



FLORENCE CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 20, 2026, 6:30 PM

Watch this meeting live on the City's YouTube channel at
<https://www.youtube.com/@CityofFlorenceCO>

1) CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

City Council Chambers, 600 W. 3rd Street, Florence, CO 81226

Mayor Wolfe called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

2) ROLL CALL:

Mayor Wolfe	Present
Councilman Vanhoutan	Present
Councilman Stiefel	Present
Councilwoman Stone	Present
Councilman Mergelman	Present
Councilwoman Gardner	Present
Councilwoman MacKinnon	Present

OTHERS PRESENT: City Clerk Cortlyne Huppe, City Manager Lori Cobler, Public Works Director Sam Elstun, Water Superintendent Brandon Harris, Chief of Police Sean Humphrey, and City Attorney Dan Findlay.

3) PRESENTATIONS

a) National Student Leadership Week Proclamation

Mayor Wolfe proclaimed April 20, 2026, as National Student Leadership Week in the City of Florence, Colorado.

b) Fremont County Child Abuse Prevention Awareness Proclamation

Mayor Wolfe proclaimed April 2026 as Fremont County Child Abuse Prevention Awareness Month City of Florence, Colorado.

Tonia Sutton of Fremont County Department of Human Services shared information about the services they provide to local families and community members.

4) PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any matter on this agenda may, at the discretion of the governing body, be opened for public comment and discussion (three minutes).

Joan Pounds- 216 Fremont Street

Requested City Council be thorough and make sound decisions on potential data center development. She also voiced concerns about water consumption.

Mayor Wolfe and City Manager Lori Cobler announced there has been no formal contact to the City regarding development of a data center. Local business, Mitikas, discussed a potential data center in Fremont County jurisdiction. She also clarified the Master Plan references a data center within a potential five mile radius of city limits, not necessarily inside Florence.

Kathy Madonna- 504 Brookeway

Stated Mitikas and FEDC are having discussions about the data center. She said a data center is still a threat, and voiced concerns on energy consumption.

Cathy Young- 220 East 6th Street

Voiced concerns over potential data center.

Water Superintendent Brandon Harris stated Canon City had reached out to the Florence Water Department on water availability by the high school, but later clarified that was for a different project.

5) CONSENT AGENDA

- a) Consider approving the minutes as written for the Regular City Council Meeting on April 6, 2026
- b) Consider approving City expenditures prepared on April 9, 2026, in the amount of \$122,923.03 and April 15, 2026, in the amount of \$62,902.71
- c) Consider approving the annual liquor license renewal for Pour House
- d) Consider approving the annual liquor license renewal for Oak Creek Grill & Tavern
- e) Consider approving the Temporary Use Permit for the Florence Pioneer Museum & Research Center
- f) Consider approving the mural installation on City Hall in celebration of Colorado's 150/250 anniversary
- g) Consider approving the 2026 July 4th Festival schedule of events

Councilor MacKinnon removed item 5e from the Consent Agenda.

Councilor Mergelman removed item 5f and 5g from the Consent Agenda.

Councilor Stone motioned to approve the Consent Agenda items, excluding items 5e, 5f and 5g. Councilor Gardner seconded. With the Councilmembers voting in favor of the motion, the motion carried.

Councilor Mergelman motioned to approve the Consent Agenda item 5e. Councilor Stone seconded. Councilor MacKinnon abstained. With the Councilmembers voting in favor of the motion, the motion carried.

Councilor Mergelman requested sketches of the proposed mural.

Councilor Mergelman motioned to table the Consent Agenda item 5f to the May 4, 2026, City Council meeting. Councilor Vanhoutan seconded. With the Councilmembers voting in favor of the motion, the motion carried.

Councilor Mergelman elaborated on the July Fourth Festival's changes due to the City's Drought Response Plan and impactful weather effects.

Councilor Gardner motioned to approve the Consent Agenda item 5g. Councilor Stone seconded. With the Councilmembers voting in favor of the motion, the motion carried.

6) NEW BUSINESS

- a) Consider updating the City of Florence's bank signature cards

City Manager Cobler stated the City's bank signature cards needed to be updated with new Finance Manager Brandi Sheets.

Motion to update the City of Florence's signature cards for Rocky Mountain Bank and Trust, Colotrust, Flatirons Bank, Sunflower Bank, Cañon National Bank, and Multi-Bank Securities, Inc. by removing the following authorized signers from all signature cards: Lori Cobler, Cortlyne Huppe, Gayle MacKinnon, Steve Wolfe, Rudl Mergelman, and Brenda Gardner. Then adding the following authorized signers to all signature cards: Lori Cobler, Cortlyne Huppe, Brandi Sheets, Gayle MacKinnon, Steve Wolfe, Rudl Mergelman, Brenda Gardner: Councilor Stiefel
Seconded by: Councilor MacKinnon

7 Ayes

Motion passed: 7 – 0

- b) Consider adopting Resolution No. 6-2026 establishing the water rates and regulations for water taps

City Manager Cobler presented the annual housekeeping item that establishes the debt retirement amount based on bond payments. She excitedly announced the City's 2003 bond was paid off, and that the decreased debt retirement rate would be effective in May.

Councilor Stone motioned to adopt Resolution No. 6-2026, A Resolution Amending Establishing Water Rates and Regulations for Application for Water Taps

Seconded by: Councilor Mergelman

7 Ayes

Motion Passed: 7 - 0

7) COUNCIL REPORTS

- a) City Council Reports

Councilor Mergelman announced the Florence Farmer's Market would be opening for its 19th year. He attended the Arbor Day Celebration, shared information regarding the industrial building construction North of Highway 50, and elaborated on his recent Mitikas tiny home tour.

Councilor Stone attended the Florence Museum's Research Center ribbon cutting and reported on Florence Chamber and Florence Merchants accomplishments.

Councilor MacKinnon attended the Historic Preservation Commission and the 150/250 consortium meeting. She elaborated on the upcoming Tavern Talk events.

Mayor Wolfe attended the July 4th Festival work session, CDOT Central Front Range meeting, Board of County Commissioners, Chamber of Commerce, the City's Arbor Day celebration, Pioneer Museum ribbon cutting, the funeral service for Judy McCormick, Senior Coffee Chat, FCTC, and reported on the upcoming Dennis Quaid Viewpoint show. He attended Mayor's Round Table where most of the conversation was over wildfire season and wildfire resiliency code.

City Attorney Dan Findlay stated that legislative bill had failed.

- b) City Manager Reports

Water Superintendent Brandon Harris announced the City’s 2026 Consumer Confidence Report/Water Quality Report was fully compliant; including PFAS testing. He also elaborated on the Drought Response Plan levels, and the State’s current water level reports.

City Manager Cobler announced an upcoming Bulk Water Station PIN system. It’s goal and purpose is to ensure the water used from the station is efficiently utilized and stays in the Arkansas River region.

City Manager Cobler stated the City was also proactively reviewing the local ditch systems for efficient conservation methods. She announced the upcoming interviews of a Public Works Director, Spring Clean Up Week, the completion of the financial audit, and elaborated on the Police Department’s crime analysis report. She also gauged interest on scheduling a Drought Response Plan town hall.

Councilor Mergelman confirmed the Pioneer Park Bathroom project was going well.

Chief of Police Sean Humphrey thanked the assisting agencies with their help on the local shooting incident.

8) EXECUTIVE SESSION(S): IF NECESSARY

Pursuant to C.R.S. §24-6-402(4)(b), an executive session for the purpose of conferencing with an attorney for the local public body for the purposes of receiving legal advice on specific legal questions pertaining to any item listed on the agenda herein and/or any related discussion that may arise thereto. Such executive session may be entered into at any time or at any point on the agenda, if necessary and with the requisite Council approval.

9) ADJOURNMENT: Adjournment until the regular City Council Meeting Monday, May 4, 2026.

Councilor Stone motioned to adjourn the meeting. Councilor Gardner seconded. With all of the Councilmembers voting in favor of the motion, the motion carried.
Mayor Wolfe adjourned the City Council Meeting at 7:41 p.m.

CITY OF FLORENCE, CO

BY: _____
Steve Wolfe, Mayor

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED: _____
Cortlyne Huppe, City Clerk