



FLORENCE CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 5, 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
VACANT	
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, Regional Water Superintendent Brandon Harris, Planning Director Ashley Fox, Police Chief Sean Humphrey, and City Attorney Dan Findlay.

3) PRESENTATIONS

a) Black Hills Energy Donation to the Florence Municipal Pool

City Manager Lori Cobler accepted a generous donation of \$25,000 from Black Hills Energy for the Florence Municipal Pool. She highlighted the strong collaboration between the entities, the vital role the facility plays for our residents and families, and how sincerely grateful the City of Florence is for Black Hills' support and partnership.

b) Dam Safety Recognition Award to Water Department and Public Works

Mark Perry, representing the State Engineer's Office of Dam Safety, presented the City with an Award of Excellence in Dam Safety. The award recognizes the City's proactive efforts and long-term commitment to exceeding required standards in the improvement, maintenance, and operation of its five high-hazard dams.

c) City of Florence Employee Milestone Recognition

City Manager Cobler celebrated and recognized City employees for their employment service milestones. She emphasized the workforce morale, retention, civic pride, and the City's appreciation for those who serve behind the scenes to maintain Florence as a safe, efficient, and thriving community.

Employees recognized were: Dan Kelso, 5 years in Water Treatment; Kevin Wertsbaugh, 10 years in Water Treatment; Brandon Harris, 15 years in Water Treatment; Sam Elstun, 20+ years in Public Works, and Dave Smith, 20 years in Public Works.

4) PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any matter on this agenda may, at the discretion of the governing body, be opened for

public comment and discussion (three minutes).

Steve Andrews- 257 CR 119

Expressed the need for electric vehicle compatibility and services in Florence.

Mikey Guanipa- Drive Clean Colorado

Introduced himself as a representative with Drive Clean Colorado. He elaborated on the electric vehicle services and applicable funding opportunities for projects.

Tim Adrian- 328 Arrowhead Drive

Presented the local Postmaster's request to relocate his mailbox, and how it violated local and State laws.

5) **CONSENT AGENDA**

- a) Consider approving the minutes as written for the Regular City Council Meeting on December 1, 2025
- b) Consider approving the minutes as written for the Special City Council Meeting on December 4, 2025
- c) Consider approving City expenditures prepared on December 18, 2025, in the amount of \$77,716.43, December 23, 2025, in the amount of \$37,368.63, and December 31, 2025, in the amount of \$40,202.45
- d) Consider Appointing a Proxy to Represent City Shares at Annual Ditch Board Meetings
- e) Consider Designating the City of Florence's Official Posting Place

Councilor Stone motioned to approve the Consent Agenda 5a through 5e. Councilor Gardner seconded. With the Councilmembers voting in favor of the motion, the motion carried.

6) **NEW BUSINESS**

- a) Consider Approving a Resolution to Declare a Ward Two Vacancy Within the City Council and to Establish a Process to Fill Said Vacancy

City Clerk Cortlyne Huppe elaborated on the vacancy left in Ward 2 following the 2025 regular election and explained the process options for the City Council's action to rectify the vacancy.

City Council confirmed the vacancy filling process for Planning Commission and BOZA, and clarified details surrounding the vacancy posting timeline.

Councilor Gardner motioned adopt Resolution No. 1-2026, a Resolution Declaring A Ward Two Vacancy Within the City of Florence City Council and Establishing a Process to Fill Said Vacancy.
Seconded by: Councilor Stone

6 Ayes

Motion Passed: 6 - 0

7) **COUNCIL REPORTS**

- a) City Council Reports

Councilor Gardner thanked all involved in the Holly Jolly Christmas event.

Councilor Mergelman attended FEDC, and Florence Planning Commission. He thanked all involved in the Holly Jolly Christmas and Shop with a Cop events. Then he publicly recognized Joen Elliott for her local contributions.

Councilor Stone mirrored Councilor Mergelman’s sentiments and thanked Chief Humphrey for his service as Interim City Manager. She also spoke positively of the upcoming Master Plan adoption.

Councilor MacKinnon expressed gratitude for the Employee Recognition program, and thanked all of the employees and citizens who make Florence a “Great Little Town”.

Mayor Wolfe highlighted the recent sidewalk project and elaborated on upcoming conversations with Loaves and Fishes on homelessness.

b) City Manager Reports

City Manager Cobler reported on the upcoming workshop and agenda items. She was working to establish a City of Florence Newsletter and presented her newest projects: Operation Pothole and 81226 Reporting. To conclude, she gave kudos to Planning Director Ashley Fox for her work the Sidewalk Assessment and obtaining a fire mitigation grant.

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 Tuesday, January 20, 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 7:30 p.m.

CITY OF FLORENCE, CO

BY: _____
Steve Wolfe, Mayor

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED: _____
Cortlyne Huppe, City Clerk