



CITY OF FLORENCE

600 West 3rd Street
Florence, Colorado 81226
(719) 784-4848
cityofflorence@florencecolorado.org
www.florencecolorado.org

City Manager Report

November 1, 2024 – November 14, 2024

Meetings with agencies, boards, and committees:

- ***Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) – November 4, 2024***
 - Attended a meeting with CDOT representatives to receive a preliminary overview of a large-scale future project CDOT is currently engineering for Highway 115. The project includes Florence but stretches roughly from Cañon City to Penrose. CDOT indicated they will be hosting public meetings and releasing additional information in 2025.

- ***Colorado Employee Benefit Trust (CEBT) – November 5, 2024***
 - Met with CEBT representatives to discuss changes to employee health insurance plans and go over plan options with employees in a group setting.

Internal Meetings/Discussion/Projects

- Staff is preparing to start work on several new programs to improve asset and program management and budgeting processes. These include a fleet management program and a meter and service line maintenance and replacement program. Staff is also continuing to develop the Pavement Management program based on the Street Needs Assessment. These programs are expected to be presented for Council approval in early 2025.

- Staff sent out information regarding the Water Service Line Inventory and has been working with residents to determine the composition of homeowner lines.

- Staff is working on upcoming water treatment compliance communications regarding programs mandated by the State of Colorado. These communications will be mailed out to citizens and posted electronically.

ARPA Tree Program Quarterly Update (Originally passed by the Florence City Council on April 15, 2024):

Phase I:

Phase I of the ARPA Tree Program included a limited amount of trees in the initial phase of the program in order to more easily utilize the first phase to facilitate a test and adjust. These trees



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were identified as being among those in need of the most immediate attention based on location and degree of hazard. The six (6) trees are as follows:

- 223 North Pikes Peak (2 trees)
- 514 North Pikes Peak
- 515 North Pikes Peak (2 trees)
- 601 North Pikes Peak

As these trees are all located on North Pikes Peak, the City is still waiting for final approval from the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) for the traffic control plan to be utilized during the tree removal process. Once the traffic control plan is approved, a final date will be set for removal and work will commence.

The City originally contracted with Complete Tree Care for Phase I at an estimated cost of \$18,000. Unfortunately, Complete Tree Care rescinded their offer for reasons unrelated to the City of Florence. Public Works Director Elstun then reached out to a different contractor, Down to Earth Tree Service, who provided an estimated bid of \$18,450 for Phase I.

Phase II:

While waiting for CDOT to complete the permitting process, Staff put Phase II of the program out for bid. Phase II originally included eighteen (18) total trees. No bids were received by the published bid deadline. Staff reached out to Down to Earth Tree Service, as they had placed a bid on Phase I and were waiting for CDOT approval of their submitted traffic plan to commence work on Phase I, as outlined above:

Down to Earth Tree Service provided an estimated bid of \$22,250 for the following fourteen (14) trees:

- 402 E. 3rd Street (removal)
- 301 E. 2nd Street (removal)
- 504 W. 2nd Street (pruning; two (2) trees)
- 204 W. 2nd Street (pruning; three (3) trees)
- 418 W. 2nd Street (pruning)
- 100 E. Front Street (pruning)
- 113 N. Robinson Avenue (pruning)
- 114 N. Robinson Avenue (pruning)



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- 117 N. Robinson Avenue (pruning)
- 215 N. Maple Avenue (pruning)
- 303 W. 4th Street (pruning)

One (1) additional tree located at 302 E. 2nd Street was removed from the bid by Down to Earth Tree Service as unnecessary to remove after review.

Three (3) additional trees will be priced separately once CDOT traffic control permits have been obtained:

- 325 N. Pikes Peak Avenue (pruning)
- 402 N. Pikes Peak Avenue (pruning)
- 610 N. Pikes Peak Avenue (pruning).

At this time, Down to Earth Tree Service has completed work on the fourteen (14) trees not requiring CDOT traffic control permits, with the exception of stump grinding on those trees which were removed.

Phase III:

Staff is finalizing the Phase III list and anticipates putting it out for bid early in the week of November 18, 2024. Phase III is anticipated to include ten (10) trees; three (3) of which may require CDOT traffic control permits.

Staff also notified seven (7) tree removal services that a bid packet was available. One (1) packet was picked up and returned. The contractor for the first six (6) trees will be Complete Tree Care, with an estimated cost of \$18,000 for all six (6) trees.

We anticipate future phases will move more quickly now that all of the necessary documentation has been created and put in place, and now that the Fourth of July has passed, as this had previously blocked off a large amount of Public Works' Staff availability to be on site to manage the removal process, as this is a City project.