



CITY OF FLORENCE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
May 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 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; Police Chief: Shane Prickett; Planning Administrative Assistant/Deputy City Clerk Janelle Dodd

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

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

- a. Meeting Minutes for April 20, 2020
- b. Bills Allowed
- c. Continue Ordinance 07-01-2019B to Approve the Meade Estates Addition Annexation to June 1, 2020
- d. Big D Superfoods Liquor License Renewal

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

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES

Councilor	Knisley
Councilor	Vendetti
Councilor	Wood
Councilor	Esquibel



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Councilor	Hardy
Councilor	Allen
Mayor	Upton

4. DISCUSSION & ACTION MATTERS:

a. Resolution 2020-05-18A: A Resolution Establishing Fees for The Police Department

Police Chief, Shane Prickett explained to the Council that this resolution was meant to bring our fees closer in line with neighboring Police Departments. Mr. Prickett continued by saying the Florence Police Department was the least expensive and fastest department for the bond process so that fee was adjusted as well as the municipal surcharge and the sex offender registry fees.

There were no questions or comments from the public and after several questions and comments from the Council Resolution 2020-05-18A was approved.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Esquibel and second by Councilor Vendetti:

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES

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

b. Louie's Tavern Premises Modification

The owners of Louie's Tavern, Rich and Pam Guy explained to the Council that their current liquor license only allows them to use about fifty percent of their current building. Mr. Guy further explained they are in the process of updating the interior of the building to allow them to use the backroom or the other fifty percent of the building and also would like to expand onto the sidewalk to allow maximum occupancy with current social distancing requirements in place.

City Manager, Mike Patterson explained to Mr. Guy and the Council that an encroachment agreement would be needed between the City and any business that wants to expand onto the sidewalk and also reminded everyone that while the City has sovereign immunity that safeguards the City from being held



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liable for accidents that occur on sidewalks, business owners would not have that same immunity.

Mayor Upton confirmed with the City Clerk that all the necessary paperwork and fees had been submitted.

There were no questions or comments from the public and after several questions and comments from the Council the premises modification and sidewalk permit was approved.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Allen and second by Councilor Esquibel:

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES

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

c. CRCA IGA

Police Chief, Shane Prickett explained to the Council that this IGA(inner governmental agreement) is for the combined regional communication authority or 911 dispatch. Mr. Prickett continued by saying the biggest change to this current IGA is the addition of Custer County. Mr. Prickett stated that adding Custer County to the agreement will help lower the cost to each entity that uses the CRCA.

There were no questions or comments from the public and after several questions and comments from the Council the CRCA IGA was approved.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Vendetti and second by Councilor Wood:

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES

Councilor	Knisley
Councilor	Vendetti
Councilor	Wood
Councilor	Esquibel
Councilor	Hardy
Councilor	Allen
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d. Newspaper of Record Bid Discussion

City Manager, Mike Patterson explained to the Council that the City received bids from the Florence Citizen and the Fremont County Crusader and noted that the Canon City Daily Record did not submit a bid. Mr. Patterson continued by saying that while there had been some challenges with the Florence Citizen the staff has been very happy with the new owner and recommends staying with the Florence Citizen as the City’s official newspaper of record.

Roger Duncan and Morrie Aves spoke in favor of keeping the Florence Citizen during public comment and after several questions and comments from the Council, the Council approved keeping the Florence Citizen as the newspaper of record.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Vendetti and second by Councilor Wood:

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES

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

e. Authorize Staff to Approve Temporary Premises Modifications and Sidewalk Permits Under LED Bulletin 20-07

City Manager, Mike Patterson explained to the Council that the State is allowing restaurants to apply for temporary premises modifications to allow serving alcohol on optional premises like sidewalks or alleys to help increase seating capacity due to current social distancing requirements. Mr. Patterson continued by saying that rather than having a special meeting for each restaurant that applies, staff would like to approve these applications after review by the City Manager, the City Clerk, the Planning Director, and the Building inspector and bring them before the Council for at the next regular Council meeting.

There were no questions or comments from the public and after several questions and comments from the Council, City Staff was authorized to approve temporary premises modifications and sidewalk permits.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Vendetti and second by Councilor Hardy:

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES



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

1. MAYOR'S AND CITY COUNCILS REPORT:

- a. **Mayor:** Mayor Upton read the Historic Preservation Proclamation and the 2020 High School Graduates Proclamation.

Principal Melendrez along with graduating seniors Cassee Campbell and Sydnee Connors spoke about the challenges that they have faced with the COVID-19 pandemic. The students also stated that the 2020 graduation ceremony will consist of a drive around the football field followed by each student getting out and walking across the stage one by one to receive their diploma from a table followed by a parade through town on June 5th at 6:00 pm.

Mayor Upton reported he will be attending a Gold Belt Byway meeting to discuss different ways to promote the Byway.

- b. **Council Committee Reports:**

Counselor Allen reported that the Florence Chamber of Commerce has had to cut back the office hours due to COVID-19 to 9:00 am to 2:00 pm Friday-Saturday and also stated that the Chamber is planning to have the annual banquet in late October if social distancing measures allow at that time.

- c. **Other Council Comments:**

ATTORNEYS REPORT: No Report

Police Chief, Shane Prickett: No Report

Public Works Director, Sam Elstun: Mr. Elstun reported that the public works department is fully staffed and back to most normal businesses.

Water Superintendent, Brandon Harris: No Report



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Finance Officer, Lori Cobler: Mrs. Cobler stated that it was Public Works appreciation week and wanted to both thank and recognize all the City’s staff and departments for all their hard work and dedication. Mrs. Cobler continued by saying everyone has worked hard to make sure the Citizens of Florence continued to receive the same level of service despite the challenges they have faced with the COVID-19 pandemic. Mrs. Cobler reported to the Council that the first round of bond payments had been paid and that the City hopes to have the bond refi RFP back by the end of this month and also went over the sales tax numbers for March 2020.

Planning Director, Wade Broadhead: Mr. Broadhead spoke about the Historic Preservation Committee. Mr. Broadhead stated the Committee was able to get a grant in 2016 to get the Florence Train Depot on the national historic register and that developers are looking to start projects in our downtown with buildings that are on the national register to take advantage of the historic preservation tax credits. Mr. Broadhead reported that they were working on ramping code enforcement back up. Mr. Broadhead went on to explain that they have been receiving calls about weeds and abandon vehicles and they will be getting notices out soon.

Interim City Clerk, Jessica Griffith: No Report

City Manager, Mike Patterson: Mr. Patterson requested one executive session 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)(b) Conferences with an attorney for the local public body for the purposes of receiving legal advice on specific legal questions

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Vendetti and second by Councilor Esquibel, the City approved moving into Executive Session at 8:12 p.m. and adjourned from Executive Session at 8:36 p.m.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES

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



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Mayor Upton

There being no further business, Mayor Upton adjourned the meeting at 8:42 P.M.

CITY OF FLORENCE, CO

BY: 
Richard Upton, Mayor

ATTEST: 
Jessica Griffith, City Clerk