



CITY OF FLORENCE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
June 15, 2020

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Upton called the regular meeting of the Florence City Council to order at 7:06 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
4. **ALSO PRESENT:** City Manager, Mike Patterson; City Attorney, Matt Krob: City Clerk, Jessica Griffith; Finance Officer, Lori Cobler: Planning Director, Wade Broadhead; Water Superintendent, Brandon Harris: Police Chief: Shane Prickett; Public Works Forman, Martin Lancaster
5. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** N/A
6. **Police Department Awards and New Employee Introductions:**

Police Chief, Shane Prickett introduced the three new police officers, Timothy Zant, Ariana Isom, Adam Hanna, and Detective Jeff Worley. Chief Prickett then awarded Rodney Snyder with a citizen recognition award for his assistance in apprehending a combative suspect on August 18, 2018.

Deputy Police Chief, Bill Vinelli thanked the City Council, the Mayor, City Manager, Mike Patterson, the City Staff, and all of the Police Officers for all they do for the citizens of Florence. Mr. Vinelli also thanked the citizens of Florence for their support and recognition of the Florence Police Department. Mr. Vinelli handed out five Accommodations Awards to Florence Police Department Officers Jason Dorman, Patrick Slattery, Michael Gordon, and Byron Cline, Fremont County Sheriff's Office SGT. Mike Miller and Fremont County Sheriff's Office Detective Alejandro Jimenez for their assistance and life-saving efforts on November 27, 2019, during an incident that took place at the Rivera motel in Florence.



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Mayor Upton congratulated all the Officers and thanked them for all they do for the City of Florence.

7. Nature Center Presentation:

Devin Jaffe and her partner Evan from Natures Educators thanked the Council for the opportunity to speak at the meeting. Ms. Jaffe explained that Natures Educators is a 501c3 and is licensed through US Fish and Wildlife Service permitted to care for permanently injured and disabled or captive-bred birds of pray for education and are the largest wildlife outreach program in the State of Colorado, Ms.Jaffe continued by saying she is hoping to open an educator center here in Florence where the community can go to learn about animals and nature. The Council was in favor of Ms. Jaffe's idea and would like to start helping with fundraising and see an official write up of Ms. Jaffe's proposal.

Mayor and the Council thanked Ms. Jaffe and the Nature Center for their presentation.

8. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

- a. Meeting Minutes for June 1, 2020
- b. Special Meeting Minutes for May 22, 2020
- c. Bills Allowed
- d. Continue Ordinance 07-01-2019B to Approve the Meade Estates Addition Annexation to July 6, 2020
- e. Rialto Theater Liquor License Renewal

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

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES

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

9. DISCUSSION & ACTION MATTERS:

- a. **Ordinance 06-15-2020C Adopting A Service Availability Fee**
City Manager, Mike Patterson asked the Council to postpone this ordinance to add some additional language.



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b. 24 HR Voting Drop Box

City Manager, Mike Patterson explained to the Council that Fremont County Clerk, Justin Grantham had asked for the Councils' approval to install a 24-hour drive-up ballot dropbox. Mr. Patterson continued by saying the County would like to install the box near the City's payment dropbox and there would be no cost to the City of Florence. Mr. Patterson stated that Staff is recommending the Council approve this request as it would greatly benefit the citizens of Florence.

There were no questions or comments from either the public or the Council.
MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Vendetti and second by Councilor Esquibel:

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES

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

c. Loaf & Jug Liquor License

Mayor Upton verified with the City Clerk, Jessica Griffith that all necessary paperwork and fees had been submitted. Mrs. Griffith explained the applicant had paid for a concurrent review with the State which meant the State had already received the application and was also reviewing it at this time. Mrs. Griffith stated there were a couple of representatives from Loaf & Jug at the meeting to answer any questions for the Council.

Brian Proffit, attorney for Loaf & Jug introduced himself along with Regional manager, Carlos Maes, and District manager Ryan Royce. Mr. Proffit went over the operations, policies, and training that Loaf & Jug has in place for selling alcohol.

After several questions from the Council and a few citizens, the Liquor License for Loaf & Jug was approved.

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

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES

Councilor	Knisley
Councilor	Vendetti
Councilor	Wood
Councilor	Esquibel



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Councilor	Hardy
Councilor	Allen
Mayor	Upton

d. Temporary Premises Modification for Quincy’s Restaurant

Christina James, Owner of Quincy’s Restaurant explained to the Council that due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the social distancing requirements her restaurant sales are down because she is only allowed to have 50% capacity or 50 people in the restaurant t a time. Mrs. James continued by saying she would like to take advantage of the State’s temporary liquor license premise modification. Mrs. James stated she is hoping to set up five tables outside of her building and that she has permission from the building owners of the Florence Mezzanine antique store to place a few tables in front of their building also.

Mayor Upton verified with the City Clerk that all the proper paperwork had been submitted

There were no questions or comments from the public and the Council thanked Morrie and Lori Aves for allowing Mrs. James to expand in front of their building. and the Premises Modification for Quincy’s Restaurant was approved.

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

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES

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

e. Ordinance 06-15-2020A Adopting a Drought Plan

Water Superintendent, Brandon Harris explained to the Council that this drought plan had been brought to the Council for review previously but now it had been put into an ordinance. Mr. Harris stated the plan detailed what defines a drought and what actions would be taken depending on what the severity of the drought was at the time. Mr. Harris noted that at this time the City is still in the process of putting together a fine and fee schedule for the drought plan.



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City Attorney, Matt Krob stated that item number two refers the fines to the general penalty which means the Municipal court could enforce a fine upon someone who violates the water usage amounts under the drought restrictions.

After several questions and comments from both the Council and the public Ordinance 06-15-2020A's first reading was approved.

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

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES

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

f. **Bond Refinance RFP Selection**

Finance Officer, Lori Cobler explained to the Council that the City had put out an RFP(request for proposal) to explore the possibility of refinancing the City's water bonds with a lower interest rate. Mrs. Cobler continued by saying one firm applied and was present to answer any questions the Council might have. Troy Bernberg from Northland Public Finance thanked the Council for the opportunity to speak about his proposal. Mr. Bernberg explained his background in finance and what benefits the City would experience by going with his company. City Planning Director, Wade Broadhead stated that the contract with Northland Public Finance gets paid based on a percentage of what they save the client. Mr. Bernberg stated that the City has the potential to save up to nine hundred and ninety thousand dollars over the life of the loan. Mr. Bernberg continued by saying the City's current interest rates are about four and a half percent and he believes he can refinance the bonds with a rate of about two and a half percent.

City Attorney, Matt Krob explained that if the Council agrees to approve working with Mr. Bernberg and Northland Public Finance Company, he would work with Mr. Bernberg to get the details of the contract outlined and bring that contact to the next Council meeting.

After several questions and comments from both the Council and the public, the Council approved moving into an agreement with Northland Public Finance Company subject to City Attorney approval.



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

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES

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

g. Emergency Ordinance 06-15-2020B Adopting Updated Code Enforcement Fines and Municipal Court Fines Fee's

City Clerk, Jessica Griffith explained to the Council that before this ordinance there had not been a set fee schedule for code enforcement violations. Mrs. Griffith continued by saying she worked with Police Chief, Shane Prickett, and added code enforcement fee to the police department's fine schedule as well as updated a few fees for traffic violations. Mrs. Griffith stated that code enforcement fines now have a step violation process to hopefully cut down on repeat offenders as well as give the Municipal Judge more guidance with those violations. Mrs. Griffith also explained to the Council that staff had added the police surcharge to this fine schedule as it was pointed out by City Attorney, Matt Krob that fine had to be passed as an ordinance rather than resolution.

Mr. Krob explained to the Council that with passing this ordinance these fees can be passed as a resolution in the future.

There were no questions or comments from the public or the Council and the Emergency Ordinance 06-15-2020B was approved.

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

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES

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



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10. MAYOR'S AND CITY COUNCILS REPORT:

- a. **Mayor:** Mayor Upton reported that the Bell Tower Arts Council had begun their project of decorating the wall along Petroleum street. Mr. Upton reported that the Gold Belt Byways is planning on expanding the services they offer and would be speaking with local merchants in the near future.

b. **Council Committee Reports:**

Counselor Wood thanked Mr. Harris for the tour of the water plant and reported on her attendance of the 4th of July meeting and historic preservation committee. Mrs. Wood also reported on her meeting with Finance Officer, Lori Cobler and wanted to congratulate Joe Martinez on his retirement from public works.

Counselor Allen reported on his meeting with Fiance Officer, Lori Cobler and thanked her for taking the time to answer his questions. Mr. Allen also stated he had an upcoming meeting with City Planner, Wade Broadhead in regards to husky park.

Counselor Esquibel reported on his meeting with the Florence Fire Protection District and thanked Mr. Harris for the tour of the water plant.

Counselor Hardy also thanked Mr. Harris for the water plant tour and reported on her attendance at the 4th of July committee meeting.

c. **Other Council Comments: N/A**

ATTORNEYS REPORT: Mr. Krob reported on the steps he will be taking to help ensure the City is complying with the new senate bill 213.

Police Chief, Shane Prickett: No Report

Public Works Forman, Martin Lancaster: No Report

Water Superintendent, Brandon Harris: No Report

Finance Officer, Lori Cobler: No Report

Planning Director, Wade Broadhead: Mr. Broadhead updated the Council on the progress of the accessory dwelling units projects that he's working on and briefed the Council on the upcoming Planning Commission meeting on June 30, 2020.



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City Clerk, Jessica Griffith: Mrs. Griffith reminded the Council that the next City Council meeting will be on Tuesday, July 7, 2020.

City Manager, Mike Patterson: Mr. Patterson requested two executive sessions and asked the Council to invite the following staff members, the City Manager, the City Clerk, the Finance Officer, the Public Works Forman, the Police Chief, the Planning Director, the Water Superintendent, and the City Attorney.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: An executive session for the purpose of determining positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations, developing strategy for negotiations, and/or instructing negotiators, pursuant to C.R.S. §24-6-402(4)(e)

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Wood and second by Councilor Hardy, the City approved moving into Executive Session at 9:05 p.m. and adjourned from Executive Session at 9:54 p.m.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES

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

There being no further business, Mayor Upton adjourned the meeting at 9:56 P.M.

CITY OF FLORENCE, CO

BY: 
Richard Upton, Mayor

ATTEST: 
Jessica Griffith, City Clerk