



FLORENCE CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, July 13, 2026, 6:30 PM

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<https://www.youtube.com/@CityofFlorenceCO>

1) CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

City Council Chambers, 600 W. 3rd Street, Florence, CO 81226

Mayor Wolfe called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance

2) ROLL CALL:

Mayor Wolfe	Present
Councilman Vanhoutan	Present
Councilman Stiefel	Present
Councilwoman Stone	Present
Councilman Mergelman	Present
Councilwoman Gardner	Present
Councilwoman MacKinnon	Present

OTHERS PRESENT: City Clerk Cortlyne Huppe, City Manager Lori Cobler, City Attorney Dan Findlay (virtually), Chief of Police Sean Humphrey, Public Works Director John Verneti, and Water Superintendent Brandon Harris.

3) PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any matter on this agenda may, at the discretion of the governing body, be opened for public comment and discussion (three minutes).

There was no public input.

4) CONSENT AGENDA

- a) Consider approving the minutes as written for the Regular City Council Meeting on June 15, 2026
- b) Consider approving City expenditures prepared on June 18, 2026, in the amount of \$368,585.91, on June 25, 2026, in the amount of \$109,892.33, on July 1, 2026, in the amount of \$109,402.37, and on July 8, 2026, in the amount \$162,996.45.
- c) Consider approving the annual liquor license renewal for the Green Parrot Lounge
- d) Consider approving the annual liquor license renewal for Barn & Barrel
- e) Consider approving the annual Takeout and Delivery Permit renewal for Barn & Barrel
- f) Consider authorizing the City Manager to execute an agreement for the 2026 Audit
- g) Consider an amendment to the contract amount, approval of change orders, due to unforeseen conditions encountered during the ADA Ramp Replacement Project
- h) Consider authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract with Daniels Long Chevrolet for the purchase of one (1) police vehicle
- i) Consider authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract with Southwest Motors, Inc. for the purchase of one (1) public works vehicle

Councilor Mergelman requested items 4i, 4h, and 4g be removed from the Consent Agenda.

Councilor Stone motioned to approve the Consent Agenda items 4a through 4f. Councilor Gardner seconded. With the Councilmembers voting in favor of the motion, the motion carried.

City Manager Cobler explained the amendment to the ADA Ramp Replacement Project contract price and necessary ratification for payment from City Council. The East Third and McCandless Avenue sidewalk improvement location was affected by ditch water and other complexities.

City Council, City Manager Cobler, and Public Works Director John Verneti discussed ditch water diversion efforts, the issued change orders, project complexities, and additional challenges and objectives to be mindful of moving forward with sidewalk replacement projects.

Councilor Stone motioned to ratify the contract for the ADA Ramp Replacement Project awarded to Brush Hollow Creek Construction, increasing the total contract amount to \$52,975.24 to include the additional \$4,916.24 in approved change orders. Councilor Vanhoutan seconded. With the Councilmembers voting in favor of the motion, the motion carried.

City Manager Cobler elaborated on the City's 2026 CIP for two new police vehicles. The proposal presented was for one police truck and its entire upfitting.

Councilor Stone motioned to authorize the City Manager to enter into an agreement with Daniels Long Chevrolet for the purchase of one (1) Chevrolet Silverado 1500, including the Watts Upfitting Patrol Package, in an amount not to exceed \$79,409.50. Councilor Vanhoutan seconded. With the Councilmembers voting in favor of the motion, the motion carried.

City Manager Cobler elaborated on the need for fleet maintenance strategies for City vehicles. This purchase would enable better emergency response and routine efficiency for the Public Works Department. The purchase of this unbudgeted vehicle would come from income earned from sales of older fleet vehicles/equipment

Councilor Mergelman inquired more about the purchase.

Councilor Gardner motioned to authorize the City Manager to enter into an agreement with Southwest Motors Inc. for the purchase of one (1) 2024 GMC Sierra 1500, in an amount not to exceed \$46,599. Councilor Stone seconded. With the Councilmembers voting in favor of the motion, the motion carried.

5) OLD BUSINESS

- a) Consider adopting the second reading of Ordinance No. 5-2026, a general housekeeping and process ordinance amending Chapter 5.28 of the Florence Municipal Code to remove existing numerical liquor licensing fees in code and streamline administrative processing rules.

City Clerk Cortlyne Huppe presented the second reading of Ordinance No. 5-2026, an Ordinance allowing for the associated liquor fees in the Florence Municipal Code to be adoptable via City fee schedule.

Councilor Stone motioned to approve the second reading of Ordinance No. 5-2026, a general housekeeping and process ordinance amending Chapter 5.28 of the Florence Municipal Code. Seconded by: Councilor Mergelman

7 Ayes

Motion Passed: 7 - 0

6) COUNCIL REPORTS

- a) City Council Reports

The Florence City Council expressed gratitude and immense thanks for all organizations, Staff, and responders working the Aspen Acres Fire.

Councilor MacKinnon announced two upcoming items from the Historic Preservation Committee, and shared local bear activity in Florence.

Mayor Wolfe attended Senior Coffee Chat, an emergency management work session, Central Front Range Transportation meeting where the Highway 115 project anticipates a 2036 completion, and volunteered as a Florence Bell Tower art judge.

b) City Manager Reports

Councilor Mergelman inquired about the Pioneer Park bathroom project.

City Manager Cobler announced an upcoming ribbon cutting event to celebrate the completion of the bathroom project. She reported A-1 Chip Seal would start the 2026 Chip Seal Project on Friday, and that the next 81226 Report Podcast would focus on the drought plan.

Councilor Stone noted the difference between ditch water and city water when citizens water their yard.

City Manager Cobler stated Finance Manager Brandi Sheets was working on code modifications for vacant and dilapidated buildings, and that the City would be looking to have discussions regarding the manor building's potential. She thanked city Staff for all their hard work on the Aspen Acres Fire, and thanked Fremont County Emergency Manager Mykel Kroll for his hard work ensuring Florence was educated and prepared.

Mayor Wolfe confirmed drought plan communication strategies.

Water Superintendent Brandon Harris explained the Drought Plan's water restrictions, and historic city usage. He also elaborated on the City's water portfolio.

Chief of Police Sean Humphrey announced his department would be purchasing equipment to assist with traffic data for speeding issues. He reiterated that this equipment was not Flock cameras, only radar equipment.

City Clerk Cortlyne Huppe announced the end of pool season, and the America's Parade Committee upcoming revised Temporary Use Permit application.

7) EXECUTIVE SESSION(S): IF NECESSARY

Pursuant to C.R.S. §24-6-402(4)(b), an executive session for the purpose of conferencing with an attorney for the local public body for the purposes of receiving legal advice on specific legal questions pertaining to any item listed on the agenda herein and/or any related discussion that may arise thereto. Such executive session may be entered into at any time or at any point on the agenda, if necessary and with the requisite Council approval.

8) ADJOURNMENT: Adjournment until the regular City Council Meeting Monday, July 20, 2026.

Councilor Gardner motioned to adjourn the meeting. Councilor Stone seconded. With all of the Councilmembers voting in favor of the motion, the motion carried.
Mayor Wolfe adjourned the City Council Meeting at 7:31 p.m.

CITY OF FLORENCE, CO

BY: _____
Steve Wolfe, Mayor

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED: _____
Cortlyne Huppe, City Clerk