



FLORENCE CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, May 4, 2026, 6:30 PM

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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:

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|------------------------|---------|
| 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 & John Verneti, Water Superintendent Brandon Harris, Planning Director Ashley Fox, Finance Mnager Brandi Sheets, and City Attorney Dan Findlay.

3) PRESENTATIONS

a) Kindred Kids Child Advocacy Center Presentation

Lori Jenkins, Executive Director of Kindred Kids, elaborated on her agency's relation to the Florence Police Department and 11th Judicial District. Kindred Kids supports victim advocacy and provides services for domestic violence and sexual violence victims.

City Manager Lori Cobler recognized City Clerk Cortlyne Huppe for Professional Municipal Clerks Week and thanked her for her hard work and dedication to the City.

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).

There was no public input.

5) CONSENT AGENDA

- Consider approving the minutes as written for the Regular City Council Meeting on April 20, 2026
- Consider approving City expenditures prepared on April 23, 2026, in the amount of \$26,943.22 and April 30, 2026, in the amount of \$17,104.12.
- Consider approving the annual liquor license renewal for the Rialto Theater
- Consider approving the annual liquor license renewal for Loaf n Jug #76
- Consider approving the mural installation on City Hall in celebration of Colorado's 150/250 anniversary
- Consider approving the Fremont County Bulk Station Drainage Improvement Proposal
- Consider awarding a contract to Landmark Aquatics for the Florence Municipal Pool Projects

Councilor Stone removed item 5e, 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.

City Council discussed and questioned specifics regarding the mural installation.

Councilor Stone motioned to table the mural installation on City Hall. Gardner seconded. With the Councilmembers voting in favor of the motion, the motion carried.

Councilor Stone motioned to display the Florence Flag on the City Hall flagpole, in place of the flag mural installation. Councilor MacKinnon seconded. With the Councilmembers voting in favor of the motion, the motion carried.

City Manager Cobler explained the Fremont County Water IGA. The proposed Railroad Street Bulk Station project would support the IGA's ongoing obligations. The City would provide the supplies and materials for the project, and Fremont County would supply the labor.

Water Superintendent Brandon Harris elaborated on the previous Bulk Station water infrastructure project and its complications, and how this project would fix drainage and road elevation levels.

Councilor Mergelman questioned engineering plans or drawings for the project.

Water Superintendent Harris stated the project had been surveyed for elevation and drainage specifics.

Councilor Vanhoutan clarified ice accumulation was due to disconnection of bulk station hoses, not infrastructure failure.

Councilor Stone motioned to approve the Scope of Work from the Fremont County Department of Transportation for the City of Florence Water Station Drainage Improvement in the amount of \$19,046.20, plus a ten percent (10%) contingency. Councilor Mergelman seconded. With the Councilmembers voting in favor of the motion, the motion carried.

Councilor Stone questioned the chemistry controller schedule of the proposal.

Water Superintendent Harris explained the State regulations and chemical handling specifics that would be improved by the chemistry controller project.

Mayor Wolfe highlighted the need for an external revenue source to support the pool operations moving forward.

City Manager Cobler reiterated the City budgeted for the pool projects prior to receiving donations from Fremont County and Black Hills.

Councilor Stone motioned to award a contract to Landmark Aquatics for the 2026 Florence Municipal Pool Project in the amount of \$338,700 (Schedules A&B), plus a ten percent (10%) contingency. Councilor Vanhoutan seconded. With the Councilmembers voting in favor of the motion, the motion carried.

6) COUNCIL REPORTS

a) City Council Reports

Councilor MacKinnon presented information on the Summer of History events.

Councilor Stone reiterated the upcoming Junktique and Car Show events. She also attended Historic Preservation Commission.

Councilor Gardner attended the City/City/County meeting.

Councilor Mergelman elaborated on the Student Leadership Week event, City/City/County meeting, and Spring Clean Up Week.

Mayor Wolfe attended the City/City/County meeting, Fremont Sanitation Board meeting, Regional Water Board, and the UACOG Safe Streets meetings. He elaborated on Florence’s Spring Clean Up Week, Amrize’s tire recycling event, and the City’s participation in Fremont County’s electronic recycling event.

b) City Manager Reports

City Manager Cobler shared Spring Clean Up Week statistics, and announced upcoming Taco Talk with the Police Chief, and the Drought Town Hall. She announced the City’s new Public Works Director John Verneti who would start May 11, 2026. She also shared information on local sidewalk repairs, fire mitigation at the Florence Mountain park, upcoming Request for Proposals, and newly contracted 3 Rocks Engineering for on-call services.

City Attorney Dan Findlay reported on the ability to fly the Florence Flag on the City’s flagpole.

City Clerk Cortlyne Huppe recognized the Clerk’s Department for Professional Municipal Clerks Week, and then gave a status report on July 4 and the pool.

7) 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.

8) ADJOURNMENT: Adjournment until the regular City Council Meeting Monday, May 18, 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 7:38 p.m.

CITY OF FLORENCE, CO

BY: _____
Steve Wolfe, Mayor

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED: _____
Cortlyne Huppe, City Clerk