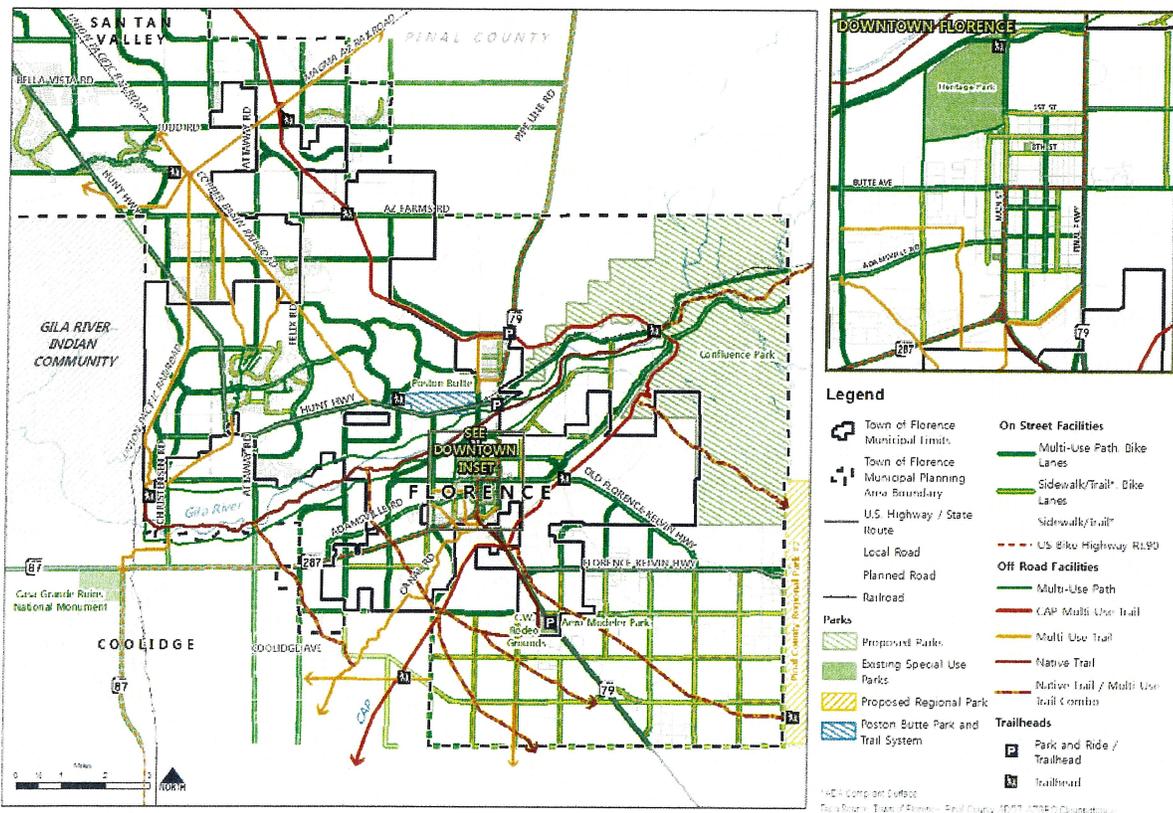
<b>Intersection Location</b>	<b>Concern</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Implementation Phase<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Cost<sup>2</sup></b>
Hunt Highway/ Felix Road	Incomplete Intersection, poor lighting, sight visibility.	Install lighting at the intersection, refresh painting, install edge lines, intersection improvements to increase visibility.	Short-Term (design currently underway)	\$65,100
Hunt Highway/ Arizona Farms Road	Elevated intersection, no lighting, tight radius.	Reevaluate radii, install lighting, refresh pavement marking.	Short-Term (Pinal County design currently underway)	\$37,580
Felix Road/ Judd Road	Lighting, sight visibility	Intersection improvement to improve sight visibility, lighting on the west side of Felix Road and on Judd Road	Long-Term	\$50,174
Hunt Highway/ Attaway Road	Sight visibility, high northbound right-turn volumes	Intersection improvement to improve sight visibility, lighting on the west side of Felix Road and on Judd Road	Short-Term	\$32,777
Hunt Highway/ SR 79	Heavy eastbound right-turn traffic volumes, safety.	Install an eastbound right-turn lane, install a traffic signal, restripe the intersection, install rumble strips.	Short-Term (In conjunction with ADOT bridge project to signalize the intersection in 2021)	\$39,645
SR 287/ Attaway Road	High number of crashes, education and enforcement issues.	Coordinate with Coolidge to complete an RSA.	Short-Term	\$25,000
SR 79/ SR 287	Capacity issues.	Roundabout is currently in the design phases.	Short-Term	N/A
Hunt Highway/ Bella Vista Road	Safety - high number of crashes, lot of	Coordinate with Pinal County to complete an RSA,	Short-Term	\$25,000

	rear-ends and left-turns.	evaluate left-turn phases, review signal timing and clearance intervals.		
Bella Vista Road/ Gantzel Road	Safety – high number of crashes, lot of rear-ends.	Complete an RSA, review signal timing and clearance intervals	Short-Term: Conduct RSA Mid-Term: Construction	\$25,000
<b>Total Cost:</b>				<b>\$300,276</b>

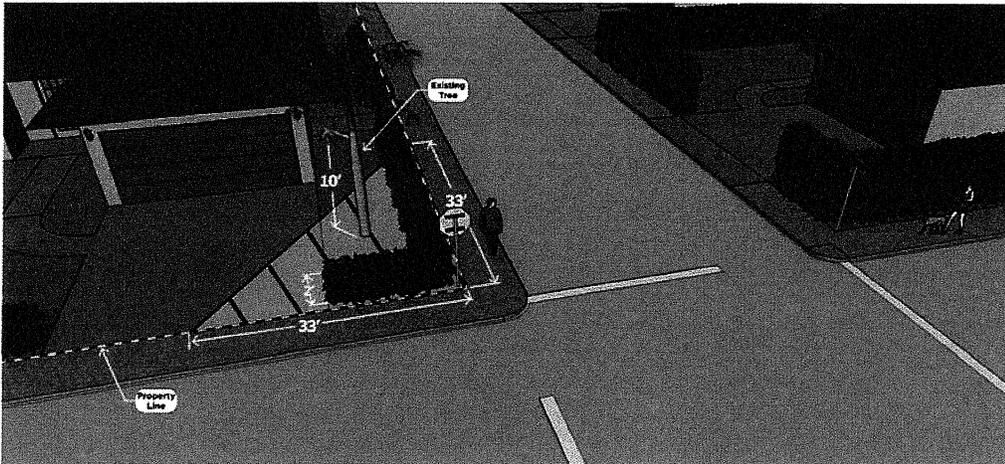
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- Existing & Planned Bicycle Facilities



- Additional Recommendations



- Site Visibility Triangle
- Bus Bay Spec's – MAG and ADOT
- Adaptive Streets – low investment aesthetic and traffic operational improvements to surplus ROW streets (80-ft vs. 100 ft)
- Policies to connect existing and planned neighborhoods
- Public Open House Feedback
  - Public Meeting #2 – January 21, 2020 – Council Chambers Foyer
    - Boards Presented:
      - Transportation Needs & Issues
      - Existing & Future Average Daily Traffic
      - Proposed Roadway Cross Sections
      - Roadway Functional Classifications & Truck Route Plan
      - Existing & Proposed Bicycle & Pedestrian Facilities
      - Roadway Improvement Recommendations
      - Recommended Intersection Safety Improvements
- Public Comments & Discussion Included
  - Attendees were happy to see intersection improvements addressed.
  - Participants expressed excitement over additional Gila River crossings and enhanced east-west connectivity.
  - Community was pleased to see more opportunities for citizens to walk and bike safely, as well as ride their horses.
  - Public's primary concern was related to the impending roundabout (not a part of this project).

Vice-Mayor Anderson inquired about the traffic light that was to be installed at the intersection of State Route 79 and Hunt Highway. Florence has discussed this with ADOT and were told that it would be part of the bridge replacement project which has been moved out another two years. He inquired as to how this will be incorporated into the Plan and for ADOT to pay their portion.

Mr. Kugler stated that it is still a recommendation of this report. There is nothing about ADOT's recent process of re-evaluating their TIF based on modifications of COVID revenue. ADOT has

had to modify the programming and budgeting of their TIF based on the revised revenue projections on a statewide basis.

Mr. Salas stated that he will talk to ADOT and provide follow-up to Council.

Vice-Mayor Anderson inquired if a temporary traffic light can be installed until a permanent light is installed. It is his understanding that ADOT wants to widen the road and install turn lanes.

#### **CERT Vehicle Presentation.**

Mr. David Strayer, Fire Chief, stated that years back the Town started a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) in conjunction with Pinal County and their office of Emergency Management. The program has been very successful, and they have had numerous deployments. They were able to acquire a trailer last year that is equipped with a variety of tools and supplies necessary to respond to various types of emergencies.

Chief Strayer stated that they did not have a vehicle to pull the trailer. Pinal County was able to acquire grant money to purchase the truck. The grant covered 75% of the cost and Florence paid the remaining 25%. The truck has been received and is now in service.

Vice-Mayor Anderson inquired where the vehicle will be stationed.

Chief Strayer stated the truck and trailer will be located at Station No. 2 in Bay 3.

#### **Drunk Busters Cart Presentation.**

Mr. Bruce Walls, Police Chief, stated that on July 27, 2020 the Town took possession of the Drunk Busters Cart, which was a grant award from the Governor's Office of Highway Safety, valued at \$1875.35. The cart will be used to help promote the dangers of drunk driving to the youth by using DUI goggles that simulate impairment. Youth drivers will operate the cart on a designated course to show the simulated effects of alcohol/drug impairment. The cart will be used at the Youth Citizen Academy, the high school and community events.

**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 contract with Waxie Sanitary Supply, for operational and janitorial supplies and related custodial equipment and services, in an amount not to exceed \$40,000 through June 30, 2020.**

**Approval of the GIS Enterprise License Agreement renewal for three-years with Environmental Systems Research Institute in an amount not to exceed \$89,827.50.**

**Approval of the May 26 Special Meeting, July 6 Regular Meeting, July 20 Special Meeting and July 20, 2020 Regular Meeting minutes.**

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

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### Ordinance No. 697-20:

Vice-Mayor Anderson read Ordinance No. 697-20 by title only.

### **AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF FLORENCE, ARIZONA AMENDING SECTION 150.300 (TECHNICAL CODES) OF THE TOWN OF FLORENCE CODE OF ORDINANCES BY AMENDING THE 2012 INTERNATIONAL FIRE CODE.**

Ms. Barbara Rice, Community Development Director, stated that the Ordinance was initially presented to Council on June 15, 2020. She provided a presentation on amendments to the Fire Code, in which she outlined the following:

- Background information
  - In May 2019, the Town of Florence adopted the 2012 International Model Codes for Construction, including the International Fire Code as the Technical Codes of the Town.
  - At that time, amendments to all the codes were made where they were necessary to serve the specific needs and resources of the community.
  - In May 2020 it was discovered that some amendments were not in the best interest of business development and growth. These amendments were regarding occupancy sprinkler thresholds.
  - Staff met to evaluate these amendments and bring them in line with other occupancy threshold requirements and meet the intent of the code.
  - The proposed amendments are consistent with best practices, other amendments for occupancies throughout and do not reduce life safety or property protection.
- Proposed amendment changes and impact
  - Amend Section 202.1 General Definitions of the 2012 IFC as follows:  
TIRES, BULK STORAGE OF. Storage of tires where the area available for storage exceeds ~~20,000 cubic feet (566 m<sup>3</sup>)~~ 10,000 cubic feet.
    - This definition was inadvertently left out in 2019 when section 903.2.9.2 was amended. That section relates to the sprinkler threshold for bulk tire storage and is also being amended to align with the definition.
  - Amend Section 903.2.1.2 of the currently adopted 2012 IFC as follows:  
903.2.1.2 Group A-2. An automatic sprinkler system shall be provided for Group A-2 occupancies where one of the following conditions exists:
    1. The fire area exceeds ~~2,500~~ 5,000 square feet.
    2. The fire area has an occupant load of 100 or more.
    3. The fire area is located on a floor other than a level of exit discharge serving such occupancies.
      - A-2 occupancies include restaurants and bars with occupant loads 50 or higher.
      - At our current 2,500 square feet threshold, a small coffee shop, sandwich shop, wine bar/tasting room, restaurant, etc. within a structure would be required to sprinkler even if their net occupant load were below 100 occupants. Examples: Old Pueblo (3,111 square feet) and Taco Bell (2,911 square feet).

- Fire operations experiences show that firefighters utilizing hose lines are fairly successful in suppressing or controlling a fire in fire areas 5,000 square feet or less. (Model code has 5,000 square feet threshold)
- Staff recommends amending fire area to 5,000 square feet.
- Amend Section 903.2.3 of the currently adopted 2012 IFC as follows:  
903.2.3 Group E. An automatic sprinkler system shall be provided for Group E occupancies as follows:
  1. Throughout all Group E fire areas greater than ~~zero (0)~~ 5,000 square feet in area.
  2. Throughout every portion of educational buildings below the lowest level of exit discharge serving that portion of the building.

Exception: An automatic sprinkler system is not required in any area below the lowest level of exit discharge serving that area where every classroom throughout the building has at least one exterior exit door at ground level.

- Educational Group E occupancy includes schools, colleges, and day care centers with less than five children under the age of 2 ½ years.
- These occupancies have a great deal of fire protection features including alarms and fire-resistant construction in egress, etc. Emergency evacuation plans and drills are required.
- These fire protection systems came about due to large loss of life fire in the early 1900's and have been responsible for the prevention of fire fatalities in these occupancies.
- Staff recommends amending the fire area threshold to 5,000 sq. feet.
- Amend Section 903.2.4.1 of the currently adopted 2012 IFC as follows:
- 903.2.4.1 Woodworking Operations. An automatic sprinkler system shall be provided throughout all Group F-1 occupancy fire areas that contain woodworking operations in excess of ~~zero (0)~~ 2,500 square feet in area which generate finely divided combustible waste, or which use finely divided combustible materials.
  - Woodworking operations are limited to 2,500 square feet without sprinklers per the unamended IFC.
  - While these occupancies present an explosion and fire hazard, other codes require ventilation systems and explosion proof electrical installations to reduce ignition sources. The fire code has requirements for housekeeping, storage, etc. to limit fuel load and prevent fires.
  - Our current code could limit the pursuit of businesses who may want to open shops for production and retail sale of wood products.
  - Staff recommends amending the code to reflect the 2,500 square feet fire area threshold in the model code.
- Amend Section 903.2.6 of the currently adopted 2012 IFC as follows:  
903.2.6 Group I. An automatic sprinkler system shall be provided throughout buildings with a Group I fire area in excess of zero (0) square feet.  
Exceptions:
  1. An automatic sprinkler system installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.2 shall be permitted in Group I-1 facilities.
  2. An automatic sprinkler system installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.3 shall be allowed in Group I-1 facilities when in compliance with all of the following:
    - 2.1. A hydraulic design information sign is located on the system riser.
    - 2.2. Exception 1 of Section 903.4 is not applied; and
    - 2.3. Systems shall be maintained in accordance with the requirements of Section 903.3.1.2.

3. An automatic sprinkler system is not required where day care facilities classified as a Group I occupancy do not exceed 5,000 square feet in area, are at the level of exit discharge and every room where care is provided has at least one exterior exit door.
4. In buildings where Group I-4 day care is provided on levels other than the level of exit discharge, an automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1 shall be installed on the entire floor where care is provided and all floors between the level of care and the level of exit discharge, all floors below the level of exit discharge, other than areas classified as an open parking garage.
  - Group I occupancies include assisted living facilities, prisons, hospitals, and daycare with more than five children under the age of 2 ½, etc.
  - Exception 1 allows for NFPA 13R sprinkler system in certain I occupancies if the facility is no more than four stories tall. This type of system is allowed in motels, hotels, apartment buildings and provides adequate fire protection.
  - Exception 2 allows for NFPA 13D sprinkler systems in I occupancies that are congregate living facilities in townhouses. This is acceptable fire protection based on occupancy limitations, residency and construction type.
  - Exception 3 allows the exemption of fire sprinklers in buildings that are one story where each room that children are cared for have an external exit to the outside. This would apply to child daycare facilities that are classified as I occupancy due to the number of children less than 2 ½ years of age. I occupancy buildings have stringent construction requirements regarding fire resistant construction, alarm requirements, exit requirements, emergency drills, evacuation plans, etc.
  - The fire code requires all I occupancies to be sprinklered with the exceptions described. These exceptions provide for sprinkler system options that are less coverage but still save lives. By amending the Code, there would be better opportunity for these occupancies to build here.
- Amend Section 903.2.9 of the currently adopted 2012 IFC as follows:
 

903.2.9 Group S-1. An automatic sprinkler system shall be provided throughout all buildings containing a Group S-1 occupancy where one of the following conditions exists:

  1. A Group S-1 fire area exceeds ~~zero (0)~~ 5,000 square feet.
  2. A Group S-1 fire area is located more than three stories above grade plane.
  3. The combined area of all Group S-1 fire areas on all floors, including any mezzanines, exceeds ~~zero (0)~~ 5,000 square feet.
  4. A Group S-1 fire area used for the storage of commercial trucks or buses where the fire area exceeds 5,000 square feet.
  5. A Group S-1 occupancy used for the storage of upholstered furniture or mattresses exceeds 2,500 square feet.
  - S-1 occupancies include storage of textiles, furniture, mattresses, grain, paper and other combustible products.
  - These storage occupancies pose fire risks due to combustible fuel load.
  - The model code and our amendments have the furniture and mattress storage sprinkler threshold at 2,500 square feet. As this commodity poses the highest risk, it would not make sense to have other storage sprinkler thresholds be below this size.
  - Under the current code, a 320 square feet storage building being proposed would require automatic fire sprinklers.
  - Staff recommends the proposed sprinkler storage threshold to be 5,000 square feet
- Amend Section 903.2.9.1 of the currently adopted 2012 IFC as follows:

903.2.9.1 Repair Garages. An automatic sprinkler system shall be provided throughout all buildings used as repair garages in accordance with Section 406.8 of the International Building Code, as shown:

1. Buildings having two or more stories above grade plane, including basements, with a fire area containing a repair garage exceeding ~~zero (0)~~ 5,000 square feet.
  2. Buildings no more than one story above grade plane, with a fire area containing a repair garage exceeding ~~zero (0)~~ 5,000 square feet.
  3. Buildings with repair garages servicing vehicles parked in basements.
  4. A Group S-1 fire area used for the repair of commercial trucks or buses where the fire area exceeds ~~zero (0)~~ 5,000 square feet.
- Reducing repair garage sprinkler threshold to zero (0) greatly impedes economic development opportunities for auto, motorcycle, farm equipment and other repair shops including Discount Tire, Pep Boys, or small businesses. The current code requires sprinklers throughout other occupancies that have a repair garage including government facilities, retail, and fleet shops.
  - Fire risk is due to flammable and combustible liquids, ignition sources from welding, grinding, mechanical equipment, compressed gases. Other requirements in the fire code specifically regulate these risks to reduce the likelihood of fire.
  - Staff recommends a 5,000 square feet sprinkler threshold for consistency and best practice.
- Amend Section 903.2.9.2 of the currently adopted 2012 IFC as follows:

903.2.9.2 Bulk Storage of Tires. Buildings and structures where the area for the storage of tires exceeds ~~zero (0)~~ 10,000 cubic feet shall be equipped throughout with an automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1.

- The definition of bulk tire storage is 20,000 cubic feet and represents storage larger than what would normally be found in typical retail stores. This amount poses an extraordinary fire protection hazard.
  - Our current code would reduce the definition and limit tire shops or retail businesses with any tire storage. Auto parts stores or other retail business that have tire storage would need fire sprinkler systems throughout the building. Large fleet operations would have to sprinkler the entire building.
  - Staff recommends the 10,000 cubic feet threshold based on hazard and fire department resources.
- Action
    - Staff Recommends Council Adopt Ordinance No. 697-20, amending the current Town of Florence Fire Code to be consistent with other occupancy amendments and current fire protection best practices.
    - Adoption of the proposed amendments will promote economic development and growth opportunities for businesses in the Town of Florence.

Councilmember Cordes inquired if the 5,000 square feet includes mercantile.

Ms. Rice stated that the 5,000 square feet includes mercantile. She would like this explained in lament's term so that the public can understand the changes and that everything is covered.

Councilmember Cordes is pleased to see the modifications to assist the businesses.

On motion of Councilmember Larsen, seconded by Councilmember Wall, and carried (5-0) to adopt Ordinance No. 697-20.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Resolution No. 1747-20:

Vice-Mayor Anderson read Resolution No. 1747-20 by title only.

**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF FLORENCE, PINAL COUNTY, ARIZONA, DECLARING AND ADOPTING THE RESULTS OF THE PRIMARY ELECTION HELD ON AUGUST 4, 2020.**

Ms. Lisa Garcia, provided a presentation on the 2020 Primary Election results, in which she outlined the following:

- Election Information
  - Primary Election was held August 4, 2020.
    - Registered Voters 7,043
    - Ballots Cast 3,138
    - Voter Turnout 44.45%
    - How did people vote?
      - Mail Ballots 83.56 %
      - Polls 16.44 %
- Votes Received
  - Mayor
    - Kyle A. Larsen 1,054
    - Gary Pranzo 541
    - Tara Walter 1,417
  - Councilmember
    - John K. Johnston 729
    - Kristen Larsen 1,538
    - Johnie Mendoza 977
    - Gary Mittendorf 823
    - Arthur "Snake" Neal 1,120
    - Jeff Reel 557
    - Bill Tanner 1,017
    - Vallarie Woolridge 940
- Being Elected in the Primary
  - To be elected in the Primary, a person needs to receive 50% of the votes, rounded up. In the race for Council, the total number is divided by three, and then divided in half, and the number is rounded up.
  - Mayoral Race:
    - 3,012 total votes divided in half = 1,506
  - Council Race:
    - 7,701 total votes divided by three = 2,567
    - 2,567 divided in half = 1,283.5 and rounded up = 1,284
- Certificate of Election
  - Kristen Larsen – 1,538 Votes



- Seven precincts listed in the Town of Florence
- Precinct No. 25 included Cactus Forest
  - You will see more people voting in this precinct as people move into that area.
- Precinct No. 51 includes Superior West
  - Had one voter
- Copper Basin Precinct
- Blackwater Precinct
  - Is Attaway Road in the Town of Florence
  - No one will ever live on the road; however, it will still show as a precinct within in the Town limits.

- Statistics

ELECTION	REGISTERED VOTERS	VOTES CAST	VOTER TURNOUT PERCENTAGE
Primary 2002	2,458	798	32.5%
Primary 2004	3,276	940	28.7%
Primary 2006	3,270	264	8.0%
Primary 2008	3,269	745	22.79%
Primary 2010	3,976	1,332	33.43%
General 2010	3,827	1,639	43.83%
Primary 2012	4,122	2,144	52.0%
General 2012	3,948	1,869	47.3%
Primary 2014	4,176	1,505	36.04%
General 2014	4,299	2,436	56.66%
Primary 2016	4,930	2,037	41.32%
General 2016	5,176	4,104	79.28%
Primary 2018	5,820	2,312	39.73%
Primary 2020	7,043	3,138	42.23%

- Consistent increase in voter turnout

- General Election Important Dates

- August 17, 2020                      Canvass Votes
- September 18, 2020                Review of Sample Ballot on website
- September 24, 2020                Write in Paperwork Due for anyone wanting to be a write in
- October 2, 2020                      Post Sample Ballot
- October 5, 2020                      Voter Registration Closes
- October 7, 2020                      Early Ballots Distributed
- October 23, 2020                    Last Day for Early Ballot Requests
- November 3, 2020                   Election Day
- November 23, 2020                Last Day to Canvass Vote
- December 7, 2020                  Swearing in Ceremony

Vice-Mayor Anderson inquired if Copper Basin is now part of Florence's voting area.

Ms. Garcia stated the solar plant that is located in the Copper Basin area is part of the Copper Basin voting district; the name does not refer to the subdivision itself.

Councilmember Cordes inquired if the Town has worked out with Pinal County as to where the location will be for the Anthem voters. She stated that the fire station was not a good location.

She did not like that people had to park in the dirt. The incline was problematic for anyone who had a disability. She would prefer that the Town find a different location.

Ms. Garcia stated that Pinal County's typical place for voting is the Anthem Community Center and they were not able to use the facility as the polling site this year. Pinal County reached out to the Town to utilize the fire station. Pinal County did tour the fire station to ensure that it was an acceptable location. She commended the Fire Department and Public Works Department in getting the facility and its surrounding prepared for the election.

Ms. Garcia did reach out to Pinal County and advised that we did not think it was an acceptable location due to the amount of work that was required for preparations for a second entrance, preparation of the parking lot and difficulty in ensuring social distancing. Pinal County is looking for an alternate polling place. She will advise the Council once Pinal County finds an alternate location.

Councilmember Cordes inquired as to who paid for all of the preparations.

Ms. Garcia stated that the Town paid approximately \$1,643 to prepare the site. The Town has submitted the bill to Pinal County for reimbursement.

On motion of Councilmember Larsen, seconded by Councilmember Wall, and carried (5-0) to adopt Resolution No. 1747-20.

#### **MANAGER'S REPORT**

There was no Manager's Report presented.

Ms. Garcia asked if anyone has suggestions on how the AZCARES funding should be spent to forward your suggestions to the Council, Ben Bitter or Roger Biede and they will forward to staff.

#### **CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

There were no public comments.

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

Councilmember Hughes stated that she is encouraged that the COVID numbers are going down and inquired when the Council may resume their meetings in the chambers.

Ms. Garcia stated that she will speak to the COVID Committee and provide a report to Council.

Councilmember Cordes asked that everyone check on their neighbors. She stated that there have been challenges with opening the schools. The Florence Unified School District (FUSD) will not open until October 5, 2020 tentatively. She feels that it was a wise decision of the school board and the Superintendent. The District opened a technology lab/assistance center for those who need assistance and social distancing will be practiced. The District is offering online resources and workshops for parents and caregivers such as a support group.

Councilmember Wall encouraged the public to submit ideas and suggestions on what is most helpful for the businesses to continue to operate during the pandemic. She asked that suggestions on how the remaining balance of the AZCARES funding should be spent be submitted as well. There will be a work session on August 31, 2020 to discuss these topics. The Chamber of Commerce is working with the Town on a grant for marketing businesses in the Town which will benefit members of the business community.

Councilmember Larsen asked that everyone provide their feedback on the AZCARES funding. She stated that many people are struggling with online learning. She inquired the status of the tutor program that the Community Services Department advertised.

Mr. Hezekiah Allen, Community Services, stated that they are currently seeking volunteers for the program.

Mayor Walter thanked everyone who voted. She is looking forward to the August 31, 2020 Work Session to formulate a plan on how to spend the AZCARE funding.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On motion of Councilmember Wall, seconded by Councilmember Cordes, and carried (5-0) to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m.



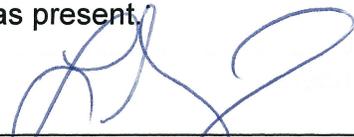
Tara Walter, Mayor

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 August 17, 2020, and that the meeting was duly called to order and that a quorum was present.



Lisa Garcia, Town Clerk