



CITY OF FLORENCE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
April 6, 2020

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Upton called the regular meeting of the Florence City Council to order at 7:00 pm.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Mayor Upton led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **ROLL CALL:**

Mayor Upton	-	Present
Councilor Allen	-	Present
Councilor Esquibel	-	Present
Councilor Knisley	-	Present
Councilor Vendetti	-	Present
Councilor Wood	-	Present
4. **ALSO PRESENT:** City Manager, Mike Patterson; City Attorney, Matt Krob; City Clerk, Jessica Griffith; Finance Officer, Lori Coble, Planning Director, Wade Broadhead; Police Chief: Shane Prickett; Planning Administrative Assistant/Deputy City Clerk Janelle Dodd
5. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** N/A
6. **City Council Appointment to Fill Ward Two Vacancy:**

Mayor Upton stated there had been one letter of interest submitted by Melissa Hardy who resides at 621 N. Robinson in Florence. City Manager, Mike Patterson stated that there had been two other letters submitted but both parties were deemed ineligible as one did not live in ward two and the other was term-limited out on City Council. Mayor Upton then invited Mrs. Hardy to introduce herself and speak to the Council.

Mrs. Hardy started by saying she is a life long resident of Fremont County, her father retired from the Federal Prison and her mother retired from the Fremont Sanitation District. Mrs. Hardy continued by saying she moved to Florence fifteen years ago and loves the sense of community here. Mrs. Hardy went on to say how refreshing it is to her that when you go out to eat on a Friday night you might have to circle the block to find a parking space or wait a few minutes for a table at your favorite local restaurant, seeing the restaurants flourish is wonderful she added. Mrs. Hardy continued by saying she has been in the nursing field for thirteen and felt she gained a real sense of how kind and caring



City Council April 6, 2020

the local community is when she worked in hospice home health care. Mrs. Hardy stated she believes she can and will be an asset to the Council because of her ability yo deal with people and families in crisis. Mrs. Hardy explained that due to the current situation going on around the world we are going to start seeing it impact our community, our friends and family are going to start missing rent and mortgage payments. Mrs. Hardy continued by saying she is committed to Florence and its citizens and is ready to help the City Council think outside the box and think ahead to help support the citizens and community of Florence.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Vendetti and second by Councilor Esquibel, the City approved appointing Melissa Hardy to fill the vacancy in Ward 2.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES

Councilor	Knisley
Councilor	Vendetti
Councilor	Wood
Councilor	Esquibel
Councilor	Allen
Mayor	Upton

After the Council voted in favor to have Mrs. Hardy fill the vacancy in Ward 2, City manager, Mike Patterson administered to Mrs. Hardy the City of Florence’s Oath of Office.

7. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

- a. **Meeting Minutes for March 2, 2020**
- b. **Special Meeting Minutes for March 20, 2020**
- c. **Bills Allowed**
- d. **Continue Ordinance 07-01-2019B to Approve the Meade Estates Addition Annexation to April 20, 2020**
- e. **Liquor License Renewal for the Florence Elks Lodge**

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Allen and second by Councilor Wood, the City approved the Consent Agenda Items.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES

Councilor	Knisley
Councilor	Vendetti
Councilor	Wood
Councilor	Esquibel
Councilor	Hardy-Abstain
Councilor	Allen



City Council April 6, 2020

Mayor

Upton

8. DISCUSSION & ACTION MATTERS:

a. **Temporary Changes to Liquor Licenses**

City Manager, Mike Patterson explained to the Council that Colorado State Governor has issued several new orders in regards to licensed Liquor establishments. Mr. Patterson continued by saying the most recent order issued that he wanted the Council to discuss was one that allows restaurants to sell alcohol to go. Mr. Patterson stated that while the issue was ordered by the Governor, it was not very specific from a law enforcement or local liquor licensing authority standpoint. Mr. Patterson went on to say he and the Police Chief had decided to temporarily allow the local restaurants to sell factory-sealed alcohol until the Council was able to meet and discuss this issue further. Mr. Patterson explained some of the restaurants had brought up the fact that the issued order did allow them to sell mixed drinks to go as well. Mr. Patterson went on to say he understands that it is a large revenue source for the restaurants but it also could be problematic from the law enforcement standpoint. Mr. Patterson explained to the Council that the temporary rules that he and the Chief of Police, Shane Prickett, had come up with were that it is on each restaurant to come up with their own method to “seal” the to-go containers in a way that prevents the consumption of the drink while in transit. Mr. Patterson continued by saying as an example they can use duck tape to cover the straw hole and seal the lid to the cup and the drinks must not be accessible to the driver, otherwise if pulled over the drive could receive an open container violation.

City Attorney, Matt Krob explained to the Council that the onus of compliance will still be on the liquor license establishment. Mr. Krob suggested that the City come up with the wording for the restaurants so everyone is on the same page of the rules.

After discussion by the Council members, they approved the temporary changes as follows. It is up to each restaurant to initial the seal and to seal the to-go cups that contain alcohol to prevent the consumption while driving and the restaurants must have some sort of sign or letter letting customers know to not open or remove the seal while driving and they must comply with all other state and local laws.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Vendetti and second by Councilor Esquibel, the City approved the Temporary Changes to Liquor Licenses

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES



City Council April 6, 2020

Councilor	Knisley
Councilor	Vendetti
Councilor	Wood
Councilor	Esquibel
Councilor	Hardy
Councilor	Allen
Mayor	Upton

b. Direct Staff to Start RFP Process for Newspaper of Record

City Manager, Mike Patterson stated we wanted to go on record to apologize to Maryann Burk at the Florence Citizen newspaper. Mr. Patterson explained he was incorrect when he stated at the last Council meeting that the public notice for the vacancy in Ward Two had not been published in the newspaper. Mr. Patterson went on to say that this will allow City staff to start the process to allow local newspapers the opportunity to bring their best deal forward and become the City's newspaper of record. Mr. Patterson continued by saying currently the Florence Citizen is the City's newspaper of record but the Canon City Daily Record has been trying very hard to become the City's newspaper. Mr. Patterson stated that this had been put on tonight's agenda as there have been several discussions by the Mayor and Council members to look at all the options the City has for a newspaper of record. Mr. Patterson stated that a newspaper has to meet certain criteria with its general circulation numbers to become a newspaper of record and that we will check with all three local papers, the Florence Citizen, the Canon City Daily Record, and the Fremont County Crusader.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Knisley and second by Councilor Allen, the City approved to Direct Staff to start the RFP Process for a new Newspaper of Record

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES

Councilor	Knisley
Councilor	Vendetti
Councilor	Wood
Councilor	Esquibel
Councilor	Hardy
Councilor	Allen
Mayor	Upton



City Council April 6, 2020

1. MAYOR'S AND CITY COUNCILS REPORT:

- a. **Mayoral Appointment for Planning Commission**
Mayor Upton appointed Jackie Chester to the Planning Commission.
- b. **Mayor:** Mayor Upton wanted to encourage the community to do their part to stop the spread of COVID-19 by keeping their gloves and masks on and using their social distancing skills.
- c. **Council Committee Reports: N/A**

d. Other Council Comments:

Counselor Vendetti stated he had spoken with Fremont County Commissioner, Debbie Bell and she had stated the County had joined their code enforcement along with their Public Health Department to ensure businesses are in compliance with the Governor's orders.

Counselor Esquibel stated he had been asked by a citizen why people are allowed to be in public parks with metal detectors and what law enforcement was doing about it. City Manager, Mike Patterson stated that the Governor's orders do encourage getting outside and exercising while still maintaining social distancing. Mr. Patterson continued by saying as long as people are not congregating or hanging out in groups in the park they will not be contacted by local law enforcement and asked to go home. Counselor Esquibel also stated he had been approached by a citizen in regards to the sidewalk at 3rd and Robinson. The citizen had stated the concrete is badly broken up and is a very bad tripping hazard. Mr. Patterson addressed this concern by saying the Public works department is still out and working but in a different manner as to comply with social distancing. Mr. Patterson continued by saying someone from the City will go take a look at this problem area and make it as safe as possible until the Public works department can permanently fix it. Mr. Patterson continued by saying the crews are working on small projects that only require one person. Mr. Patterson also stated that as soon as the Public works department is able to resume normal operations they will get back to doing concrete jobs. Counselor Esquibel's final question was regarding the City's spring cleanup week and if it was still going to happen this year. Mr. Patterson stated this year's cleanup week will take place starting April 13th and will begin on the east side of town. Mr. Patterson continued by saying it will be a small three-man crew to comply with the Governor's orders so it will likely take two to three weeks this year and the crew will also be doing two full sweeps through the town.



City Council April 6, 2020

Counselor Wood reported that she had the opportunity to help several weeks ago with the organization of the Flo-Can group. Counselor Wood stated she was very impressed with how the City staff and citizens dove in to help others in the community.

ATTORNEYS REPORT: City Attorney, Matt Krob reported that he is on the phone several times a week with CML and CIRSA learning as much as possible to help guide the City and the Council through these times of uncertainty. Mr. Krob let the Council know he has an eleven-page memo with State and Federal updates that he will be sending to the City Clerk to have forwarded to the Council. Mr. Krob continued by telling the Council to reach out to him if they have any questions or concerns.

City Manager, Mike Patterson: Mr. Patterson reported that the acquisition of the six hundred shares of the Union ditch that has been in the works since June of 2019 should be completed this month on or around April 17th. Mr. Patterson also wanted to thank the initial volunteers, Connie Earls, Tabith Hardy, Hans Phral, Janna Hagan, Kevin Mahmalji and City staff that got the Flo-Can group started. Mr. Patterson stated it's a fantastic group that has and will continue to help the citizens of Florence.

Mr. Patterson then requested two executive sessions and asked the Council to invite the City Manager, Mike Patterson, City Attorney, Matt Krob, City Clerk, Jessica Griffith, into the session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

An executive session pursuant to C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(e) for the purpose of determining positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations, developing strategy for negotiations, and/or instructing negotiators.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Vendetti and second by Councilor Wood, the City approved moving into Executive Session at 7:55 p.m. and adjourned from Executive Session at 8:20 p.m.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES

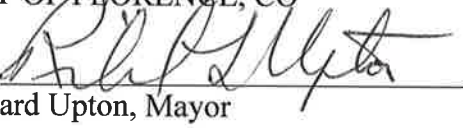
- Councilor Knisley
- Councilor Vendetti
- Councilor Wood
- Councilor Esquibel
- Councilor Hardy
- Councilor Allen
- Mayor Upton



City Council April 6, 2020

There being no further business, Mayor Upton adjourned the meeting at 8:21 P.M.

CITY OF FLORENCE, CO

BY: 
Richard Upton, Mayor

ATTEST: 
Jessica Griffith, City Clerk