



**Florence City Council
Special Meeting
Tuesday, April 21, 2020
6:00 p.m.**

MINUTES

The City Council of the City of Florence, Kentucky, met in special session on Tuesday, April 21, 2020, at 6:00 p.m. at the Rosetta Training Facility, 175 Rosetta Drive, 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 six (6) members of council were present: Dr. Julie Aubuchon, Mel Carroll, Duane Froelicher, J. Kelly Huff, David A. Osborne, and Gary Winn.

Staff members present were: City Coordinator, Joshua R. Wice.

The following was also present: The River City News Reporter, Trish Scheyer.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mayor Whalen called for a motion to approve the minutes of the March 24, 2020, business meeting. Councilmember Winn motioned to approve the minutes with a second from Councilmember Huff. **All councilmembers present voted aye.**

MUNICIPAL ORDER MO-5-20:

A Municipal Order approving the appointment of Don Volland to the Boone County Board of Assessment Appeals for a three (3) year term.

Councilmember Carroll motioned to approve Municipal Order MO-5-20 with a second from Councilmember Winn. **All councilmembers present voted aye.**

DISCUSSION REGARDING CITY GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS DUE TO COVID-19:

Mayor Whalen discussed with councilmembers new procedures and protocols in place within the various departments. The City continues to operate within these modifications. The Florence Government Center remains closed to in-person business and visitors. Department heads have

implemented new procedures within their respective departments. Currently, the city has adequate resources of personal protective equipment. Fire/EMS personnel are protecting themselves and the residents/patients for which they render aid. The Police Department has necessary supplies and are using as needed.

Discussion was held regarding the pandemic and number of cases within the Northern Kentucky area. A new testing site has opened at Summit View Elementary School in Kenton County. Testing occurred on 800 patients and results are not yet available. Mayor Whalen recommended continuing to watch Governor Beshear's press conferences for updated information, as well as, following the Northern Kentucky Health Department for press releases.

Opening and lifting restrictions will be gradual and phased. Community rooms and city facilities will reopen based upon the large group gathering restrictions and modifications as mandated. The reopening of the Florence Government Center will be synced as close as possible with the reopening of the Boone County offices.

Mayor Whalen discussed with councilmembers the restrictions currently in place and upcoming events, which were previously scheduled. The annual Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony, which was scheduled for May 25, 2020, will be canceled due to restrictions and maintaining existing proper protocols. Neighborhood Night Out, which was scheduled for June 16, 2020, will be canceled. The Independence Day Event is currently scheduled for July 3, 2020. The city is monitoring the situation and determination for this event will be made at a later date.

Mr. Wice is in discussion with Boone County officials in the hopes of coordinating reopening of World of Golf with the Fiscal Court's golf course.

Further discussion was held regarding the reopening of the Senior Activity Center. The reopening of the Senior Activity Center will be determined based upon the guidelines set forth by Governor Beshear.

Mayor Whalen opened the floor with councilmembers for discussion regarding the opening of the Aquatic Center. Following discussion, all councilmembers agreed based on the current restrictions in place, the aquatic center will not be able to open this summer.

Discussion was held regarding businesses within the city and upcoming required deadlines. The annual Budget Retreat will be held with councilmembers and department heads following proper social distancing rules. Occupational license due dates have been pushed back, while payroll taxes remittance will have no grace periods. The current lease agreement with the Florence Y'all's is scheduled for renegotiation in September. Originally, the current lease was only extended one year. Turfway Park remodeling is underway and proceeding as planned.

Councilmember Osborne congratulated and commended Mayor Whalen, Mr. Wice, and the rest of the city staff for being proactive regarding the pandemic.

DISCUSSION REGARDING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS RELATED TO COVID-19:

Based on the request of a few councilmembers, discussion was held regarding local cities providing financial relief to businesses. Mr. Wice advised the city is reviewing possible program options for small businesses within the city. The city will continue to review possible options and will report back to council.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before Council, Mayor Whalen called for a motion to adjourn the Special Meeting. Councilmember Froelicher so moved, with a second from Councilmember Aubuchon. **Council approved by unanimous vote**, the time being 7:15 p.m.

APPROVED:

/s/ Diane E. Whalen

Diane E. Whalen, Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Melissa Kramer

Melissa Kramer, City Clerk