



FLORENCE CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, March 16, 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 5:32 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, Planning Director Ashley Fox, Public Works Director Sam Elstun, and City Attorney Dan Findlay (virtually).

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).

4) CONSENT AGENDA

- a) Consider approving the minutes as written for the Regular City Council Meeting on March 2, 2026
- b) Consider approving City expenditures prepared on March 5, 2026, in the amount of \$29,140.37, and March 12, 2026, in the amount of \$48,838.30
- c) Consider approving the Special Events Permit for the Florence Pioneer Museum
- d) Consider awarding a contract for ADA Ramp Replacement at multiple locations in Florence
- e) Consider awarding a contract for the Chip Seal & Fog Coat project
- f) Consider awarding a contract for the Pioneer Park Restroom Facility Construction

Councilor Mackinnon removed item 4c from the Consent Agenda.

Councilor Stone removed item 4a and 4f from the Consent Agenda.

Councilor Mergelman motioned to approve Consent Agenda items 4b, 4d, and 4e. Councilor Stiefel seconded. With the Councilmembers voting in favor of the motion, the motion carried.

Councilor Stiefel motioned to approve the Consent Agenda item 4a. Councilor Gardner seconded. Councilor Stone Abstained. With the Councilmembers voting in favor of the motion, the motion carried.

Councilor Stone motioned to approve the Special Events Permit for the Florence Pioneer Museum, as presented. Councilor Vanhoutan seconded. Councilor MacKinnon Abstained. With the Councilmembers voting in favor of the motion, the motion carried.

City Manager Cobler elaborated on the Pioneer Park's Restroom Facility project history. This item is a result of the City's second attempt at obtaining a request for proposal. The first process landed outside of the project's budgeted amount due to inflation of material costs. After reconfiguration of the project, this proposal is suggested by Staff and would require a budget amendment, which will come from fund balancing and City reserves.

Councilor Stone, Councilor Mergelman, and Mayor Wolfe questioned project specifics on number of toilets, facility security, and project timelines.

Councilor Stone motioned to award a contract for the Pioneer Park Restroom Facility in the City of Florence to Spire Building Group. in the amount of \$591,100, plus a ten percent (10%) contingency. Councilor Gardner seconded. With the Councilmembers voting in favor of the motion, the motion carried.

5) OLD BUSINESS

- a) Consider adopting the second reading of an Ordinance amending the Florence Municipal Code Concerning Registered Sex Offender Regulations

City Manager Cobler reiterated the Ordinance's intention of implementing regulations better aligned with the State's processes.

Councilor Stiefel motioned to adopt the second reading of Ordinance No. 1 - 2026, an Ordinance Amending Florence Municipal Code, Title 8 ("Health And Safety") By Adding New Chapter 8.64, Sex Offender Residency Restrictions; Prohibiting Certain Sexually Violent Predators and Registered Sex Offenders From Residing Near Schools, Parks, And Child-Frequented Locations; And Providing Penalties

Seconded by: Councilor Vanhoutan

7 Ayes

Motion Passed: 7 - 0

6) NEW BUSINESS

- a) Consider adopting a Resolution amending the Outside Agency Funding Requests Program for the City of Florence, Colorado

City Manager Cobler presented the new implementations and modifications in the Outside Agency Funding Program and presented the 2026 application on the City's website.

Councilor Vanhoutan requested the 501c3 certification not be required, but suggested.

Sue Kinzer- 302 Wilson Avenue

Inquired if the City could obtain a grant for the outside agency funding, and also limit the application's funding limit.

City Manager Cobler stated there is a limit to the overall funding expense for all applications, but no limit for individual applications' request.

Councilor Stone motioned adopt Resolution No. 3 - 2026, a Resolution providing for the adoption of an amended Outside Agency Funding Requests Program for the City of Florence, Colorado, with revision.

Seconded by: Councilor Mergelman

6 Ayes, 1 Abstain MacKinnon

Motion Passed: 6 - 0

7) COUNCIL REPORTS

a) City Council Reports

Councilor Mergelman attended Mayor’s Round Table and Florence Arts Council.

Mayor Wolfe attended Fremont County Tourism Council, Ward 3 Town Hall, and Mayor’s Round Table. He complimented Public Works on the new “Welcome to Florence” signs.

b) City Manager Reports

City Manager Cobler reported on the pool request for proposal, water rate survey, and sidewalk assessment projects. She gauged interest from City Council on which street they’d like to prioritize for the 2026 street improvement project. She then complimented the Water Department for their hard work managing the City’s infrastructure, and welcomed Finance Manager Brandi Sheets and Municipal Court & Cemetery Clerk Melanie Pfeffer to the team. City Manager Cobler also announced her tour of Emergent Campus, completed emergency management training, abatement projects with updates to the purchasing policy, and an upcoming LED light project for City Hall.

8) 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.

9) ADJOURNMENT: Adjournment until the regular City Council Meeting Monday, April 6, 2026.

Councilor Stone motioned to adjourn the meeting. Councilor Gardner seconded. With all of the Councilmembers voting in favor of the motion, the motion carried. Mayor Wolfe adjourned the City Council Meeting at 7:25 p.m.

CITY OF FLORENCE, CO

BY: _____
Steve Wolfe, Mayor

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED: _____
Cortlyne Huppe, City Clerk