



CITY OF FLORENCE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
January 21, 2020

- 1. CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Upton called the regular meeting of the Florence City Council to order at 7:07 pm.
- 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Councilman Villagrana led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

- 3. ROLL CALL:**

Mayor Upton	-	Present
Councilman Allen	-	Present
Councilman Esquiubel	-	Present
Councilman Knisley	-	Present
Councilman Vendetti	-	Present
Councilwoman Wood	-	Present
Councilman Villagrana	-	Present

- 4. ALSO PRESENT:** City Manager, Mike Patterson; City Attorney, Matt Krob; City Clerk, Jessica Griffith; Finance Officer, Lori Cobler; Public Works Director, Sam Elstun; Planning Director, Wade Broadhead; Deputy Chief: Bill Vinelli;

- 5. PUBLIC COMMENTS: N/A**

Larry Baker, 131 W. Main St.

Mr. Baker wanted to thank the Council and the Mayor for appointing him to the Florence Planning Commission and Fremont County Planning Commission Boards. Mr. Baker stated he had attended the County Planning Commission meeting recently and reported that the big subject of that meeting was the potential mining project in Fremont County. Mr. Baker continued by saying he had voted in favor of the company moving forward since they have done everything legally so far. Mr. Baker also stated there had been a lot of public concern around this project. Mr. Baker then reported the board had also approved a racetrack for small cars and that he would continue to keep the Council informed on those matters and anything new that was discussed at the meetings.

Mr. Upton and the Council thanked Mr. Baker for his report.

- 1. High School Band Recognition and Proclamation**

Councilor Villagrana introduced band director Dave Wood and several students from the Florence High School Band. Mr. Wood thanked the Council and stated it was nice to be recognized by people other than just the parents. Mr. Wood stated that during the marching season the students give up an incredible amount of personal



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time, money and dedication. Mr. Wood continued by saying the students also give an extra week of their summer to march and practice eight hours a day in hundred-degree weather. Mr. Wood went on to say it takes a community to help achieve what the band accomplished this year by taking second at the state band competition and also noted this is the first time in the history of Florence High School Marching Band to place that high in the competition. Mr. Wood is looking forward to building on this momentum and improving in the years to come. Mr. Wood stated everything from police escorts, fire trucks, roadblocks and citizens waving flags and welcoming the Band into town was phenomenal and meant a great deal to the Band students. Mr. Wood then presented the City Council with a second-place medal from the competition to recognize the Council as honorary members of the Florence High School Band.

Drum Major Emily Reeder addressed the Council by saying the band has evolved so much from when she started as a freshman and all the band did was play songs on the field. Ms. Reeder continued by saying in her sophomore year the band started marching, her junior year the band competed on the state level and took fourth place. Ms. Reeder stated she couldn't be happier to end her senior year with all the Band has accomplished this year.

Jasen Wing stated he moved here two years ago from Cotopaxi. Mr. Wing thanked the Council and the community for making a pretty coll place to live.

Hanna Rhoades thanked the Council for honoring the Band and stated it was a huge accomplishment. Ms. Rhoades continued by saying she was proud of the hard work and dedication of her fellow students.

Mayor Upton thanked Mr. Wood, Justin Nelson, and the entire Florence High School Band. Mr. Upton then read the Band Proclamation.

The Council and City Staff commented and thanked Mr. Wood and the Band for all their hard work.

6. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS/CORRECTIONS TO AGENDA: N/A

7. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

- a. Meeting Minutes for January 6, 2019
- b. Bills Allowed
- c. Continue Ordinance 07-01-2019B to Approve the Meade Estates Addition Annexation to February 3, 2020

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

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES

Council Member Villagrana



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Council Member	Knisley
Council Member	Vendetti
Council Member	Wood
Council Member	Esquibel
Council Member	Allen
Mayor	Upton

8. DISCUSSION & ACTION MATTERS:

a. Public Works Request for Equipment Purchase for the Cemetery

Public Works Director, Sam Elstun, explained to the Council that this request was for material to install a sprinkler system in the amount of Twenty-five thousand, five hundred eighteen dollars and ninety-three cents for blocks seventy-eight, seventy-nine, eighty and eighty-one. Mr. Elstun continued by saying this will bring those new blocks into the perpetual care portion of the cemetery and they will also be adding a spreading garden for ashes.

Several Council Members asked about planting trees in several of the new blocks to which Mr. Elstun stated he had met with Black Hills Energy and they discussed helping the City with ten to twelve trees for Arbor Day.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Villagrana and second by Councilor Wood, the City approved the Public Works Request for Equipment Purchase for the Cemetery in the amount of \$25,518.93.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES

Council Member	Villagrana
Council Member	Knisley
Council Member	Vendetti
Council Member	Wood
Council Member	Esquibel
Council Member	Allen
Mayor	Upton

1. MAYOR’S AND CITY COUNCILS REPORT:

a. Mayor:

Mayor Upton reported on the two school board meetings he attended. Mr. Upton spoke about the future needs of both the Elementry and Junior/Senior High. Mr. Upton continued by saying the school board is looking into a bond rollover to cover adding an additional wing to the Elementry School and a new gym for the Junior/Senior High. Mr. Upton continued by saying that Unbridled is a large asset to the High School with their TechSTART readiness program that will be up and running soon. Mr. Upton went on to say the High School is looking for a building



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to add programs like machine shop, woodshop and other areas to ready students for the hands-on tech industry. Mr. Upton spoke about the Gold Belt Byways promotion committee meeting where they discussed upgrading their Facebook, Instagram, Youtube, website and mobile app as ways to promote the Gold Belt.

b. Council Committee Reports:

Counselor Wood reported she had attended the FEDC banquet where the keynote speaker was Sean Bertini from Four Points Funding spoke about building and rising small communities. Mrs. Wood continued by saying she spoke with the chief marketing officer with FS Logics, Brad Rowland who stated he took Mr. Bertini on a tour of Florence. Mr. Rowland also told Mrs. Wood that Mr. Bertini sees great growth potential in our City and community.

Counselor Allen reported he is no longer the president of the Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Allen explained he will continue to represent the City and watch marketing and the City's investment with the Chamber. Mr. Allen stated that the annual Chamber banquet which is an event where the City, the School Board, and other organizations give out awards has been scheduled for March fourteenth this year. Mr. Allen encouraged everyone to vote and stated the event will be held at the Unbridled emergent campus.

Counselor Knisley thanked Planning Director Wade Broadhead for the information he provided in regards to the street lights. Mr. Knisley stated the Merchants Association had stated they may be looking for some monetary assistance in 2021 for some marketing in the Royal Gorge region travel guide. Mr. Knisley reported that the Merchants had discussed decorating trees with yarn around the Pioneer Day events this year to welcome a philanthropist group to town. Mr. Knisley stated he would like to see the City staff and the Council participate in that event.

Counselor Vendetti reported the dispatch committee had hired a new director and that they are looking into a new CAD program.

c. Other Council Comments:

Counselor Villagrana spoke about the museum's annual chili bowl fundraiser. Mr. Villagrana stated he was very pleased that all of the City Council Members were present and he feels that speaks volumes for what the Council is all about. Mr. Villagrana continued by saying P&G Pottery made and donated two hundred and seventy-five bowls for the event and only had twenty-five left. Mr. Villagrana thanked the Council and City staff for attending and helping show how important the museum is to the City and community.



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ATTORNEYS REPORT: Mr. Krob reported he is currently working with City staff on outstanding projects and tasks. Mr. Krob continued by saying several projects are in the near stages of completion and will be presented to the Council very soon. Mr. Krob stated that he feels like the City Staff are doing a great job and that it's a reflection of the direction the Council has given their employees.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Police Department, Deputy Chief Vinelli: No Report

Public Works Director, Sam Elstun: Mr. Elstun reported the Public Works Department is working on quite a few projects at the moment to include the safe routes to school, the water main replacement project on N. Pikes Peak, the cemetery and ramping up the sidewalk replacement program.

Water Superintendent, Brandon Harris: Mr. Harris stated he believes in being proactive and while the state does not require testing, Mr. Harris would like to test the City's water for fire retardant chemicals. Mr. Harris continued by saying he does not fear that the water is contaminated but again would like to be proactive. Mr. Harris reported he has been doing online training with Caselle on using the backflow module.

Finance Officer, Lori Cobler: Mrs. Cobler reported she got W2's and 1099's completed and out with payroll and she has scheduled the financial audit for May this year. Mrs. Cobler continued by saying the City's budget has been turned in and accepted by DOLA. Mrs. Cobler stated she had attended the first Fourth of July meeting and encouraged the Council to join the meeting and participate in the events this year. Mrs. Cobler went on to talk about a new tool, reverse 911 that comes along with the Police Dispatch system. Mrs. Cobler stated the City is going to start using this system to better inform the community about things as they happen, for example, a water main break. Mrs. Cobler explained the City will have two people trained to use this tool. Mrs. Cobler reported that tax collection through November 2019 was up fourteen percent for the year.

Planning Director, Wade Broadhead: No Report

Interim City Clerk, Jessica Griffith: Mrs. Griffith reported that she had discovered the ordinance for liquor license fees had not been updated since two thousand and one and she will be working with Mr. Krob to get that updated.



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City Manager, Mike Patterson: Mr. Patterson explained to the Council that Jessica Griffith, had done a great job in her time as the Interim City Clerk. Mr. Patterson continued by saying she had shown her dedication to the job and the City and taken the role as City Clerk to new levels with her focus and accuracy of her meeting minutes. Mr. Patterson stated that with the support of staff he has made the decision to appoint Mrs. Griffith to the City Clerk position. Mr. Patterson then requested eight executive sessions and invited the following staff members, the City Attorney, the City Manager, the Finance Officer, the City Planner, Public Works Director, and the City Clerk.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

1) For the purposes of determining positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations, developing strategy for negotiations, and/or instructing negotiators, under C.R.S. §24-6-402(4)(e);

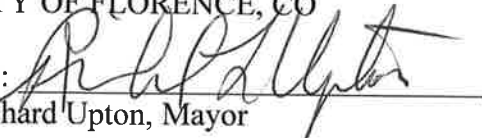
MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Villagrana and second by Councilor Wood, the City approved moving into Executive Session at 8:00 p.m. and adjourned from Executive Session at 8:55 p.m.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES

Council Member	Villagrana
Council Member	Knisley
Council Member	Vendetti
Council Member	Wood
Council Member	Esquibel
Council Member	Allen
Mayor	Upton

There being no further business, Mayor Upton adjourned the meeting at 8:55 P.M.

CITY OF FLORENCE, CO

BY: 
Richard Upton, Mayor

ATTEST: 
Jessica Griffith, City Clerk