



**Florence City Council
Business Meeting
Tuesday, June 11, 2019
6:30 p.m.**

MINUTES

The City Council of the City of Florence, Kentucky, met in regular session on Tuesday, June 11, 2019, 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 regular meeting to order and declared the regular session open for the presentation of all City business.

ROLL CALL:

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

Councilmember Duane Froelicher was absent.

Staff members present were: City Coordinator, Joshua R. Wice; City Attorney, Hugh Skees; Linda J. Chapman, CFO/Human Resources Director; Police Captain, Eric Bowles; Public Services Director, Eric Hall; Business & Community Development Director, Joshua Hunt; Fire/EMS Chief, Scott Knoll; City Clerk, Nancy Zeilman; Videographers, Sean Kreke and Matt Miller; Police Officer, Brady Napier; and, Community Projects Administrator, Deb McCarty.

The following were also present: Mr. Steve McDaniel, resident; Dr. Cathy Gratkowski, Urban Forest Commission member; Melissa Kramer, Assistant City Clerk; Trish Scheyer, The River City News report; various staff of the Florence Fire/EMS Department; and, various family and friends of Florence Fire/EMS Department staff receiving recognition.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mayor Whalen called for a motion to approve the minutes of the May 14, 2019, business meeting. Councilmember Winn motioned to approve the minutes with a second from Councilmember Huff. **Council approved by unanimous vote.**

RECOGNITION:

Mayor Whalen recognized Fire/EMS Chief, Scott Knoll. Chief Knoll proudly recognized Fire/EMS Department staff members Phil Bender, Paul Hilmer, Rob Honaker, Ricky Lang,

Jasper Miller, Dave Piening, Jerry Sipe, Bud Webster, and Troy Webster. Each year, St. Elizabeth Healthcare accepts nominations for outstanding and heroic efforts. Florence Fire/EMS Department staff members were nominated for several awards and received two of them. The above mentioned firefighter/EMTs and firefighter/paramedics received the “Lifesaver EMS Award” for assisting with a motor vehicle accident with entrapment. The driver was in cardiac arrest, which caused the accident, and the driver was trapped in the vehicle. With the heroic efforts of these firefighter/EMTs and firefighter/paramedics, the driver was cut from the wreckage, treated, transported to the hospital, and recovered.

Chief Knoll then announced the second award winner. Jonathan McNamara was nominated by members of his shift to receive the “Paramedic of the Year Award.” Chief Knoll explained that it is hard to point to one incident that would qualify Jonathan for this award. His approach and skill is what sets him apart from other very talented paramedics. Chief Knoll stated that during a run, Jonathan recognized a particular ailment in a patient. After the patient was transported to the hospital, Jonathan advocated for the patient, and the patient experienced. Chief Knoll recognized how many great paramedics are in the region and to have Florence Firefighter/Paramedic McNamara nominated is an honor for the city and him. Mayor Whalen thanked Jonathan for his contributions, and she also took the opportunity to thank all of those that serve and do a great job for the city.

ORDINANCE NO O-10-19: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF FLORENCE, KENTUCKY, AMENDING THE BUDGET FOR THE 2018-2019 FISCAL YEAR OF THE CITY. (AMENDMENT #2).

This Ordinance is an amendment to the fiscal year 2018-2019 Budget of the City. The purposes of this amendment are as follows: (a) to reflect an increase in General Fund revenues related to payroll taxes and EMS fees due to actual results and steady trends; (b) to reflect increases in General Fund expenditures relating to street light and utility service costs, Fire/EMS work comp additions per the audit, vehicle maintenance, and a Budget increase for the Mall Road northbound turn lane extension; (c) to reflect an increase in MARF/LGEA fund expenditures for snow removal due to salt purchases; (d) to reflect increased expenses in the Water/Sewer fund due to the pass through of the water rate increase from our supplier; and (e) to reflect increased expenses in the Health/Dental fund due to additional claims.

Mayor Whalen then called for a motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance O-10-19. Councilmember Huff motioned to approve, with a second from Councilmember Osborne. **Council approved by unanimous vote.**

MAYOR’S ANNUAL BUDGET ADDRESS AND STATE OF THE CITY:

It is a privilege to be in front of you today as I prepare to present to you my 21st State of the City and Budget Address. I am proud to share with you the accomplishments and achievements of the previous year – and to share what the coming year will bring.

*It is a coming year full of promise – in **the** city where I want to be, where **you** want to be – and what I consider to be the greatest home for residents, businesses, and visitors imaginable.*

My role as your mayor has been the highest privilege of my life, second only to my family. This is not a job, it is my labor of love. Serving alongside our city council members and employees – and serving the people of our community – has exceeded my every expectation.

The “State of Florence” is strong. The leadership of the city, with the encouragement, support, and shared vision of this council, continues to focus on those core municipal duties of providing the best and most reliable services to all of our stakeholders, concentrating on our economic and community development efforts, and continuing to responsibly position our city as the established center of commerce it is today. Florence is a safe, prosperous, and service-oriented city. Florence is a financially stable city.

The city departments of Administration, Finance, Police, Fire/EMS, and Public Services are leading through change and progress. After the retirements of department directors in the Police Department and the Fire/EMS Department, I was excited to select Tom Grau to serve as Chief of Police and Scott Knoll to serve as Chief of Fire/EMS. Both are dedicated leaders and tenured city employees in their respective departments. They join Linda Chapman, our CFO/Human Resources Director and Eric Hall, our Public Services director to lead our city departments.

Near the end of 2018, Josh Wice accepted my offer to return to the City of Florence in a new role, as the City Coordinator, Josh rounds out our excellent leadership and management team.

Josh’s passion for the long-term vitality of Florence, as well as planning for the future and making sure city government is delivering day-in and day-out, bodes well for all of us now and for years to come. I am more than pleased that he agreed to join us.

The general fund budget proposal for 2019-2020 totals \$35.7 million. This includes operating and capital expenditures, including transfers to other city funds. The operating expenditures are \$28.6 million; an overall 4.8% increase over those budgeted for fiscal year 2018-2019, mainly due to a 12% increase in both non-hazardous and hazardous pension rates set by the Kentucky Retirement Systems. The city has planned expenditures for capital items of \$6.7 million, which is an 11% decrease from last year.

The Administration and Finance departments account for 8% of the city’s total budget. Not only is this proportion lower than general budgeting standards for organizations, the city includes far more under our administration and finance services than most other cities.

The team in the Administration Department directs and executes the city’s responsibilities with management of all city departments as well as economic and community development, city event planning, grants administration, and safety and risk management.

The Finance Department staff members are responsible for the collection of all revenues for the city, disbursing all payments, administering employee benefits program, and overseeing the city’s information technology vendor relationship.

For 15 consecutive years, our CFO and Finance Department has been recognized by the Government Finance Officers Association for excellence in financial reporting through the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, the highest recognition awarded for financial reporting for a municipality. In addition, the city received its fifth consecutive Government Finance Officers Association “Distinguished Budget Presentation” award. A special thank you to the city’s CFO, Linda Chapman, for her expertise and delivery in this area.

The Florence Police Department has 68 members and a total department budget of \$9,063,100. They responded to over 57,586 officer calls resulting in 84,834 officer responses.

Following Tom Grau’s promotion to Chief, Lt. Greg Rehkamp was promoted to the rank of Captain, joining the leadership team of the department.

Three grants supplemented the city allocated budget for the police department this year. The first was a traffic grant for \$45,000 from the Kentucky Highway Safety Office for enhanced traffic enforcement programs. The second was a \$10,000 U.S. Department of Justice grant to equip all of the police officers with new raingear that will keep them safer and more protected from the weather elements that they often work in. Finally, the Matt Haverkamp Foundation awarded a grant to the department to secure a third K9 for its ranks. We were pleased to welcome Mrs. Haverkamp to a recent council meeting to acknowledge her family's ongoing commitment to the legacy of her son and the law enforcement community.

There were several large projects that the police department was involved in over the course of the previous year. One of the largest involved the planning and implementation of a regional radio system upgrade. This region-wide upgrade will allow all police and fire agencies in the region to be on the same system, allowing for better interdepartmental communication when needed.

Our department continues to invest in training for our officers and has completed construction of a Simunitions training facility at our range. This building will enable our officers and other departments in the area to have more opportunity to train on real life scenarios involving stressful incidents.

Finally this year, the department created a drone program. The officers selected have been certified as drone operators. This unit is a benefit for our patrol officers and specialized units in the recording of crime scenes and locating critical missing individuals.

The Community Resource Unit continues to be actively involved in numerous events throughout the city. This year the unit graduated nearly 800 DARE students, conducted the annual Citizens Police Academy class this spring, participated in three career and job fairs, three school assembly programs, and six bike rodeos. The Community Resource Unit also held the annual Easter Egg Hunt where over 9000 eggs were hidden for the children. In addition, the unit provided drug and crime prevention training to local businesses. The unit also presented special training and assistance to many other community and public service agencies including youth groups and addiction recovery based programs throughout Northern Kentucky.

The Fire and EMS Department has 66 members and a total departmental budget of \$8,875,309. The department provides fire and rescue services, emergency medical services, code compliance and public fire education.

Following Scott Knoll's promotion to Chief, John Black and Bill Allen were promoted to the rank of Assistant Chief.

The fire and rescue services provide emergency medical response as well as responding to structure, vehicle and vegetation fires. They also respond to rescue and hazardous materials incidents. There were no injuries or fatalities related to the fire responses in 2018.

The Department responded to over 8,300 medical emergencies and 240 total fires in the community in 2018. Included in those numbers are 3,200 medical emergencies that were of a critical, life-threatening nature. Medical calls to 9 senior living communities in the city accounted for 17.5% of all medical calls answered by the Department during the year.

Of the 240 fires, 80 were in buildings throughout the community. Those fires resulted in over \$2.2 million dollars in damage, but through the diligent work of the members of Florence Fire/EMS, \$176.2 million in property was saved at those same fires.

Members of our Fire/EMS Department continue to be recognized for actions above and beyond the call of duty. Some awards received this year include the EMS Award from Northern Kentucky Firefighters' Association for a cardiac arrest save resulting in full recovery. Our thanks to FF/PMs Jacob Caylor, Josh Corry, Jonathan McNamara, Ryan Ruberg and Lt. Sam Money for their continued excellent service to our community. The Award of Honor from the Northern Kentucky Firefighters' Association was presented to Battalion Chief Steven Schreck for his actions during a roof collapse at a 3-alarm fire. St. Elizabeth Medical Center also recognized members of our department this year. The Lifesaver/EMS award went to Bud Webster, Troy

Webster, Dave Piening, Jerry Sipe, Ricky Lang, Rob Honaker, Jasper Miller, Paul Hilmer and Phil Bender. Jonathan McNamara received the Paramedic of the Year Award.

The Public Services Department has 68 members and a total departmental budget of \$5,558,443. This department consists of facilities division, fleet division, street division, grounds maintenance division, parks and recreation division and storm water division.

The Public Services Department embraces their department mission "to enhance the quality of life in our community by serving others." Their efforts and work can be seen in the dedication and products they produce. They were also recognized for their work in our community by two national publications. "Municipal Sewer and Water" magazine ran an article highlighting their comprehensive approach to city infrastructure and serving the community's needs, while APWA (American Public Works Association) magazine highlighted our "Better Services, Better Community" approach to Public Services.

Most of our transportation infrastructure improvements are nearly complete on 108 streets. These improvements include complete street replacements, mill and overlays and crack sealing. Various sidewalk and bike path improvements were also completed throughout the City.

The Department coordinated water main replacement, repaired 60 main breaks, 109 service leaks and relined approximately 6,672 feet of sanitary sewer pipe.

Park and facility improvements that are completed or currently underway include the replacement of the Lincoln Woods Park playground safety surface, the installation of a new park along Kentaboo Drive, which will include a playground, a half-court basketball, a shelter, restrooms, and walking trails as well as a sidewalk from Curtis Avenue to the new park. The renovations at our Rosetta facilities are now complete. These allow us to improve staff operations including a training/class room facility, additional storage, police impound lot, K9 training grounds, burn tower simulation and sign shop improvements. Renovations were completed on the Evelyn Kalb House and construction is underway for a new event center at the Florence Nature Park which will be available for rental this fall. The Event Center will fill a need that our community is lacking by providing a beautiful venue where weddings can be held and/or large groups of 100 can gather.

In the upcoming year, the budget includes infrastructure improvements on 23 streets through contracted work and 70 streets through in-house work. Proposed water line replacement, sanitary sewer relining, storm water improvements are all slated to take place. Finally, park and facility improvements for the coming year include the replacement of the Orleans Park playground surface and renovations to the Lincoln Woods restrooms. By proactively updating and replacing infrastructure now, future costs and emergency replacement of infrastructure will be kept to a minimum.

Thanks to the efforts of the City's Urban Forest Commission and the willingness of this and prior City councils to fund projects. A few projects undertaken this past year include the installation of trees along Freedom Way, Safeway Drive, Orleans Park, and the Government Center. The City's commitment to its urban forestry and beautification strategy is a positive to our City. This commitment has allowed the City to be designated for the 28th consecutive year as a "Tree City USA".

During the past year, the Public Services Department arranged, planned and implemented 18 special events. A few highlights include our Independence Day celebration at the Florence Freedom stadium and the record breaking crowd of over 3,500 in attendance for the Halloween Night Out celebration. We also hosted our Memorial Day Parade and program and the Veteran's Day Program which acknowledged the return of our adopted troop Bravo Company 101st Airborne Division, 2nd Brigade 502nd Infantry Unit also known as "The Renegades". In addition we had 618 residents participate in our Spring and Fall cleanup events.

According to the 2010 census, the residential population of Florence was 29,951. As we approach another census year in 2020, we will have a new, official count of our residential population, but the estimate in 2018 was 33,294. That estimate represents an 11% increase over

the decade. New schools, residential developments, and parks have been planned for or expanded to accommodate the growth. This residential census data, while important to the city's overall story, is only a fraction of our growth narrative.

As we know, the City of Florence is known as an employment, industrial, office, retail, and dining hub of Northern Kentucky. I would extend that and say that when we analyze traffic patterns, we are a center of activity from Southeast Indiana and some areas of Southwest Ohio, as well.

This means the number of people coming to Florence daily to eat, shop and work, far exceeds our residential population. This is a good thing and is why we have realized the successes we have over the years.

Over the last few years we have generated more than \$600 million in new private sector investment from a wide array of industries, expanding our tax base and creating hundreds of new jobs for our citizens.

After five years, the Florence Heights development is complete. The last piece of this development, Menard's, is scheduled to open next week.

Concern remains nationwide about the future of brick and mortar retail stores and large urban malls. While there is no denying that the brick and mortar world is changing, our discussions with some of the national retailers have assured us that they recognize that as needs in the retail arena shift, so must their focus. They view the changes as an opportunity to recreate and reinvent the retail experience for the next generation.

For those brick-and-mortar stores that look to the future – those retailers around the world that are increasing their data analytics effort in the physical shopping realm, are improving their operations and customer experiences.

There are visible redevelopment projects currently taking place at the former HH Gregg building. This 65,000 square foot building is being completely renovated and subdivided into two new stores. Right next door, the building with TJ Maxx and Home Goods is receiving a make-over, making room to add a new, third tenant.

While we are on the topic of retail, we would be remiss if we did not discuss the Florence Mall. One of the largest properties and highest assessed real estate in Boone County, underwent a change in ownership last year. Malls, in general, are dealing with shifting consumer preferences, as well. We have been in discussions with Brookfield Properties, owners of the mall, and they have successfully redeveloped malls around the country. Our charge to them has been to explore streetscape improvements, a diversity of tenant spaces, and thinking to the future.

Recently, a thirty-million-dollar construction project on two large commercial buildings was completed on Ted Bushelman. The 550,000 sq. ft. building which sits directly behind Wal-Mart is home to DB Schenker, a global logistics solutions and supply chain management company. According to Schenker, within three years 600 new employees will operate in Florence. As many people know, due to the social media fanfare it generated, a new Wayfair building opened on the corner of Renegade Way and Ted Bushelman Blvd. The 350,000 square foot building has a distribution and receiving arm and is the first retail store front in the country for Wayfair. Also, GE Aviation, announced a new facility on the corner of Ted Bushelman and Doering Drive. This 78,000 sq. ft. building will employ close to 100 new people and is a welcomed addition to the corridor. 4 new hotels, Holiday Inn Express, Fairfield Inn and Suites, Tru Hotel and Staybridge Suites are all under construction in the Houston Road Corridor as well.

A few of the other recent openings include Dominion Senior Living, First National Bank of Kentucky, Nothing Bundt Cake, Becoming Mom Spa & Ultrasound, Restyle Home Furnishings, Keller Williams Realty Office, Breakers Grill and Tate Training Center. Construction is ongoing on the ranch style town homes known as the Villages of Florence on Hopeful Church Road and its sister project, Villages of Weaver located on Weaver Road.

Those are just some of the highlights and we would encourage you to read the City's latest Development Update published quarterly on our website. It contains details about all the new development occurring in Florence.

One of the major issues on everyone's mind is the ramp up to the Amazon Prime Air Hub, which plans to be fully operational on the campus of the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport in 2021. We continue to engage with representatives from Boone County, the Airport, traffic consultants, the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet and Amazon, as well as working with members of the Northern Kentucky Legislative Caucus as we try to determine the potential impact to traffic flow in and around the city. Amazon and the spin off development it creates will offer challenges to our infrastructure, our housing and our employment base. Working together we can minimize the negative impacts and focus on the many opportunities that will occur for all of our residents and businesses. Stay tuned...

The City is committed to keeping its citizens informed, but this something we struggle with. The news coverage of local government both regionally and nationally is not what it used to be. In order to engage our citizens and get important and timely information out, we need to get smarter as a city.

While we have a robust social media presence, it is not enough. It is time to look at external communications across the city. The Florence Y'All mobile app was introduced by our Public Services Department last year. Our goal for the coming year is to create and deliver timely e-news blasts for our community at large. We are in the development stages of determining how that would most effectively work, and we are getting there.

There are many more ways we can actively engage through the website and other unique communications methods. Look for progress in this area in 2019-2020. It is a priority for us.

Finally, we are midway through the strategic planning process. In order to determine the future direction of our city, we are including feedback from our citizens, businesses, employees, and elected officials as we look into the future and determine what comes next for our community. We look forward to finishing that process and having a plan approved within the next few months.

It is the commitment and supportive attitude of our past and our current city elected officials, as well as our department heads and staff members that have allowed our community to flourish. The dedication, drive and concern that they have for our community is unmatched anywhere else. It is their community too.

I once again offer my sincere thanks to everyone. While every job has its ups and downs, there have been far more ups to reflect on – and far more to look forward to.

*You are the reason for our success - it is **your** success. We have worked hard to manage our growth and provide direction. This is the place we have all chosen to live and raise our families. While we may not have riverfront property and views to promote, we have just as much and more to offer. We have a birds-eye view from the top of our renowned water tower and I like what I see. Our community is just as impressive because of each and every one of you. Thank you for allowing me to serve – it is indeed a labor of love.*

And I can think of no more fitting ending to this message than to say, "That's y'all folks!"

ORDINANCE O-11-19: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF FLORENCE, KENTUCKY, ADOPTING THE OFFICIAL BUDGET FOR THE 2019-2020 FISCAL YEAR OF THE CITY.

This Ordinance adopts the fiscal year 2019-2020 budget of the City, including the General Fund, the Municipal Aid Road Fund, the Infrastructure Fund, the Asset Forfeiture Fund, the Aquatic Center Fund, the Water & Sewer Fund, the World of Golf Fund, and the Health and Dental Fund. Budgeted resources and expenditures are as shown on Exhibit "A."

Mayor Whalen read the following "Exhibit A."

CITY OF FLORENCE
 ENACTED BUDGET
 FISCAL YEAR 2019-20

Exhibit "A" to City of Florence Ordinance No. O - 11 - 2019

	General Fund	Municipal Aid Road Fund	Infrastructure Fund	Asset Forfeiture Fund	Aquatic Center Fund	Water and Sewer Fund	World of Golf Fund	Health and Dental Fund
RESOURCES AVAILABLE:								
Estimated Revenues & Transfers	36,955,000	753,000	5,435,000	182,000	569,500	8,627,500	1,092,700	3,085,500
Beginning Fund Balance	64,345,323	1,656,844	18,835,277	260,282	2,840,140	24,922,963	8,315,745	15,991,732
TOTAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE FOR APPROPRIATIONS	101,300,323	2,409,844	24,270,277	442,282	3,409,640	33,550,463	9,408,445	19,077,232
APPROPRIATIONS:								
Administrative	3,147,959							2,937,000
Public Services	5,558,443		2,425,000					
Police Services	9,063,100			436,200				
Fire / E.M.S. Services	8,875,309							
Parks / Recreation					564,900			
Capital Outlay	5,193,725	780,200						
Other Agencies	440,000							
Debt Service	1,543,900							
Water and Sewer						9,334,024		
Golf Course							1,223,356	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	33,822,436	780,200	2,425,000	436,200	564,900	9,334,024	1,223,356	2,937,000
Transfers	1,925,000							
Estimated Fund Balance at Year-End	65,552,887	1,629,644	21,845,277	6,082	2,844,740	24,216,439	8,185,089	16,140,232
TOTAL BUDGET	101,300,323	2,409,844	24,270,277	442,282	3,409,640	33,550,463	9,408,445	19,077,232

Note: The City's adopted budget in detail for Fiscal Year 2019-20 is available for public inspection at the Florence Government Center during normal business hours.

Mayor Whalen called for a motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance O-11-19. Councilmember Aubuchon motioned to approve, with a second from Councilmember Osborne. **Council approved by unanimous vote.**

ORDINANCE O-12-19: AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO PERSONNEL; AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. O-3-19 RELATING TO PERSONNEL POLICIES, JOB DESCRIPTIONS, AUTHORIZED POSITIONS AND THE PAY PLAN.

This Ordinance makes revisions to City Personnel Policies adding the position of Event Consultant; eliminating the position of Property Maintenance Worker; providing for a 2% cost of living increase; and making corresponding changes to the Authorized Positions List and Pay Plan.

Mayor Whalen called for a motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance O-12-19. Councilmember Winn motioned to approve, with a second from Councilmember Huff. **Council approved by unanimous vote.**

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Whalen announced that the Aquatic Center opened May 25 and hours of operation are 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Daily admissions can be purchased at the door.

She also reminded everyone that Friday, June 14 is Flag Day. Fly your flag proudly.

Mayor Whalen invited everyone to attend the Aquatic Center's Dive in Movie on Saturday, June 15. Activities begin at 7:00 pm. And the movie, Surf's Up, will begin at 9:15 p.m.

Mayor Whalen announced that the Annual Independence Day Celebration will be held on July 3, 4:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. It is held in the Florence Freedom Parking Lot. There is overflow parking at the Florence Government Center and a shuttle will be provided. The event includes kid's activities, the Cincinnati Circus, rides, games, Florence Community Band, Florence Police Honor Guard's Patriotic Salute, a Cruise-in, Freedom baseball game, performance by Velvet Soul Band, and a Fireworks Display at 10:00 p.m.

She invited everyone to attend and enjoy the festivities. If it rains, the celebration will be held on July 4th, 7:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.

Mayor Whalen reminded residents of Florence that the City offices and the Government Building will be closed on Thursday, July 4th.

Mayor Whalen recognized Dr. Cathy Gratkowski who was in the audience. Dr. Gratkowski is a newly appointed member of the Florence Urban Forestry Committee. She thanked Dr. Gratkowski for her service on the committee.

RECOGNITION:

Mayor Whalen asked if any of the following desired recognition:

City Coordinator, Joshua R. Wice:

Mr. Wice did not desire recognition.

Department Heads:

Eric Hall, Director of Public Services, stated that there should be signage posted around the "jug-handle" area re-directing traffic very soon. Councilmember Aubuchon inquired about the sidewalk. Eric explained that the sidewalk project will be underway soon. The sidewalk from US

42 to the Fire Station is part of the “jug-handle” project. The City of Florence will continue the sidewalk from the Fire Station to Saddlebrook. No definite completion date has been determined.

Audience:

Mayor Whalen asked if anyone in the audience would like recognition. Mr. Steve McDaniel, 4 Valley Drive, Florence, KY requested to speak. Mr. McDaniel stated that there are problems on Valley Drive. He explained that he has tried to address different public employees about the sewer problem. Mayor Whalen let him know that the problem had been reported and addressed. She requested that Mr. McDaniel speak with Eric Hall, Director, Public Services to get an update on the situation.

Mr. McDaniel then stated there are several houses on the street that have lawns that are not being mowed and maintained. Mayor Whalen let him know that the process that Code Enforcement must legally take does take some time. The property owner must be notified and given time to come into compliance.

Mr. McDaniel also stated that there is property on the street that has had mattresses stacked in the back yard for a couple of years. Mayor Whalen explained that the city cannot legally enter a backyard without a report or a complaint from a neighbor and encouraged him to do so.

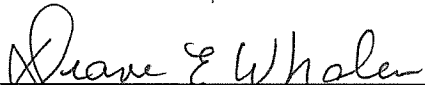
Mr. McDaniel then asked how many vehicles can be parked in a driveway / yard without having proper tags and not operational. Mayor Whalen stated that vehicles do need to be licensed and requested that Mr. McDaniel make a report to Code Enforcement and an investigation can begin on all of the problems he is noticing in the neighborhood. She let him know that we only have three Code Enforcement Officers in the city and that we rely on the eyes and ears of neighbors to report problems.

Mr. McDaniel let the Mayor know that he left a voicemail about the storm water a week ago and as of tonight, has not received a call back. Mayor Whalen explained that Eric Hall will get answers on all of the above requests and will report findings back to him. Mayor Whalen then thanked him for coming.

ADJOURNMENT:

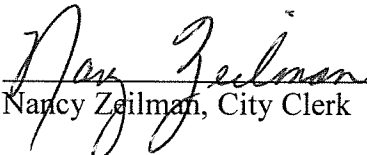
There being no further business to come before Council, Mayor Whalen called for a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Huff so moved, with a second from Councilmember Winn. **Council approved by unanimous vote**, the time being 7:16 p.m.

APPROVED:



Diane E. Whalen, Mayor

ATTEST:



Nancy Zeilman, City Clerk