



CITY OF FLORENCE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
April 20, 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 Esquibel led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. **ROLL CALL:**

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

1. **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; Water Superintendent, Brandon Harris; Deputy Police Chief: Bill Vinelli; Planning Administrative Assistant/Deputy City Clerk Janelle Dodd

2. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** N/A

3. **APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:**

- a. **Meeting Minutes for April 6, 2020**
- b. **Bills Allowed**
- c. **Continue Ordinance 07-01-2019B to Approve the Meade Estates Addition Annexation to May 4, 2020**

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

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES

Councilor	Knisley
Councilor	Vendetti
Councilor	Wood
Councilor	Esquibel
Councilor	Hardy



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Councilor Allen
Mayor Upton

4. DISCUSSION & ACTION MATTERS:

a. East Florence Water Contract Renewal

City Manager. Mike Patterson explained to the Council that the only thing that had been changed in the contract was the term length. Mr. Patterson continued to say normally the contract has a renewal of every two years, but at the request of the East Florence Water Association this years contract renewal has a term of five years.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Allen and second by Councilor Esquibel, the City approved the East Florence Water Contract Renewal

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES

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

b. 1st Reading of Ordinance 04-20-2020A Lowering Dog License Fees

City Manager, Mike Patterson explained to the Council that currently, the fees for licensing a dog in the City is twenty-five dollars for a spayed or neutered dog and fifty dollars for dogs that have not been spayed or neutered and the owner has to show proof the dog has had a rabies vaccination in the last two years. Mr. Patterson went on to say the City has a lot of dogs but not very many are currently licensed. Mr. Patterson continued by saying that staff is suggesting lowering the fees to ten dollars for a spayed or neutered dog and twenty for non-spayed or neutered dogs and having the pet owner sign the application acknowledging the dog has had a rabies vaccination in the last two years.

Counselor Vendetti asked if there would be a way for citizens to pay for their dog license online. Mr. Patterson stated he and the staff would like into making that option available.

City Attorney, Matt Krob explained to the Council if dog license fees ever need to be adjusted again they will be able to do so by resolution in the future instead of by ordinance. Mr. Krob also stated that an added benefit to owners



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licensing their dogs with the City is they have a better chance of being returned if they get lost and picked up by the local Police Department.

The Council verified that this is an annual license and the penalty for not registering your dog with the City could be up to a four hundred dollars and ninety-nine dollars fine.

Mayor Upton opened up into public comment via Zoom where no one spoke on this ordinance.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Knisley and second by Councilor Allen, the City approved the 1st Reading of Ordinance 04-20-2020A Lowering Dog License Fees

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES

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

c. Resolution 2020-04-20A Amending the Budget 2019 Budget

Finance Officer, Lori Cobler stated to the Council that this resolution is meant to appropriate additional revenues for the two thousand nineteen budget. Mrs. Cobler explained fifty thousand dollars for the general fund was to cover Police supplies and operating expenses. The fifty thousand dollars to the pool, park, and recreation fund was a correction because those expenses were entered as five thousand dollars for the year and it should have been fifty thousand dollars. The sixty-seven thousand dollars for the cemetery construction fund was to purchase the mini excavator for the cemetery and was made possible by the generous donation from the estate of Jean Fassler. The capital improvements and the bond series 2013 are to cover any expenses due to carryover invoices that might come from the City's yearly audit. The street improvement project fund is to move the funds over to cover the street improvements and repairs done around the City in two thousand nineteen.

Mayor Upton opened up into public comment via Zoom where no one spoke on this ordinance.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Knisley and second by Councilor Wood, the City approved Resolution 2020-04-20A Amending the Budget 2019 Budget



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ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES

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

d. 1st Reading of Ordinance 04-20-2020B Amending the 2019 Budget

Finance Officer, Lori Cobler, and City Attorney, Matt Krob explained to the Council that the resolution they just passed adopts or in this case amends the budget, and the ordinance before them now appropriates the sums of money authorizes the expenditures of those amounts.

Mayor Upton opened up into public comment via Zoom where no one spoke on this ordinance.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Allen and second by Councilor Esquibel, the City approved the 1st Reading of Ordinance 04-20-2020B Amending the 2019 Budget

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES

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

e. Florence Brewing Premise Modification

City Clerk, Jessica Griffith explained to the Council that temporary premise modifications are a two-step process with the State of Colorado, you pay once to turn on the modified premise and once to turn off the modification. Mrs. Griffith went on to say the brewery had also submitted a street closure request to the City to block off the street in front of the brewery for the festivals that City Manager, Mike Patterson had approved and signed off on.

Mayor Upton opened up into public comment via Zoom where no one spoke on this ordinance.



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MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Esquibel and second by Councilor Allen, the City approved the Florence Brewing Premise Modification

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES

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

f. COVID-19 Discussion

Mayor Upton started this discussion by acknowledging that there is a lot of concern around the community in regards to COVID-19. Mayor Upton asked City Manager, Mike Patterson, to give the Council some background on the City's FLO-CAN group. Mr. Patterson stated that City Planner Wade Broadhead and Planning Assistant/Deputy City Clerk Janelle Dodd have helped get the group going as well as Counselor Wood and many other volunteers. Mr. Patterson continued by saying the volunteers have collected donations of canned goods, paper goods, toiletries, and food to be redistributed to those in the community that are in need due to many different situations during this time.

Finance Officer, Lori Cobler told the Council that the City had received an anonymous donation of Big D's Superfood gift cards that have been used to purchase some items.

City Planner, Wade Broadhead told the Council that most of the citizens that FLO-CAN has helped have been Seniors and a few families.

Mr. Patterson explained to the Council that while the City is monitoring the Governor's order he is guiding business to reach out to the County and the Governor's office with questions relating to operating under the Stay at Home Order. Mr. Patterson went on to say the City is working with the City of Canon City, Fremont County, and the Florence Chamber of Commerce to combine resources in an effort to help local businesses and the economy to get through these difficult times.

Counselor Hardy stated that while she agrees we need to start opening business and getting our local economy back on track, we also need to not become complacent and if we are not careful we could end up back on a strict stay at home order, possibly for a longer period of time. Mrs. Hardy continued by saying that once people hear things are going to start to get back to some form of normalcy that gives them a false sense of security and we as a



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community must continue to be aggressive in doing our part to flatten the new COVID-19 cases. Mrs. Hardy would like to see business owners, City staff as well as the Florence Chamber of Commerce to work together to identify what business are on the brink of closing their doors and what can be done to help those business stay open. Counselor Hardy also spoke about the effects the stay at home order may be having on the children in the community. Mrs. Hardy stated she did not realize before this how many of Florences children do not have access to the internet and she is working with Mr. Patterson to see what can be done to remedy this problem. Mrs. Hardy continued by saying that not only do our children not have access to learning right now they are also isolated in their homes with no social interaction with friends and some of the positive role models like teachers during this time.

Counselor Vendetti thanked Mrs. Hardy for her input. Mr. Vendetti agrees that we need to be very careful in opening up business and the economy to early as this virus is still very dangerous and we don't know a lot about it.

1. MAYOR'S AND CITY COUNCILS REPORT:

a. **Mayor:** No Report

b. **Council Committee Reports:**

Counselor Vendetti reported the dispatch committee has some concerns with funding as the City of Canon City's sales tax revenue is down and they are scaling back on funding in certain areas. Mr. Vendetti also reported he is impressed with the new dispatch Director.

Counselor Wood reported she had attended the school board meeting online. Mrs. Wood explained that the kids are still not back in school and are learning remotely while the school is waiting to see if and when they might be able to resume in-class learning. Mrs. Wood also reported that the school food service program is working hard to make sure the community's children are still getting meals a few days a week.

c. **Other Council Comments:**

Counselor Knisley followed up with Mr. Patterson and Mr. Broadhead in regards to some questions he had that involved Langston concrete and the Department of Reclamation and Mining Safety.

ATTORNEYS REPORT: No Report



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Police Department, Deputy Chief Vinelli: Mr. Vinelli reported that there had been two hundred and twenty-one calls/events for the Police Department in the last two weeks and that overall there has been a slight decrease in calls and incidents. Mr. Vinelli stated that the officers are still responding to calls and he wanted to commend the great group of officers for coming to work, doing their jobs, and not complaining during this time.

Public Works Director, Sam Elstun: No Report

Water Superintendent, Brandon Harris: Mr. Harris reported that on March twenty-fourth the Timberline Electric was scheduled to be at the water plant for two weeks to switch over two PLCs but due to the COVID-19 pandemic the hotels closed leaving the crew with nowhere to stay. So Timberline and Mr. Harris's crew worked round the clock putting in eighty hours in one week to get both PLCs switched over. Mr. Harris continued by saying the old PLC's were no longer supported and there were no spare parts if something were to fail and with the new PLCs in place, they will be supported for a minimum of twenty years and offer the water plant much greater functionality and capability to keep the plant running smoothly. Mr. Harris thanked the Council for approving the purchase of the PLC upgrade. Mr. Harris announced that long time employee Chuck Wann had retired after working for the water plant for twelve years. Mr. Harris stated Mr. Wann would be missed and that everyone wishes him well in his retirement.

Finance Officer, Lori Cobler: Mrs. Cobler reported that sales tax revenue was up thirty-eight thousand dollars from this time last year. Mrs. Cobler continued by saying while the numbers are up now we have to be cautious as we will most likely see a decline in March April, and May's numbers. Mrs. Cobler stated that she and Mr. Patterson are monitoring these numbers regularly to make sure we are staying on budget. Mrs. Cobler also told the Council that she will present the Water Cost Computation at the next City Council meeting and that the City's annual audit will be taking place remotely the second week of May. Mrs. Cobler stated that she wanted to give a shout out to the administration staff and the public works department for working very hard to accommodate the citizens while being safe during this pandemic.

Planning Director, Wade Broadhead: Mr. Broadhead reported to the Council that he attended a zoom meeting with Fremont County business owners, the City of Canon City, Canon City's Mayor, and the Fremont County Health Department recently. Mr. Broadhead continued by saying Fremont County Health Department stated they are sympathetic and understand that businesses want to open. The Health Department also said while the Governor may be in control, the County still has to be cautious about



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opening up to fast as this could lead to a potential COVID-19 outbreak. Mr. Broadhead stated his take away from the meeting was business in Fremont County just want a chance to open and stay in business and they are willing to comply with any requirements the Health Department might have for that chance to open. Mr. Broadhead also reported that Downtown Colorado Inc. which the City has worked with for five to six years now started a group almost immediately after the Stay at home orders were in place. Mr. Broadhead went on to say the group is comprised of small business owners and downtown associations trying to come up with ideas and strategies to help out all small businesses across the state. Mr. Broadhead stated he would like to invite Counselor Allen and another Council member to join in on the calls also.

Interim City Clerk, Jessica Griffith: No Report

City Manager, Mike Patterson: Mr. Patterson stated the Public Works Department had been busy doing the annual spring clean up week. Mr. Patterson reported that the City and the Water Department is continuing to work on how and when the public pool will be opening for the summer. Mr. Patterson continued by say the Water Superintendent, Brandon Harris has assured him that the COVID-19 virus can not be spread through drinking water or the water in the public pool but the City is researching how to ensure social distancing in the swimming pool environment. Mr. Patterson then requested one executive session to discuss four matters and requested the Council invite the following staff members, the 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, and Water Superintendent, Brandon Harris 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 Allen and second by Councilor Wood, the City approved moving into Executive Session at 8:20 p.m. and adjourned from Executive Session at 9:04 p.m.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES

- Councilor Knisley
- Councilor Vendetti
- Councilor Wood
- Councilor Esquibel
- Councilor Hardy



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Councilor Allen
Mayor Upton

There being no further business, Mayor Upton adjourned the meeting at 9:05 P.M.

CITY OF FLORENCE, CO

BY: 
Richard Upton, Mayor

ATTEST: 
Jessica Griffith, City Clerk