

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF FLORENCE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, APRIL 8, 2024, 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 6:20 pm.

**ROLL CALL:**

Present: Tara Walter, Johnie Mendoza, Kristen Larsen, Jose Maldonado

Absent: Arthur Neal, Nicole Buccellato

**CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

Call to the Public for public comment on issues within the jurisdiction of the Town Council. Council rules limit public comments 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 act on any matter during an open call to the public unless the matters are properly noticed for discussion and legal action.

Keith Eaton, Florence resident, thanked staff for their work on Road to Country Thunder and the FY24-25 budget. He suggested that CIP item WU-38 be given an increased budget in order to decrease the completion time currently set at five years.

**WORK SESSION ON THE 2024-2025 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

Carl Dudding, Deputy Finance Director, stated that the FY24-25 CIP has 85 total items with 69 items budgeted for FY24-25. He stated that a line-by-line review of the CIP will be conducted, and that the CIP plan will be brought before Council on May 6, 2024, for full adoption.

Paul King, Community Services Director, listed the CIP items for the Community Services Department as follows: 60-inch deck mower, Aquatics Complex equipment replacement, renovation of ballfields at Heritage Park and Little League Field, Community Center banquet tables, brush dump trailer, and commercial refrigerator.

Councilmember Maldonado inquired about the current use of the refrigerator and if the model will be a stainless steel or white model.

Mr. King stated that the current model is a standard kitchen refrigerator that is too small to store items for community members renting the facilities. He stated that a new commercial unit has not yet been selected.

Mr. King stated that additional CIP items are Hot/cold power washer, five hydration station locations, minivan for the Give A Lift program, and new tables for the Viney Jones Library & Community Center.

Councilmember Maldonado inquired as to what is done with the tables being replaced.

Mr. King stated that staff will see if any groups around Town would be able to utilize the tables and if not, they will be put to surplus.

Mr. King continued listing CIP items for the Community Services Department as follows: new/upgraded AV equipment for the Viney Jones Library & Community Center, Padilla Park fence repair, Padilla Park stage shade, playground replacement for two Heritage Park playgrounds, Central Arizona Project (CAP) Canal Trail Development, Heritage Park water/other improvements, POC-31 Poston Butte, and Rodeo Grounds upgrades.

Councilmember Maldonado inquired if there will be electrical hookups for RVs at the rodeo grounds campsites.

Mr. King stated that there will not be electrical hookups and that the plan is to have a dry camping site and a dump location.

Mr. King continued listing CIP items for the Community Services Department as follows: architectural barrier removal-parks at Heritage Park and the Senior Center.

Councilmember Maldonado stated that any improvements made to the sinks and restrooms should utilize low-flow replacements.

Mr. King continued listing CIP items for the Community Services Department as follows: parks maintenance building/shop, turning lane entrance to the Charles Whitlow Rodeo Grounds, replacement dog park fencing, replacement of Heritage Park skate park fencing, replacement of pool surface in play pool and lap pool at the Aquatics Complex, scoreboards at the Heritage Park ballfields, and synthetic turf for multiple downtown locations.

Councilmember Maldonado inquired if grants were available to assist in the placement of the synthetic turf.

Mr. King stated that they are looking into the different funding avenues and noted that Casa Grande obtained funding for their turf and that staff are in contact with them on what funding avenues they used.

Mr. King continued listing CIP items for the Community Services Department as follows: tree stump grinder, and a flatbed trailer.

Mitch Snyder, Chief of the Fire & Medical Department, listed CIP items for the Fire & Medical Department as follows: an alternative medication restock system, replacement of cardiac heart monitors, replacement of fire hose, replacement of fitness equipment at Fire Station #1, new Pierce Fire Engine equipment, interior painting of Fire Station #2, replacement of portable radios, Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus, purchase a Side-by-Side emergency response vehicle, additional storage facility for Fire Station #1, and replacement of turnouts.

Trenton Shaffer, IT Director, listed the CIP items for the IT department as follows: replacement of desktop computers and replacement of server infrastructure.

Bruce Walls, Chief of Police/Interim Town Manager, noted that all six Police Department items on the CIP list will be purchased via grant funds. He listed the CIP items for the Police Department as follows: dispatch consol furniture, dispatch consoles, mobile police car radios, mobile data computers, tasers, and body-worn cameras.

Councilmember Maldonado inquired if the Police Department plans to upgrade the equipment in their armory.

Chief Walls stated that there are ongoing conversations regarding the replacement of equipment and that it is targeted for FY25-26.

Chris Salas, Public Works Director, listed the CIP items for the Public Works Department as follows: accessories for the compact track loader, North End Framework LOMR-Phase 1b, and a survey drone.

Councilmember Maldonado inquired if the drone could be utilized by other departments such as Community Services.

Mr. King and Mr. Salas noted that the work done by the drone is highly specific but that potential cross-department uses will be researched.

Mr. Salas continued to list the CIP items for the Public Works Department as follows: water department valve exerciser, a drone to assist with weed abatement, two-lane pavement of Adamsville Road from Main Street to Plant Road, widening of Hunt Highway from the curve to Attaway Road, intersection improvements at Hunt Highway and State Route 79, Butte Avenue bridge, intersection improvements at State Route 79 and State Route 287, Centennial Park improvements from Adamsville Road to State Route 287, and pavement preservation.

Vice-Mayor Mendoza inquired about the cause of the delays to the Hunt Highway widening project.

Mr. Salas stated that the Town is waiting on a permit for construction from the San Carlos Irrigation Project. He stated that the design of the curve will require the road to move south in order to keep the Magma Flood Control District's energy dissipater intact.

Vice-Mayor Mendoza inquired if the intersection improvements at Hunt Highway and State Route 79 could be moved into the current fiscal year.

Mr. Salas stated that would not be likely as it is late in the fiscal year but noted that the project can begin at the start of the next fiscal year.

Vice-Mayor Mendoza requested that Council be given more information about what stage the Town is in regarding different projects so that Council can better communicate with county and state agencies.

Mr. Dudding stated that the next CIP item is the Multigenerational Center design and that the item will be brought before Council at the next regular meeting to provide the results of pre-design findings.

Mr. Salas listed CIP items for wastewater as follows: SCADA Tie ins/wastewater controls, Main Street wastewater main replacement, Territory Square Phase I - wastewater, South Wastewater Treatment Plant ultraviolet disinfection replacement, and the North Wastewater Treatment Plant lift station retrofit.

Mr. Salas listed CIP items for water as follows: a mobile concrete mixer, rebuild of Well #5, Territory Square Phase 1 – water, water line replacement, and Adamsville Road Waterline.

Vice-Mayor Mendoza inquired about the electric wayfinding signs that Council had requested be placed in the CIP budget.

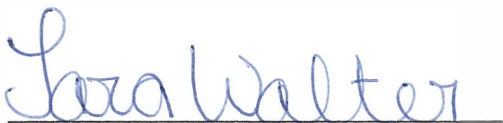
Mr. Walls stated that staff will research that item and bring it back before Council.

#### **CALL TO THE TOWN COUNCIL**


Councilmember Maldonado reiterated the need for Council and staff be on the same page with items that need to be brought to the State level for approval or funding.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

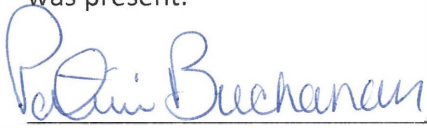
On motion of Councilmember Maldonado, seconded by Councilmember Larsen and carried (4-0) to adjourn the meeting at 8:11 pm.

  
Tara Walter, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
~~Lisa Garcia, Town Clerk~~  
Patricia Buchanan  
Deputy Town Clerk

I certify that the following is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Florence Town Council special meeting held on April 8, 2024, and that the meeting was duly called to order and that a quorum was present.

  
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~~Lisa Garcia, Town Clerk~~

Patricia Buchanan  
Deputy Town Clerk