



**Florence City Council
Special Meeting
Tuesday, October 15, 2019
6:30 p.m.**

MINUTES

The City Council of the City of Florence, Kentucky, met in special session on Tuesday, October 15, 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 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; Public Services Director, Eric Hall; Business & Community Development Director, Joshua Hunt; Fire/EMS Chief, Scott Knoll; City Clerk, Nancy Zeilman; and, Police Officer, Brady Napier.

The following were also present: Trish Scheyer, The River City News reporter; T. Kevin Flanery, President, Churchill Downs; Matt Niehaus, Churchill Downs; Chip Bach, Turfway Park LLC, General Manager; Kevin Costello, Boone County Planning & Zoning Commission, Executive Director; Adam Koenig, Kentucky State Representative; Lisa Wilson-Plajer, City of Florence Aviation Noise Abatement Committee; Jake Ryle, Channel 9 News Reporter.

RESOLUTION R-5-19:

A Resolution awarding a non-exclusive franchise for a term of ten (10) years for a telecommunications system within the confines of the City of Florence, Kentucky, to MCImetro Access Transmission Services Corporation D/B/A Verizon Access Transmission Services.

Mayor Whalen called for a motion to approve Resolution R-5-19. Councilmember Osborne motioned to approve, with a second from Councilmember Winn. **Council approved by unanimous vote.**

PRESENTATION:

Mayor Whalen introduced T. Kevin Flanery, President, Churchill Downs, Matt Niehaus, Churchill Downs, and Chip Bach, General Manager, Turfway Park. Mr. Flannery presented to council, the future of Turfway Park.

Churchill Downs completed the purchase of Turfway Park on October 9, 2019. The entire facility, track, and barn will be revitalized. The grandstand area will be demolished and replaced with a state-of-the-art racing facility.

Racing dates are in place for this season beginning in December, 2019, and running through March, 2020. At the completion of the racing season, demolition will begin. A temporary facility may be used for the following racing season until construction is complete, but there will be no lapse in the racing schedule.

In addition to live racing, the facility will house 1500 Historical Racing Machines. Conference and event space will be offered for use on non-race days.

Churchill is investing nearly \$150 million dollars into this project. The construction of the facility will create approximately 800 direct construction jobs. At completion, 400 permanent jobs will be added.

Churchill's vision includes an investment in the community. They are hopeful that this state of the art facility will entice the racing circuit to make Northern Kentucky their home.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before Council, Mayor Whalen called for a motion to adjourn the Special Meeting. Councilmember Huff so moved, with a second from Councilmember Winn. **Council approved by unanimous vote**, the time being 6:56 p.m.

APPROVED:

Diane E. Whalen, Mayor

ATTEST:

Nancy Zeilman, City Clerk