



FLORENCE CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 17, 2026, 6:30 PM

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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, Public Works Director Sam Elstun, Police Chief Sean Humphrey, Water Superintendent Brandon Harris, and City Attorney Dan Findlay.

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).

Joen Elliot-404 Wilson Avenue

Thanked the City Council for their support of the Chamber's music at the park events.

4) CONSENT AGENDA

- a) Consider approving the minutes as written for the Regular City Council Meeting on February 2, 2026
- b) Consider approving City expenditures prepared on February 5, 2026, in the amount of \$40,839.34, and February 12, 2026, in the amount of \$97,018.20
- c) Consider approving the Temporary Use Permit for the Florence Chamber of Commerce
- d) Consider authorizing the Chief of Police to enter into a contract agreement for towing services with Penrose Tractor & Towing, LLC
- e) Consider awarding a contract for the 9/16 Chip Seal and Fog Coat project

Councilor Mergelman requested item 4d and 4e be removed from the Consent Agenda.

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

Chief Sean Humphrey elaborated on the details surrounding the Police Department's proposed contract with Penrose Tractor and Towing. All fees, legalities, regulations, labor hours, and compliance would be handled by the contractor, and removed from the Florence Police Department.

Councilor Stone motioned to authorize the Chief of Police to enter into a contract agreement for towing services with Penrose Tractor & Towing, LLC, as presented. Councilor Mergelman Seconded. With the Councilmembers voting in favor of the motion, the motion carried.

Councilor Mergelman confirmed the Chip Seal and Fog Coat project came in a third over the budgeted amount, and suggested the City refine the bid and republish.

Public Works Director Sam Elstun would exclude Victory Lane and Needham Road on the new bid. He then proceeded to elaborate on the project specifics.

Councilor Stiefel motioned to direct City Manager Lori Cobler to rebid the “9/16 Chip Seal and Fog Coat” project with the intent of remaining within the currently budgeted amount. Councilor Gardner Seconded. With the Councilmembers voting in favor of the motion, the motion carried.

5) COUNCIL REPORTS

a) City Council Reports

Councilor MacKinnon and Councilor Gardner expressed gratitude for the newly installed hearts on Main Street.

Councilor Stone attended the Chamber of Commerce, Florence Merchants, and Arts Council meetings. They are all working towards local collaboration.

Councilor Mergelman attended the Fremont Planning Commission, the Police Chief’s Taco Talk event, Mayors Round Table, and the Arts Council meeting.

Mayor Wolfe attended the Fremont County Tourism Commission meeting, and Mayors Round Table which focused on discussions surrounding the Wildfire Resiliency Code implementation.

b) City Manager Reports

City Manager Lori Cobler invited Water Superintendent Brandon Harris up to the dais to present information regarding PFAS. Water Superintendent Harris elaborated on PFAS, the sampling process, and how the City’s water testing provided no traces of PFAS.

City Manager Cobler announced Florence’s new inclusion in the Southern Colorado Regional Manager’s Meeting. Excitedly, Florence will be first the first to host. The 3 Rocks Engineering Sidewalk Assessment was under review. She attended many meetings where Code Enforcement was a big topic and engaged with the council on potential code revisions to increase the department’s efficiency.

Councilor MacKinnon expressed interest in reviewing the Florence Municipal Code and tightening the enforcement timelines.

Councilor Gardner and Councilor Vanhoutan requested a work session for better discussion surrounding the topic.

City Manager Cobler then elaborated on the Spring Clean Up event, and instilled a Fall Clean Up. She announced the upcoming City Council retreat and also presented FreeCom’s Citizen Connect and explained how to utilize the crime watch platform.

City Attorney Dan Findlay met with staff on wildfire resiliency code implementation.

6) 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.

7) ADJOURNMENT: Adjournment until the regular City Council Meeting Monday, March 2, 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 7:22 p.m.

CITY OF FLORENCE, CO

BY: _____
Steve Wolfe, Mayor

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED: _____
Cortlyne Huppe, City Clerk