



**Florence City Council
Special Meeting
Tuesday, January 21, 2020
6:30 p.m.**

MINUTES

The City Council of the City of Florence, Kentucky, met in special session on Tuesday, January 21, 2020, at 6:30 p.m. at the Florence Government Center, 8100 Ewing Boulevard, Florence, Kentucky, with Mayor Diane E. Whalen presiding as chair.

CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME:

Mayor Diane E. Whalen called the special meeting to order and declared the meeting open for the presentation of items on the special meeting agenda.

ROLL CALL:

The roll was called, and the following five (5) members of council were present: Dr. Julie Aubuchon, Duane Froelicher, J. Kelly Huff, David A. Osborne, and Gary Winn.

Councilmember Mel Carroll was absent.

Staff members present were: City Coordinator, Joshua R. Wice; City Attorney, Hugh O. Skees; Chief of Police, Tom Grau; Business/Community Development Director, Joshua Hunt; Fire/EMS Chief, Scott Knoll; Public Services Director, Eric Hall; Melissa Kramer, Assistant City Clerk; and Police Officer, Jeff Mallery.

The following were also present: David DelBello, President/CEO of Freedom Baseball Club LLC; Multiple Owners of the Freedom Baseball Club LLC; Kim Brown, Former Owner of the Florence Freedom; Members of the Freedom Baseball Club LLC front office staff; Jay Becker, Owner/President of BLDG; Sydney Lamb, Designer with BLDG; Members of the branding team with BLDG; Local 12 News; Fox 19 News; Multiple Media; Fans and Supporters of the Freedom Baseball Club LLC.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ORDINANCE O-1-20:

This is an Ordinance adopting and approving a change in Concept Development Plan in an Office Two/Commercial Two/Planned Development/Houston Donaldson Study Corridor Overlay (O-2/C-2/PD/HDO) zone for an approximate 0.09 acre portion of the 26.32 acre lot located at 4990

Houston Road, Florence, Kentucky, to allow an electric vehicle charging station. Councilmember Aubuchon presented the following to City Council for consideration.

The Florence Planning and Zoning Committee met to consider a request by Tesla for a change in the Concept Development Plan for an electric vehicle charging station by Meijer. Currently, there is only one charging station locally in West Chester, Ohio. The other closest charging stations are located in Louisville, Kentucky, and Lexington, Kentucky. A Public Hearing was held. No need for an additional public hearing. The Florence Planning and Zoning Committee is recommending approval of the development plan. Councilmember Winn stated it is Tesla specific but the charging station will be used by other vehicles and possibly up to 1,000-2,000 cars per month.

After discussion, Mayor Whalen called for a motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance O-1-20. Councilmember Winn motioned to approve, with a second from Councilmember Aubuchon. **Council approved by unanimous vote.**

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION MUNICIPAL ORDER MO-3-20:

A Municipal Order declaring one Form Crown Victoria police vehicle and three Ford Interceptor police vehicles as surplus property, approving their sale, and authorizing the execution of a purchase and sale agreement with respect thereto donating the police vehicles to the Gallatin County Sheriff's Department.

Chief Grau presented the following to City Council for consideration. The cruisers listed for donation are rotated into the fleet and assigned to officers who have a cruiser with high mileage and/or mechanical issues. Those cruisers in turn become the department's new spare cruisers. The previous year spare cruisers are then surplus and either placed in the auction or used by other city departments. This year the command staff from both the Pendleton County and Gallatin County Sheriff's Departments reached out to his department and were in need of cruisers. Chief Grau would like to help out those departments and donate the cruisers to their departments.

Mayor Whalen called for a motion to approve Municipal Order MO-3-20. Councilmember Osborne motioned to approve, with a second from Councilmember Winn. **Council approved by unanimous vote.**

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION MUNICIPAL ORDER MO-4-20:

A Municipal Order declaring two Ford Interceptor police vehicles as surplus property, approving their sale, and authorizing the execution of a purchase and sale agreement with respect thereto donating the police vehicles to the Pendleton County Sheriff's Department.

Mayor Whalen called for a motion to approve Municipal Order MO-4-20. Councilmember Huff motioned to approve, with a second from Councilmember Froelicher. **Council approved by unanimous vote.**

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION:

Mayor Whalen introduced David DelBello of Freedom Baseball Club, LLC and their request for a team name change and approval by City Council.

David DelBello, President/CEO of Freedom Baseball Club, LLC, and on behalf of his fellow owners, thanked everyone in attendance for their support. Mr. DelBello also thanked his front office staff, the branding team of BLDG, his business partners, and Kim Brown. Mr. DelBello gave special thanks to Ms. Brown for allowing them to buy the team and the support she has given to the new ownership.

Freedom Baseball Club, LLC requested city council's approval of the name of the "Florence Freedom" to be changed to the "Florence Yall's". The current ownership wanted to ensure the team stayed in Florence, Kentucky, and purchased the team in July 2019. The owners believed the team was a community asset especially after the great baseball season the Florence Freedom experienced last year. Mr. DelBello and his partners wanted to grow the team and the business. Since taking ownership, a youth program serving over 600 kids has been implemented with the hope to grow the youth by 50% this coming year. They also saw opportunities within the ballpark and the team to expand events. Upgrades are needed internally and intend on investing in their people and serving customers. The attendance has been level for the past five years and they wanted to spark interest and revitalize the team. After completing internal market research, they found minor league teams have rebranded their team by changing the name. The ownership felt the name change would allow the team to create a new image with excitement and buzz.

Therefore, Freedom Baseball Club, LLC devised a blind team naming contest and received submissions of 2200 names. 40% of the people referenced the Y'all. During that time, BLDG, their branding partners, aided the process of the name search. The top five names were then sent out and voted on. Almost 70% of the votes were for the "Y'alls". The fans chose their team name and with the aid of BLDG, the colors will be Northern Kentucky baby blue, red, and white.

Mr. DelBello introduced Jay Becker, President and Owner of BLDG. Mr. Becker thanked his staff including Ms. Sydney Lamb, one of the primary designers of the brand who is from Florence. BLDG wanted to tell a story about Northern Kentucky and Y'all is cultural to the south. Mr. Becker presented a slide presentation of the inspiration which helped brand the team name and colors.

After discussion, Mayor Whalen called for a motion to approve the Freedom Baseball Club LLC's request for a team name change from the Florence Freedom to the Florence Yalls. Councilmember Winn motioned to approve, with a second from Councilmember Aubuchon. **Council approved by unanimous vote.**

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before Council, Mayor Whalen called for a motion to adjourn the Special Meeting. Councilmember Winn so moved, with a second from Councilmember Osborne. **Council approved by unanimous vote**, the time being 6:53 p.m.

APPROVED:

/s/ Diane E. Whalen

Diane E. Whalen, Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Nancy Zeilman

Nancy Zeilman, City Clerk