



**Florence City Council  
Business Meeting  
Tuesday, November 10, 2020  
6:00 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

The City Council of the City of Florence, Kentucky, met in regular session on Tuesday, November 10, 2020, at 6:00 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 four (4) members of council were present: Dr. Julie Aubuchon (Vice-Mayor), J. Kelly Huff, David Osborne, and Gary Winn.

Councilmembers Mel Carroll and Duane Froelicher were absent.

Staff members present were: City Coordinator, Joshua R. Wice; City Attorney, Hugh O. Skees; Chief of Police, Tom Grau; Fire/EMS Chief, Scott Knoll; Assistant City Clerk, Brandi Roundtree; Videographer, Spencer Foreman; and Police Lieutenant, Jeff Mallery.

The following were also present: Fire/EMS Department new employee, Jaime Hubbard; Florence Police Department new police officers, Haley Ransler and Brady Ast; Family and Friends of the new Florence Police Department police officers, Haley Ransler and Brady Ast; Councilmember Elect, Josh Walton; Robert Sweet, McBride Dale & Clarion; and Trisha Scheyer, The River City News.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Mayor Whalen called for a motion to approve the minutes of the October 27, 2020, business meeting. Councilmember Winn motioned to approve the minutes with a second from Councilmember Huff. **All councilmembers present voted aye.**

**OATHS OF OFFICE:**

Scott Knoll, Fire/EMS Chief, introduced the newest member of the Florence Fire/EMS Department, Jaime Hubbard, Firefighter/Paramedic.

Jaime comes to us from the Independence Fire Protection District where he has been a full-time Firefighter/Paramedic for several years. Jaime has also worked for Georgetown EMS and Crescent Springs Fire Department. He resides in Florence and is excited to take the next step in his fire/EMS career.

Mayor Whalen administered the oath of office and welcomed Jaime to the City of Florence Fire/EMS Department.

Tom Grau, Chief of Police, introduced Brady Ast and Haley Ransler, as the newest members of the Florence Police Department.

Haley is 27 years old and currently resides in Cincinnati, Ohio. She is a 2011 graduate of Anderson High School and went on to take classes at Northern Kentucky University where she graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in sociology. Prior to her hire, Haley was working at the Pelican's Reef and the Tin Roof.

Brady is 24 years old and currently resides in Union, Kentucky. He is a 2015 graduate of Ryle High School. Brady went on to attend Asbury University for a couple of years on a baseball scholarship. He then transferred to Northern Kentucky University where he is currently working to complete his bachelor's degree. Prior to his hire, Brady was working at Sam's Club in Florence.

Chief Grau is excited to be adding Haley and Brady to the department, and they will be leaving for the academy on December 13, 2020.

Mayor Whalen administered the oath of office and welcomed Haley and Brady to the City of Florence Police Department. Mayor Whalen appreciated the patience of Haley and Brady during the hiring process due to delays encountered as a result of COVID-19.

#### **SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE O-14-20:**

Mayor Whalen read Ordinance O-14-20. An ordinance adopting and approving a zoning map amendment from Commercial Two/Planned Development/Houston-Donaldson Study Corridor Overlay (C-2/PD/HDO) to Urban Residential Two/Planned Development/Houston-Donaldson Study Corridor Overlay (UR-2/PD/HDO) for a 20.484 acre site located on the northwest corner of the Houston Road/Turfway Access/Charles R. Callen Drive intersection, and north of the property at 4885 Houston Road, Florence, Kentucky, to allow a multi-family residential development. (Arlington Properties, LLC)

The effect of this Ordinance is to allow a Zoning Map Amendment from Commercial Two/Planned Development/Houston-Donaldson Study Corridor Overlay (C-2/PD/HDO) To Urban Residential Two/Planned Development/Houston-Donaldson Study Corridor Overlay (UR-2/PD/HDO), to allow a multi-family residential development.

The full text of Ordinance O-14-20, including its Exhibits, is available for examination in the office of the City Clerk of the City of Florence, Kentucky, in the Florence Government Center, 8100 Ewing Boulevard, Florence, Kentucky, during regular office hours.

Mayor Whalen called for a motion to approve the second reading of Ordinance O-14-20. Councilmember Huff motioned to approve, with a second from Councilmember Osborne. **All councilmembers present voted aye.**

**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ORDINANCE O-15-20:**

Mayor Whalen called upon City Coordinator, Josh Wice, with regard to a proposed zoning map amendment and possible first reading of Ordinance O-15-20.

Mr. Wice referenced the Boone County Planning Commission Resolution and the Florence Planning and Zoning Committee Report provided in council packets. Mr. Wice advised the Florence Planning and Zoning Committee met and are recommending approval based upon the Boone County Planning Commission recommendations. The zoning map amendment expansion is for the parking lot at Kerry Toyota and possible improvement of the flow of traffic in their lot. The expansion requires a zone change and an annexation into the city.

Mr. Wice advised first reading of the annexation occurred previously, and should city council approve the zoning map amendment and first reading of Ordinance O-15-20, second reading of both ordinances for the annexation and the zone map amendment would occur at the next business meeting. As part of the project, Kerry Toyota will install a landscape buffer on the south side of the property. Additionally, the project also has a detaining storm water runoff in a new retention center. This will be a nice enhancement for the neighboring properties with the landscaping and storm water detention.

Councilmember Winn stated Duke Energy has an easement for that area. Duke Energy has worked with the residents to lower the lights and create a buffer.

Councilmember Aubuchon inquired as to the location of the curb cut. Mr. Wice stated there are two curb cuts and both are staying.

Robert Sweet presented on behalf of McBride Dale & Clarion, 5721 Dragon Way, Suite 300, Cincinnati, Ohio 45227. Mr. Sweet stated the project is the result of a 100 foot and a 25 foot buffer. Duke Energy will be placing a 125 foot easement on the southern side of the property. Mr. Sweet advised Kerry Toyota is proposing an expansion lot. Originally the project had 249 parking spaces, buffer, and a detention area. Mr. Sweet stated following the public hearing and considering the neighbor's comments, where Duke would be placing the poles, the parking spaces were reduced to 205 spaces. He advised there is a system of detention basin on the east side of the property that would flow to Hopeful Church and two on the western side of the property which would filter into the existing detention area.

With regard to Councilmember Aubuchon's inquiry, Mr. Sweet explained the existing driveway will be removed. Previously there was an old house located on the property and the house has been demolished. The curb cut for Kerry Toyota now will be used to place vehicles in that area. Mr. Sweet stated they do agree with the six conditions as provided by the Boone County Planning Commission.

Mayor Whalen called for a motion to place Ordinance O-15-20 on the agenda for first reading. Councilmember Aubuchon motioned to place Ordinance O-15-20 on the agenda for first reading, with a second from Councilmember Osborne. **All councilmembers present voted aye.**

Mayor Whalen read Ordinance O-15-20. An ordinance adopting and approving a zoning map amendment from Suburban Residential One (SR-1) to Commercial Services (C-3) for a 2.735 acre site located on the west side of Hopeful Church Road and approximately 30 feet north of the Hopeful Church Road/Chancellor Court intersection (6136 Hopeful Church Road), Boone County, Kentucky (annexation into the City of Florence pending), to allow an expansion of an existing automobile dealership. (Kerry Toyota)

The effect of this Ordinance is to allow a Zoning Map Amendment from Suburban Residential One (SR-1) to Commercial Services (C-3), to allow an expansion of an existing automobile dealership.

The full text of Ordinance O-15-20, including its Exhibits, is available for examination in the office of the City Clerk of the City of Florence, Kentucky, in the Florence Government Center, 8100 Ewing Boulevard, Florence, Kentucky, during regular office hours.

Mayor Whalen called for a motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance O-15-20. Councilmember Osborne motioned to approve, with a second from Councilmember Winn. **All councilmembers present voted aye.**

#### **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION RESOLUTION R-4-20:**

Mayor Whalen called upon City Coordinator, Josh Wice, to present for consideration Resolution R-4-20, an Agreement between the Commonwealth of Kentucky Transportation Cabinet and the City of Florence for signal improvements along or near US Highway 42, Mall Road, and Ewing Boulevard.

Mr. Wice stated the City of Florence and Boone County Fiscal Court partnered together on a grant through OKI for signal upgrades. Overall received 3.7 million dollars for the project. As part of the grant, Phase 1 is the design and we are receiving \$278,415.00 through the OKI grant from the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet. With the 20% match, the split is \$55,683.00. To proceed with the agreement, Kentucky Transportation Cabinet requires a Resolution approved by City Council. Initially, the project was delayed as a result of the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet office being closed. First project of this kind and the city would like to move forward.

Mayor Whalen advised the project is a smart signal project and proceeded to read Resolution R-4-20. A Resolution approving an agreement between the Commonwealth of Kentucky Transportation Cabinet and the City of Florence, Kentucky for signal improvements along or near US Highway 42, Mall Road, and Ewing Boulevard in the City of Florence, Kentucky, this agreement being for Federal Project No 3002(346) and the applicable catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number 20.205-Highway planning and construction; this project being funded through the Federal-Aid Highway Program as a state administered reimbursement program and with a minimum of 20% matching funds from the City of Florence, Kentucky; and authorizing Hon. Diane E. Whalen as Mayor to execute this agreement on behalf of the City of Florence, Kentucky.

Mayor Whalen called for a motion to approve Resolution R-4-20. Councilmember Huff motioned to approve, with a second from Councilmember Winn. **All councilmembers present voted aye.**

### **MAYOR'S REPORT:**

- Saturday, November 7, 2020, was the annual Household Hazardous Waste Event at UC Health Stadium. Received positive comments regarding the flow of traffic and ability to still have the event this year.
- City of Florence has partnered with Go Pantry, a non-profit outreach providing food for hungry local children on days that schools are not open. The food drive began on November 2 and runs through November 25. Requested items are canned pasta, fruit cups, chicken noodle soup, pudding cups, applesauce cups, etc. We also collected donations for Go Pantry at our Halloween Night Out Event.
- Our annual leaf collection began on October 26 and will run through December 28. The leaf collection schedule is on our city website or call the Florence Public Services Department at 647-5416.
- The Boone County Clerk's office, for vehicle registration, reopened in the Florence Government Center on Monday, November 9 and have resumed their regular hours.
- The Circuit Clerk's office, for driver's license/state IDs, remains closed and does not plan to reopen their office at the Florence Government Center this year due to limited staffing. Those wanting a driver's license/state ID will need to continue going through the Burlington office at the Boone County Justice Center. They also have the option of the Real ID which now has an office on Dream Street.
- As we approach Veterans Day, tomorrow, officials and employees of the City of Florence, Kentucky, extend our deep appreciation and honor to all veterans and ask our community to join in doing the same. Our veterans - past, present, and future - and their families make great sacrifices to ensure the very freedoms we enjoy every day. A very special thank you this year goes to The American Legion, Boone Post 4, for the flag display along Ewing Boulevard in front of the Florence Government Center. We are forever grateful, in deed and truth, for the service of all veterans.
- Due to COVID-19, the city was unable to host the annual veteran ceremony. Therefore, the city mailed postcards and pins to veterans in the city from a mailing list obtained through the county. If any veteran in the city did not receive a postcard or pin, please contact Administration.

### **RECOGNITION:**

Mayor Whalen asked if any of the following desired recognition:

City Coordinator, Joshua R. Wice

Mr. Wice did not desire recognition.

Department Heads:

Fire/EMS Chief, Scott Knoll:

Chief Knoll did not desire recognition.

Chief of Police, Tom Grau:

Chief Grau did not desire recognition.

Audience:

No recognition requested from the audience.

Members of City Council:

Councilmember Osborne relayed the veterans parade held at the Florence Mall had a great turnout. He stated it was very emotional and well done with several different units of the Marines and Army. Mr. Osborne expressed his gratitude to Josh, the city, the Honor Run committee, and the Florence Mall to host the event. He also expressed his appreciation for everyone that came out to the parade. Mayor Whalen stated the parade was organized by Honor Flight and they worked with the Florence Mall to ensure the parade occurred since the marathon could not occur this year.

Councilmember Aubuchon thanked the Chief Knoll and Chief Grau for her dad, Dr. Ferd Metzger's, final send off and helping with the flow of traffic. She stated her "Dad loved the city." Mayor Whalen stated he will be missed as a founding father of the city, making the city what it was today, and offered condolences on behalf of the city.

Audience:

Mayor Whalen welcomed Councilmember Elect, Josh Walton, in the audience. Mr. Walton stated he is excited to get started and will do his best for the city.

Mayor Whalen reiterated to everyone the COVID cases are continuing to increase. The hospitals are reaching capacity for patient intakes in Ft. Thomas. The hospital is looking to expand to Florence for the overflow. Mayor Whalen stated we are all tired of the masks, social distancing, and all of it. However, the numbers are increasing and we are seeing more cases in our confines than in March and April. She urged everyone to take care of themselves and others and forego any large gatherings. Mayor Whalen stated Thanksgiving will look different this year, but urged "everyone to stay safe and well and God bless."

Councilmember Winn thanked the city for hosting the Halloween Night Out Drive-thru event. Mayor Whalen stated the city is making as many adjustments as we can to still provide for our residents and allow for social distancing.

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**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Whalen called for a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Huff so moved, with a second from Councilmember Winn. **Councilmembers present voted aye**, the time being 6:32 p.m.

**APPROVED:**

/s/ Diane E. Whalen  
Diane E. Whalen, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

/s/ Melissa Kramer  
Melissa Kramer, City Clerk