



CITY OF FLORENCE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
February 18, 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:** Councilor Vendetti 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 Cobler; Public Works Director, Sam Elstun; Planning Director, Wade Broadhead; Deputy Police Chief: Bill Vinelli;
5. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

John Miller-111 Church Ave.

Mr. Miller stated to the Council that there was an opportunity to bring the band Flash Cadillac to Florence the night before the car show this year. Mr. Miller continued by saying Canon City has hosted the band several times over the last five years and they always pack the streets during their shows. Mr. Miller explained that there is a cost of four thousand dollars involved with bringing the band to Florence and that the Merchants Association had raised about nineteen hundred dollars so far. Mr. Miller asked the Council if they were interested in helping fund part of this to bring a new event to Florence and hopefully more attendance to the annual car show.

The Council thanked Mr. Miller and stated they would discuss Mr. Miller's request.
6. **Dan Melendrez-High School/Middle School Principal**

Mr. Melendrez started his presentation off by thanking the community and the parents for all of their continued support. Mr. Melendrez detailed what a great fall the school has had in band and sports. The band placed second in the state



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championship, both football and volleyball made it to the state playoffs, they had fourth-place cross-county finisher, junior and senior students made it to the all-state choir, the ten pin terminators had a great showing and the junior highs boys basketball team made league champions. Mr. Melendrez also reported they had five students place in the wrestling tournament and three students received music scholarships to CSUP ranging from fifteen thousand to nineteen thousand dollars. Mr. Melendrez went on to explain the school's homegrown talent initiative program. Mr. Melendrez explained that this program is designed to keep graduates here in Florence and explained that there are three graduation pathways, the traditional route, college and career tech route, and the college route. Mr. Melendrez continued by saying not all students want to go to a traditional four-year college so they work hard to help these students achieve certificates in things like welding and other trades to help them be ready for jobs right out of high school. Mr. Melendrez answered questions and comments from the Council and audience and thanked everyone for allowing him to speak about the great things going on at the school.

7. Mary Chamberlain-SOCO Tourism Summit

Ms. Chamberlain explained that the SOCO tourism summit is made up of eleven counties throughout Colorado with two regional groups. One is a five-county group made up from Canon City to Trinidad and the other is a six-county group from LaJuanta all the way to Kansas and Oklahoma. Ms. Chamberlain continued by saying they alternate between the two regions every year and this year its Fremont County's year to host the annual summit. Mrs. Chamberlain stated they have a fifty-passenger luxury bus that will take the group around April 8-10, 2020, and travel through Florence visiting the Emergent Campus, and do a walking tour around Florence with City Planning Director, Wade Broadhead and Marty Lamm. The group will also travel up to Westcliffe and visit several locations in Canon City to include the Royal Gorge. Ms. Chamberlain stated they would have a speaker from the Colorado Byways and also a BLM geologist and paleontologist.

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

9. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

- a. Meeting Minutes for February 3, 2020
- b. Bills Allowed
- c. Continue Ordinance 07-01-2019B to Approve the Meade Estates Addition Annexation to March 2, 2020



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

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES

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

10. DISCUSSION & ACTION MATTERS:

a. Resolution 2020-02-18-Rural Jump Start.

Marc Bellantoni, administrator for the Upper Arkansas Area Development Corporation introduced himself and stated his job is to help provide resources to businesses to get started. Mr. Bellantoni explained he was at the meeting to ask the Council to join in the rural jump start program. Mr. Bellantoni continued by saying this program is a tool for encouraging economic business growth. Mr. Bellantoni went on to say this program, in a nutshell, is a tax relief program that assists new business with tax relief in state income tax, sales and use tax, along with some tax relief for the new employees for the new business. Mr. Bellantoni answered several questions from the audience and the Council.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Vendetti and second by Councilor Allen, the City approved Resolution 2020-02-18-Rural Jump Start.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES

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

b. Street Closure Request for the 19th Annual Car Show

Mayor Upton stated that the street closure request was to block off the same location as the previous years from Maple to N. McCandless Ave. Mayor Upton went on to say the car show is a very successful event and a great asset to the City.



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MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Allen and second by Councilor Wood, the City approved the Street Closure Request for the 19th Annual Car Show.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES

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

- c. **Temporary Sales Room for Apple Valley Cider Company**
Event to be held at the Bakers Rack on February 20, 2020, from 3:00 pm to 10:00 pm

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Vendetti and second by Councilor Allen, the City approved the Street Closure Request for the 19th Annual Car Show.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES

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

- d. **Street Closure Request for CrossFit Florence**
 The Council approved the street closure request for CrossFit Florence without a motion as they are not closing down the state highway and the City Manager has the authority to approve these types of requests.

1. MAYOR’S AND CITY COUNCILS REPORT:

- a. **Mayor:** Mayor Upton reported he had attended the School Board, Merchants Association and the Arts Council Meetings. Mayor Upton stated the Gold Belt Byways meeting had gotten canceled due to the snow and had been rescheduled to Monday, February 24 at 9:00 am in Canon City.
- b. **Council Committee Reports:**
 Councilor Wood reported she had attended the City-County meeting on February 10, 2020, where City staff and the Fremont County Commissioners discussed the affordable housing shortage. Councilor Wood also stated the



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ward one tour that she and Councilor Esquibel went on was very informative and a great opportunity to learn from City staff what the concerns are from the community.

Councilor Esquibel reported on the Fire Department meeting where the new group of volunteer trainees was discussed. Councilor Esquibel also reported on the UAACOG special meeting where they discussed hiring a new law firm and voted to give the new President financial authority.

c. **Other Council Comments:** No other reports

ATTORNEYS REPORT: No Report

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Police Department, Deputy Chief Vinelli: No Report

Public Works Director, Sam Elstun: Mr. Elstun thanked the Council and community for their patience with the Public Works Department during all the snowstorms.

Water Superintendent, Brandon Harris: N/A

Finance Officer, Lori Cobler: No Report

Planning Director, Wade Broadhead: No Report

City Clerk, Jessica Griffith: No Report

City Manager, Mike Patterson: Mr. Patterson invited the Council to the FEDC breakfast on Wednesday, February 19, 2020, at 7:00 am at the Abbey in Canon City and also the radio station that morning at 8:30 am. Mr. Patterson then requested three executive sessions and asked the Council to invite the City Attorney and the City Manager 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 Allen, the City approved moving into Executive Session at 8:25 p.m. and adjourned from Executive Session at 9:30 p.m.




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ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES

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

There being no further business, Mayor Upton adjourned the meeting at 9:33 P.M.

CITY OF FLORENCE, CO

BY: 
Richard Upton, Mayor

ATTEST: 
Jessica Griffith, City Clerk