



CITY OF FLORENCE  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
May 4, 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 Hardy	-	Present
Councilor Vendetti	-	Present
Councilor Wood	-	Present-Absent
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:**

City Clerk, Jessica Griffith stated she had received a phone call from a concerned citizen about cars speeding on Pikes Peak Ave. Police Chief, Shane Prickett stated the Police Department will patrol for speeding more frequently in that area.
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 May 18, 2020
  - d. 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Ordinance 04-20-2020A Lowering Dog License Fees
  - e. 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Budget Amendment Ordinance 04-20-2020B

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

**ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES**



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

#### 4. DISCUSSION & ACTION MATTERS:

##### a. **Resolution 2020-05-04A: A Resolution Establishing Water**

Finance Officer, Lori Cobler stated that every year she does a cost computation to look at what the total water expenses and consumption were for Rockvale, Williamsburg, Coal Creek, and Florence. Mrs. Cobler went on to say that water rates are based on those factors each year. Mrs. Cobler continued by explaining to the Council that some years water usage is up and makes up enough to cover that year's expenses, but based on 2019's numbers, water usage was down and the overall expenses were higher. With that said, this year the entities will be charged more to make up that difference.

City Manager, Mike Patterson stated to the Council that based on the cost computation the entities will see an increase on their bill each month to pay back the difference owed for 2019. Mr. Patterson also stated to the Council that while the City has been able to decrease the debt service payment over the last few years unfortunately because of the decreased water usage and a decrease in the population at the Federal Prison in 2019 the City is asking the Council to approve a ten-cent increase to the debt service payment this year. Mr. Patterson explained that typically the water and typically go into effect May first of every year but because of the COVID-19 pandemic this year's rates will go into effect June first.

Finance Officer Lori Cobler explained to the Council that the debt service payment goes to pay off and down the bonds that the City owes. Mrs. Cobler stated that one bond for uncollectable revenues was completely paid off in 2019 and that helped to keep the increase to the ten-cents this year.

There were no questions or comments from the public and after several questions from the Council Resolution 2020-05-04A was approved.

**MOTION:** On a motion by Councilor Esquibel and second by Councilor Vendetti, the City approved Resolution 2020-05-04A

**ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES**

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

**b. Resolution 2020-05-04B: A Resolution Setting Water Rates for East Florence Water Association**

City Manager, Mike Patterson stated to the Council that this is the same information that was just explained by Finance Officer, Lori Cobler but for The East Florence Water Association.

There were no questions or comments from the public or the Council and Resolution 2020-05-04B was approved.

**MOTION:** On a motion by Councilor Allen and second by Councilor Vendetti, the City approved the Resolution 2020-05-04B

**ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES**

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

**c. Arrowhead Bid Discussion**

City Manager, Mike Patterson explained to the Council that several months ago the City went out to bid for the reconstruction of the road on Arrowhead Dr and received one bid from Langston Concrete. Mr. Patterson stated the bid had two different schedules, one for ninety-four thousand dollars and one for one hundred seventy-three thousand dollars and that the developer, Roy Enter was to pay a portion of the overall cost. Mr. Patterson went on to say because of the COVID-19 pandemic Mr. Enter is not comfortable moving forward with his portion of the project. Mr. Patterson continued by saying this is no fault of Langstons and that the City will likely go out to bid again on this project at some point.

City Attorney, Matt Krob explained to the Council that all the City's bid documents have a clause that states the bids may be rejected at the City's sole



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discretion. Mr. Krob continued by saying that language is in the bid documents for reasons like the project takes route or something unplanned happens.

City Manager, Mike Patterson stated that staff was asking the Council to reject the bid because the City was out of the sixty-day contractual deadline and also because neither the City or Mr. Enter feel comfortable with their budgets to move forward with the project.

There were no questions or comments from the public or the Council and the approved rejecting the bid from Langston Concrete for the Arrowhead Dr. project.

**MOTION:** On a motion by Councilor Vendetti and second by Councilor Allen, the City approved rejecting the Arrowhead bid from Langston Concrete

**ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES**

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

## **1. MAYOR'S AND CITY COUNCILS REPORT:**

- a. **Mayor:** Mayor Upton reported most of his meetings had been canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but he will be attending the Gold Belt Byways meeting virtually next week. Mayor Upton also reported he had been receiving a lot of phone calls from citizens in regards to when things like restaurants might open and when the City might get back to normal. Mayor Upton went on to say while he doesn't have many answers he and the City have been closely monitoring what information comes out from the Governor's office and will continue to do so.
- b. **Council Committee Reports:**

Counselor Esquibel reported he had virtually attended the UAACOG meeting where they discussed all of the neighboring Counties have had to cancel most meetings and are concerned about things like budgets and projects due to COVID-19. Counselor Esquibel continued by saying JoBeth from Fremont County Head Start had reported that a long time employee had tested positive for the COVID-19 virus and that the children were on spring break so it was an



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isolated incident. Counselor Esquibel also reported that Fremont County had received funding for one million dollars for its Pathfinder Park project.

**c. Other Council Comments:**

Counselor Hardy stated she had spoken with Darcy Cole from the boys and girls club and Ms. Cole had stated she had already established several locations around Canon City to host small groups of children for summer activities. Counselor Hardy went on to say Ms. Cole will be reaching out to the City to find some locations and opportunities in the Florence area also. Counselor Hardy went on to say she had emailed the schools, Superintendent, in regards to how many of Florences children do not have access to internet service and are looking into ways to help expand service to those children.

Counselor Vendetti stated she received an email in regards to the Ray Archuletta highway dedication and that originally it had been scheduled for September but has since been put on hold for now due to the COVID-19 situation.

**ATTORNEYS REPORT:** Mr. Krob reported to the Council that he is very closely monitoring information that is coming from the State legislature, CML (Colorado Municipal League), and attending virtual bi-weekly meetings with other attorneys in regards to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Police Department, Police Chief, Shane Prickett:** Mr. Prickett wanted to let the Council know that the Police Department did not get a new truck recently but has had a 2018 white dodge truck for two years and was used as an undercover vehicle for the detectives. Mr. Prickett continued by saying they had just recently put the police department decals on the truck and have started using it for a patrol vehicle. Mr. Prickett also reported that the Police Department had recently traded a car straight across to the Fremont County Sheriff's office for a 2010 Chevy Tahoe that was fully equipped with a K-9 cage which keeps the vehicle temperature controlled for K-9 Grizelda.

**Public Works Director, Sam Elstun:** Mr. Elstun reported that spring clean up week went well. Mr. Elatun also reported that the Public Works Department is staying busy with pothole repairs and expanding the perpetual care area of the cemetery.

**Water Superintendent, Brandon Harris:** No Report

**Finance Officer, Lori Cobler:** Mrs. Cobler reported that the City's annual state audit will be taking place this week and will be done remotely. Mrs. Cobler stated staff has been very busy preparing for the audit and will bring the audit report to the Council as



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soon as it's ready. Mrs. Cobler also reported that she and Planning Director, Wade Broadhead have been looking at the and revenues to help make some educated projections as to what the City's revenues will look like over the next few months. Mrs. Cobler went on to say the sales tax should be in soon and this will be the first look at those numbers since the COVID-19 pandemic started. Mrs. Cobler stated that the City has been working diligently to make sure the citizens of Florence continue to have their essential services. Mrs. Cobler continued by saying the City has not shut off water service due to non-payment during this time and she is proud of the Council, the City, and the staff for their hard work and commitment to the great citizens of Florence.

**Planning Director, Wade Broadhead:** No Report

**Interim City Clerk, Jessica Griffith:** No Report

**City Manager, Mike Patterson:** Mr. Patterson reported that there was finally a resolution to the Oak Creek Grade Reservoir water case from several years back. Mr. Patterson went on to say the City had looked into the possibility of going up the Chandler grade for extra water storage but the engineers found a large number of mine shafts under the area and determined it was not a viable option. Mr. Patterson continued by saying had the City not done the due diligence it would have lost those water rights. Mr. Patterson then requested four executive sessions 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 Vendetti and second by Councilor Esquibel, the City approved moving into Executive Session at 7:35 p.m. and adjourned from Executive Session at 8:26 p.m.

**ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES**

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



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Councilor    Allen  
Mayor        Upton

**There being no further business, Mayor Upton adjourned the meeting at 8:26 P.M.**

CITY OF FLORENCE, CO

BY:   
Richard Upton, Mayor

ATTEST:   
Jessica Griffith, City Clerk