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**City of Florence  
City Council Work Session  
Florence City Hall  
250 Highway 101, Florence, Oregon  
Final Action Minutes  
January 8, 2026**

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Councilors Present: Mayor Rob Ward, Councilors Robert Carp, Jo Beaudreau, Sally Wantz, and Mike Webb.

Councilors Absent: None.

Staff Present: City Manager Erin Reynolds, City Recorder Lindsey White, Assistant City Manager Megan Messmer, Community Development Director Wendy FarleyCampbell, Economic Development and Communications Analyst Chantelle Meyer, Police Chief John Pitcher, Interim Public Works Director August Murphy, and City Attorney Ross Williamson.

Guests Present: None.

Handout: 1.8.26 City Council Work Session Agenda Outline  
Presentation  
Draft Resolution proposed by Councilor Wantz

**CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL - PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Meeting called to order at 8:31 a.m.

**1. WORK SESSION DISCUSSION TOPICS**

During the work session, the City Council will consider a proposed statement addressing how the City may respond should Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) facilities or activities occur within the City of Florence. The purpose of this session is to review draft language proposed by members of the City Council, discuss its alignment with the City's adopted values and work

plan, and determine whether there is consensus to move the proposal forward for possible formal action at a future meeting. No final decision will be made during this work session.

Start Time: 8:31 a.m.  
Topic: Introductions and Agenda Overview  
Discussion: The City Council participated in the introductions and agenda overview and held no additional discussions.

Start Time: 8:33 a.m.  
Topic: Background for Discussion of Immigration Issues  
Discussion: CA Williamson presented the staff presentation.  
Handouts: Staff Presentation

Discussion: The City Council discussed...

- Understanding form I-9 for new employees.
- Understanding the City of Florence not having authority over Federal agencies coming into Florence.
- Understanding judicial and non-judicial warrants.

Comments: All Councilors present.

Discussion: Staff discussed...

- Understanding the pros and cons of adopting a declaration.
- City of Florence isn't the only community having this discussion.

Comments: CA Williamson.

Council took a break from 9:30 a.m. to 9:36 a.m.

Start Time: 9:36 a.m.  
Topic: Florence Police Department Immigration and Non-Enforcement Policy  
Discussion: Police Chief Pitcher discussed the Florence Police Department's Immigration Non-Enforcement Policy.

Councilor Wantz requested the Council have a moment of silence due to the action that took place in Minnesota to remember Renee Goode, her family and friends, and the ICE agent who took her life.

Councilor Carp shared that he immigrated to the United States when he was seven years old, went through the immigration process, and became a naturalized citizen. When he was sworn in as a citizen, he swore to uphold the

Constitution and the laws of this county. When he enlisted in the United States Army he swore to protect this county and swore to uphold the Constitution and the laws of this land. When sworn in as a City Councilor, all Councilors swore to uphold the Constitution and the laws of the land. He stated “we are following the laws of our State and have sanctuary laws in place. City Council has very clear guidance and have clear expectations of our law enforcement and how we interact. Adopting a resolution is symbolic and we have all the tools in place.”

Discussion: Staff discussed...

- Resolution included in City Council packet initially proposed by Councilor Wantz.
- Second resolution being the same resolution with trackable revisions.

Comments: CR White.

Councilor Wantz read the proposed resolution.

Discussion: The City Council discussed...

- Understanding the phrase in the proposed resolution “the City hereby opposes the stationing of ICE personnel.”

Comments: Mayor Ward.

Discussion: Staff discussed...

- Clarification on addition of verbiage “without a judicial warrant.”

Comments: CM Reynolds.

Discussion: The City Council discussed...

- Understanding whether the Coast Guard conducts immigration enforcement.

Comments: Councilor Beaudreau.

Discussion: Staff discussed...

- Understanding many agencies deal with immigration issues.
- Understanding if the Coast Guard were enforcing immigration, local law enforcement would not be able to assist them in that job unless there was a warrant.

Comments: City Attorney Williamson.

Discussion:

City Council discussed...

- Understanding document is calling out ICE, being part of Homeland Security, which is common with the Coast Guard, and US Marshalls and other agencies.
- The resolution was noted as polarizing and not offering a clear solution.
- Councilors discussed sending a letter to Senators requesting a solution to immigration law, including possible amnesty measures.
- Not supporting a resolution specifically against ICE or any other government agency.
- A councilor stated that they do not support any resolution attacking government or law enforcement entities.
- There was concern that the resolution could contribute to community division without addressing the underlying issue.
- Members emphasized the importance of seeking a solution from state and federal representatives regarding this matter.
- Comments: Councilors Webb, Carp, and Beaudreau.

Discussion:

Staff discussed...

- Understanding the process if a federal agency proposes to open a facility.

Comments: CM Reynolds.

The City Council held a discussion on the pros and cons of adopting the resolution and community perception.

Council Webb read the City's current Immigration and Non-Enforcement Policy.

The City Council continued discussing the pros and cons of adopting the resolution, possible edits, and community perception.


ACM Messmer made revisions and read updated resolution draft in light of work session discussion.

Mayor gave guidance to bring forth the version worked through to the next City Council meeting on February 2, 2026 for consideration of adoption.

CM Reynolds discussed work plan items, upcoming agenda items, and City Council meetings.

Meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

**ATTEST:**

  
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Rob Ward, Mayor

  
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Lindsey White, City Recorder