



FLORENCE CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 20, 2024, 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:

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 Amy Nasta, and City Attorney Dan Findlay.

3) PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

Rich Burleson, Kirk Nelson, Tony Shaffer- Pioneer Day Association
Announced Pioneer Day 2024 was scheduled for Saturday, September 21, 2024. Rich Burleson thanked the City and Florence community for their support and participation in the event.

Tony Shaffer thanked the City Council for all of their help and support. He also thanked Rich Burleson for his service and commitment to the community and the Pioneer Day Association.

John Rambish- 1045 Churchill Avenue, Rockvale
Addressed local crimes and criminal activity in Florence. He highlighted violations of human rights, exploitation of disability, acts of slavery, and human trafficking. John Rambish expressed the need for more than the three minutes allocated for Public Comment to communicate the issue.

Councilor Vanhoutan encouraged John Rambish to connect with the Florence Police Department regarding the violations or provide a written statement elaborating on the grievances.

John Rambish voiced disinterest in those options.

Mayor Wolfe offered to discuss and connect with him after the meeting.

Kathy Madonna-504 Brookeway

Asked for a correction to the Meeting Minutes of February 5, 2024. She wanted her Public Comment to note her request for City Council's approval of a \$25 reimbursement to the Tree Board for working on their trifold mockup.

Christina James- Quincy's Manager

Questioned the street closure approval process and noted the closure's disruptions to parking availability and business production. Christina James voiced the loss of revenue and wanted to see an improved, inclusive approval process.

4) CONSENT AGENDA

- a) Meeting Minutes for February 5, 2024
- b) Expenditure Approval for February 8, 2024, in the amount of \$23,147.51 and February 14, 2024, in the amount of \$67,322.71
- c) Annual Liquor License Renewal: Oak Creek Grill & Tavern
- d) Street Closure Request: Florence Chamber of Commerce Spring Junktique/ Car Show

Councilor Stone asked to remove items 4a and 4d from the Consent Agenda.

Councilor Stiefel motioned to approve the Consent Agenda, excluding items 4a and 4d. Councilor Gardner seconded. With all of the Councilmembers voting in favor of the motion, the motion carried.

Mayor Wolfe reiterated Kathy Madonna's addition to her Public Comment.

Councilor MacKinnon motioned to amend the meeting Minutes for February 5, 2024, to correct Kathy Madonna's Public Comment to represent the request for the Tree Board's \$25 trifold reimbursement. Councilor Stone seconded. With all of the Councilmembers voting in favor of the motion, the motion carried.

Joel Elliot- Chamber of Commerce President

Stated the function of the Chamber is to increase visibility, business growth, tourism, and downtown traffic. Joel Elliot noted the positive impacts of Junktique and the Car Show, and would like to ensure collaborative input and business participation to have event success. She aimed to consider all impacted.

The City Council discussed event details and presented suggestions and ideas to modify the event's efficiency.

Mayor Wolfe inquired about a time frame for notification of closure.

City Clerk Cortlyne Huppe noted there was no timeframe to her knowledge.

Council Stone suggested the street closure be tabled with the intent to allow the Florence Chamber of Commerce time to re-evaluate the details surrounding the event's street closure.

City Attorney Dan Findlay noted the complications of approving the street closure with contingencies and suggested that the Chamber present updated materials at the next meeting.

Councilor Stone motioned to table the Street Closure Request for the Florence Chamber of Commerce until the March 18, 2024 City Council meeting. Councilor Mergelman seconded. With all of the Councilmembers voting in favor of the motion, the motion carried.

5) COUNCIL UPDATES

a) City Council Reports

Councilor MacKinnon noted the Historic Preservation meeting on February 27 at 4:30 PM where they would be discussing the potential induction of a local address into the local historic district. She also announced the upcoming ceremony of laying to rest a WWII soldier in Union Highland Cemetery on June 29, 2024.

Councilor Stone attended the Merchant's meeting and Chamber of Commerce meeting. They are looking for volunteers and working on a 2024 event calendar. She also attended the Tree Board meeting where they met with a UAACOG representative.

Councilor Gardner expressed excitement to tour the South Water Treatment Plant.

Councilor Mergelman attended the Fremont County Planning Commission where they intend to revise outdated Ordinances by April. He also attended the Merchant's meeting, Florence Planning Commission, Florence Arts Council, and the City's first July 4 meeting.

Mayor Wolfe attended the Merchant's meeting and the Florence Planning Commission. He noted the Mayor's Round Table meeting held at Emergent Campus in the FEDC conference room, and all in attendance with their variety of reports/topics. Mayor Wolfe announced Canon City's upcoming pool assessment, their Highway 50 project, and their discussion of Black Hills Energy's property. He reported Fremont County's rewriting of zoning Ordinances and Pathfinder Park's parking lot expansion. Mayor Wolfe noted the upcoming Southern Colorado BBQ challenge, and the City's established July 4 fundraiser event dates. He reminded the City Council of the ARPA/Non-Profit Workshop on March 4, and the Trees/Sidewalk Workshop on March 18.

b) City Manager Reports

City Manager Nasta opened her report to questions. She noted the hiring of a new Code Enforcement Officer.

Mayor Wolfe questioned if the City looked into the Elks Lodge's concerns on harassment, and if the City Manager's meetings on Prop 123 would require any changes to the City's building code.

City Manager Nasta stated the Police Department had been in contact with the lodge, and the City would not need to update existing building codes to accommodate Prop 123's affordable housing opportunities.

6) 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.

7) **ADJOURNMENT:** Adjournment until the next regular City Council Meeting
Monday, March 4, 2024

Councilor Gardner motioned to adjourn the meeting. Councilor Vanhoutan seconded.
With all of the Councilmembers voting in favor of the motion, the motion carried.
Mayor Wolfe adjourned the City Council Meeting at 7:18 p.m.

CITY OF FLORENCE, CO

BY:  _____
Steve Wolfe, Mayor

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:  _____
Cortlyne Huppe, City Clerk