



CITY OF FLORENCE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
August 3, 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	-	Absent
Councilor Hardy	-	Present
Councilor Vendetti	-	Present
Councilor Wood	-	Present
4. **ALSO PRESENT:** City Manager, Mike Patterson; City Attorney, Matt Krob; City Clerk, Jessica Griffith; Planning Director, Wade Broadhead; Police Chief: Shane Prickett; Water Superintendent, Brandon Harris; Public Works Director, Sam Elstun; Finance Officer, Lori Cobler
5. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Peg Piltingsrud-Florence Arts Council

Mrs. Piltingsrud thanked the Mayor for inviting her to give the Council an update on the progress of the Florence Arts Council’s public art project called “there’s something in the air”. Mrs. Piltingsrude explained to the Council that on June 4, 2020, the Arts Council started a mosaic mural on the Coal Creek ditch wall located next to the Arts Council building and is about 90% complete. Mrs. Piltingsrude continued by saying that to date 33 people from the ages of 8 to 70, some with no art experience to professional artists have volunteered 440 hours on the mural and that most of the material has been donated.
6. **Brad Rowland with Emergent Campus & Rob Brown with FEDC**

Rob Brown with FEDC (Fremont Economic Development Corporation) explained that he and Mr. Rowland wanted to give the Council an update on their current projects in Florence. Mr. Brown explained they have received over one million dollars in grants and that all of that money has been or will be reinvested back



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into the community. Mr. Brown stated FEDC's Florence office is located at the Emergent Campus and the majority of their staff are volunteers. Mr. Brown continued by saying with some of the grant money they are working on a digital meeting center as well as a satellite learning center that will both have state of the art technology at the Emergent Campus that residence and the Florence School district will be able to utilize.

Brad Rowland with the Emergent Campus spoke about a company that he and the Emergent Campus has been working with for 18 months to bring between 50-80 jobs to Fremont County and that they will be hiring people who already live in the community. Mr. Rowland continued by saying the Emergent Campus and FEDC have been working with Pueblo Community College to develop talent and jobs for these positions in tech support, sales, and marketing. Mr. Rowland explained that currently Emergent Campus has 12 small businesses and 10 co-working members that work from home but use the campus as needed.

The Council and Staff thanked Mr. Brown and Mr. Rowland for their presentation.

7. Doug & Leona Bennett-Parents of Military Presentation

Mrs. Bennett stated that she is a co-organizer of a local group that arranges sendoffs and Christmas boxes for local Fremont County men and women in the military. Mrs. Bennett continued by saying they have been there with encouraging words and hugs to see off 100 men and women since the organizations beginning in 2015. Mrs. Bennett explained that for the last 5 years the group raises money through the year to send a box with food, gift cards, and necessities like chapstick and flip flops to each of those men and women along with cards, letters, and pictures from local schoolchildren. Mrs. Bennett went on to say that, you can either donate items for the boxes or you could "adopt a box" for \$50.00 and that will include a holiday card that you can write a personal message for the recipient and that there are about 10 Florence residents that will be receiving a Christmas box from the group this year. Mrs. Bennett said the deadline for donations would be October 1, 2020.

Mayor Upton presented Mrs. Bennett with a check for \$50.00 and the Council thanked Mrs. Bennett for her presentation and her group's efforts to let local military personnel know they are appreciated.

8. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

City Clerk, Jessica Griffith noted that there were 3 spelling errors in the minutes from July 20, 2020, that she had corrected after the packets had gone out.

- a. Meeting Minutes for July 20, 2020
- b. Bills Allowed



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c. Continue Ordinance 06-015-2019B to Approve the Meade Estates Addition Annexation to August 17, 2020

d. Green Parrot 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-Absent
Councilor	Vendetti
Councilor	Wood
Councilor	Esquibel
Councilor	Hardy
Councilor	Allen
Mayor	Upton

9. DISCUSSION & ACTION MATTERS:

a. 1st Reading of Ordinance 08-03-2020A- An Ordinance Establishing a Service Availability Fee For Water Service Within the City of Florence

City Manager, Mike Patterson explained to the Council that after several discussions with the City Attorney and City Staff, this ordinance was finally ready for the Council to vote on. Mr. Patterson continued by saying that this ordinance is to implement a \$5.00 charge to vacant lots in Florence that have the ability to be connected to the City’s water system in hopes of incentivizing property owners to build houses and ease the debt retirement payment for all of the City’s water customers. Mr. Patterson stated that this ordinance would not go in effect until January 1, 2021, to allow staff to work out the details of the billing system and the data entry. Mr. Patterson went on to say there could be exceptions for property owners who are making efforts to develop their properties.

City Attorney, Matt Krob reiterated that the City built the new water plant with the capability to service a much larger number of system users than what it’s currently operating at and because of that, the City’s residents are paying a higher debt service to make up the difference. Mr. Krob continued by saying this is not a tax but a fee to defray the cost of providing the ability for property owners to connect to the City’s water system should they decide to do so.

There were no questions or comments from the public or the Council, and the Council moved to approve the first Reading of Ordinance 08-03-2020A

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



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ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES

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

b. 1st Reading of Ordinance 08-03-2020B-And Ordinance Amending Peddlers Licenses

City Clerk, Jessica Griffith explained to the Council the City has been seeing an increase in food truck vendors and issuing more peddlers licenses to these vendors. Mrs. Griffith stated the current ordinance for peddler’s licenses states the fee is \$150.00 for 180 consecutive days. Mrs. Griffith continued by saying to be more consistent with business and contractors licensing the proposed amendments Staff recommends are a \$150.00 for a full calendar year and after July 1, the fee would be half or \$75.00 for the remainder of the year.

There were no questions or comments from the public or the Council, and the Council moved to approve the first Reading of Ordinance 08-03-2020B

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

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES

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

10. MAYOR’S AND CITY COUNCILS REPORT:

a. Mayor: Mayor Upton reported that the local restaurants have continued to do well despite the COVID-19 restrictions and they wanted to thank their customers for their continued support. Mayor Upton also reported that he had spoken with some of the downtown merchants, they also reported they are doing well, and some have seen better sales this year over previous years despite the COVID-19 pandemic. Mayor Upton also wanted to say thank you



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to all of the City Staff for their continued hard work and keeping the City running smoothly.

b. Council Committee Reports:

Councilor Wood reported on her attendance at the Historic Preservation and Housing committees.

Councilor Allen reported on the meeting he had with the Public Works Director, Sam Elstun in regards to improvements at the cemetery.

Councilor Esquibel reported on his meeting with the Florence Fire Protection District.

c. Other Council Comments: Councilor Vendettie reported he had a virtual meeting with the family of Sergeant First Class Ray Adam Archuletta in regards to the upcoming highway and park dedications in September.

Attorneys Report: Mr. Krob stated per Councilor Woods request he will be emailing several samples of policies on virtual and open meetings laws to all of the Council members for review.

Police Chief, Shane Prickett: No Report

Public Works Director, Sam Elstun: No Report

Water Superintendent, Brandon Harris: No Report

Finance Officer, Lori Cobler: Mrs. Cobler explained to the Council that she is working on the bond refinance project and will keep the Council updated on that progress.

Planning Director, Wade Broadhead: Mr. Broadhead reported he was waiting for the school board to meet and approve the easements for the Safe Routes to School project. Mr. Broadhead stated he was also meeting with a developer from Colorado Springs that is interested in buying some land in Florence to build housing units on and that the Florence Hotel was under new ownership and will be undergoing an extensive remodel.

City Clerk, Jessica Griffith: No Report

City Manager, Mike Patterson Mr. Patterson requested five executive sessions and asked the Council to invite the following staff members, the City Manager, the City Clerk, the Finance Officer, the Planning Director, and the City Attorney.



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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 on economic development options, pursuant to C.R.S. §24-6-402(4)(e) and Conferences with an attorney for the local public body for the purposes of receiving legal advice on specific legal questions pursuant to C.R.S. §24-6-402(4)(b)

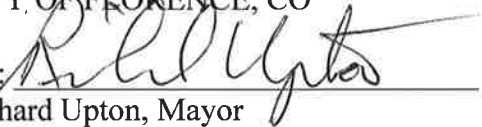
MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Vendettie and second by Councilor Esquibel, the City approved moving into Executive Session at 7:56 p.m. and adjourned from Executive Session at 9:03 p.m.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES

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

There being no further business, Mayor Upton adjourned the meeting at 9:04 P.M.

CITY OF FLORENCE, CO

BY: 
Richard Upton, Mayor

ATTEST: 
Jessica Griffith, City Clerk