



**Florence City Council  
Business Meeting  
Tuesday, July 13, 2021  
6:00 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

The City Council of the City of Florence, Kentucky, met in regular session on Tuesday, July 13, 2021, 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 five (5) members of council were present: Dr. Julie Aubuchon (Vice-Mayor), Mel Carroll, J. Kelly Huff, David Osborne, and Gary Winn. Councilmember Josh Walton was absent.

Staff members present were: Assistant City Attorney, Dale T. Wilson; CFO/HR, Linda Chapman; Chief of Police, Tom Grau; Fire/EMS Chief, Scott Knoll; Public Services Director, Eric Hall; Business & Community Development Director, Joshua Hunt; City Engineer, Bill Viox; City Clerk, Melissa Kramer; Vanessa Lenear, Community Events Coordinator; Assistant City Clerk, Brandi Roundtree; Videographer, Spencer Foreman; Police Officer, Ethan Manley and Police Officer, Haley Ransler.

The following were also present: Trisha Scheyer, The River City News; Student Ambassador Sydney Gilson and family members; Brenda Sparks, Ambassador Program; Residents of Florence, Jenna Kemper and Caroline Kemper; Resident of Florence, Brian Kinross; Resident of Florence, Debbie Brewer; Resident of Boone County, Charles Butta; Resident of Hebron, Tom Johnson; Resident of Florence, Lesley Chambers; Resident of Boone County, Deborah Williams; Resident of Florence, William Hinkle; Resident of Florence, Vicky Fritz; Resident of Richwood, Tim Johnson; and Thomas Judd, observer.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Mayor Whalen called for a motion to approve the minutes of the June 22, 2021, business meeting. Councilmember Winn motioned to approve the minutes with a second from Councilmember Carroll. **All councilmembers present voted aye.**

**RECOGNITION:**

Mayor Whalen introduced Community Events Coordinator, Vanessa Lenear. Mrs. Lenear explained that the student ambassador program is a leadership program offered to Florence students in grades 6 through 12. Student ambassadors are encouraged to help with city events and through the program, gain skills related to public service, government operations, and customer service. As a result of Covid-19, many of the city events were canceled and ambassadors were only able to help with two events. Therefore, the application process for 2021-2022 year did not open to allow the current Ambassadors an opportunity to participate.

Mrs. Lenear introduced this year's scholarship winner, Sydney Gilson, and thanked her parents for their support. Sydney has been a Student Ambassador since 2018 and followed in the footsteps of her brother, also previously an ambassador. Sydney graduated from Cooper High School. Mrs. Lenear thanked Sydney and was appreciative of all of her help with the program and younger ambassadors.

Sydney stated she will be attending Northern Kentucky University in the fall and thanked everyone. She stated she enjoyed the program and all the fellow ambassadors she met in the program and residents within the community. She felt the program was a positive experience on her life, and was grateful to participate in the program.

Mayor Whalen thanked Sydney for her participation in the program and wished her the best of luck at Northern Kentucky University.

**PROCLAMATION:**

Mayor Whalen issued a Proclamation acknowledging July as Parks and Recreation Month reading the following Proclamation into record:

*WHEREAS, parks and recreation programs are an integral part of communities throughout this country, including Florence, Kentucky; and*

*WHEREAS, our parks and recreation are vitally important to establishing and maintaining the quality of life in our communities, ensuring the health of all citizens, and contributing to the economic and environmental well-being of a community and region; and*

*WHEREAS, parks and recreation programs build healthy, active communities that aid in the prevention of chronic disease, provide therapeutic recreation services for those who are mentally or physically disabled, and also improve the mental and emotional health of all citizens; and*

*WHEREAS, parks and recreation programs increase a community's economic prosperity through increased property values, increased tourism, the attraction and retention of businesses, and crime reduction; and*

*WHEREAS, our parks and natural recreation areas ensure the ecological beauty of our community and provide a place for children and adults to connect with nature and recreate outdoors; and*

Florence City Council  
Minutes: Tuesday, July 13, 2021

*WHEREAS, the U.S. House of Representatives has designated July as Parks and Recreation Month;  
and*

*WHEREAS, the City of Florence, Kentucky recognizes the benefits derived from parks and  
recreation resources.*

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED THAT, I, Diane E. Whalen, Mayor of the City of  
Florence, Kentucky, and on behalf of the members of Florence City Council, recognize July as Park and  
Recreation Month in the City of Florence, Kentucky.*

*IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Florence,  
Kentucky, to be affixed hereto, this 13<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2021.*

**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION RESOLUTION R-5-21:**

Mayor Whalen called upon Joshua Hunt, Business and Community Development Director, with regard to the franchise agreement for Open Fiber Kentucky LLC.

Mr. Hunt referenced his Memorandum and stated Open Fiber Kentucky LLC (OFL) has worked closely with the city and Attorney, Linda Ain, with regard to completion of the franchise agreement. Open Fiber Kentucky LLC is proposing to install redundant secure high capacity fiber optic cable to their Cyrus One Data Center located in Florence on Industrial Road and US 25. Cyrus One is a company that provides trial based servers to large businesses. Due to the nature of the business, disruption to the internet service would be critical to their objective. This project provides two separate redundant fiber connections to the building.

Mayor Whalen read Resolution R-5-21. 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 Openfiber Kentucky Company, LLC.

Mayor Whalen called for a motion to approve Resolution R-5-21. Councilmember Aubuchon motioned to approve Resolution R-5-21 with a second from Councilmember Carroll. **All councilmembers present voted aye.**

**MAYOR'S REPORT:**

- Mayor Whalen announced the Rotary Club of Florence is collaborating with multiple organizations to help the environment and local schools by providing a recycling event on July 31 from 10 am until 2 pm at Boone County High School. They will be collecting phones, servers, desktops, flat monitors, keyboards/mice, cameras, hard drives, laptops, calculators, and power cords. They will not accept any old televisions, microwaves, batteries, or bulky monitors. They are also collecting the plastic lids and caps. Additional information can be found at [www.florencerotary.org](http://www.florencerotary.org).
- A Safe Sitter Program will be held on Wednesday, August 11, 2021 at the Florence Nature Park Kalb Gathering House. Visit the city's website for registration and details.

Florence City Council  
Minutes: Tuesday, July 13, 2021

- Mayor Whalen reminded councilmembers of the First Baptist African American Church Historic Marker Dedication on Thursday, July 15 at 11:00 a.m.

**RECOGNITION:**

Mayor Whalen asked if any of the following desired recognition:

Members of City Council:

None desired recognition.

Department Heads:

Fire/EMS Chief, Scott Knoll:

Chief Knoll did not desire recognition.

Public Services Director, Eric Hall:

Mr. Hall did not desire recognition.

Chief of Police, Tom Grau:

Chief Grau did not desire recognition.

Audience:

City of Florence resident, Jenna Kemper of 2230 Bourbon Street stated the following:

Mrs. Kemper presented everyone with a handout regarding the benefits of swimming versus splash pads and parks for review. She encouraged councilmembers to review the handout. Mrs. Kemper stated, "You can't swim in a splash park, you can't swim in a concert venue, but what you can do is save the aquatic center from being demolished and we can look at options." Mrs. Kemper showed councilmembers a photograph of a pool in Ohio with a dome. Mrs. Kemper stated, "I have been talking to people about sponsoring this bubble, but you can't demolish it if we are going to talk. You say you want something year round, you say you want something for families, and this is great timing really as it is Parks and Rec month."

City of Florence resident, Brian Kinross of 1736 Savannah Lakes Drive stated the following:

Mr. Kinross inquired as to where the funds were coming from for the demolition and reconstruction of the aquatic center. Mayor Whalen called upon, Linda Chapman, CFO/HR. Ms. Chapman stated the city will use the remaining funds in the aquatic center and the general fund.

Florence City Council  
Minutes: Tuesday, July 13, 2021

Mr. Kinross stated: "Great, so the remaining balance in the aquatic center is, correct me if I'm wrong, 2.9 million today."

Ms. Chapman replied: "That was money originally transferred into that fund from the general fund for capital expenditures for pool replacement and repairs."

Mr. Kinross inquired whether that was a bond issuance. Ms. Chapman replied bonds were floated to build the skate park and the aquatic center.

Mr. Kinross stated: "But that fund is managed on an annual basis, right, and has revenues generated through interest as well as contributions from the city, correct?"

Ms. Chapman replied, "No, we issued bonds,"

Mr. Kinross interjected, "Correct."

Ms. Chapman continued, "To pay for the facility. We were just making the annual debt service payments now."

Mr. Kinross stated: "Okay, and the annual debt service payments is \$200,000 every year?"

Ms. Chapman replied: "The annual debt service payments are \$450,000 and that is not included in the annual \$300,000 loss we have each year."

Mr. Kinross replied: "Same fund?"

Ms. Chapman replied: "No, we pay that out of the general fund because we don't have enough money in the aquatic center."

Mr. Kinross thanked Ms. Chapman for the good information and stated, "So that fund will be depleted, basically, the 2.8 million and used to build this." Ms. Chapman stated the funds would be transferred back to the general fund where the funds originated from.

Mr. Kinross inquired with regard to the debt payments. Ms. Chapman stated the debt service payments were paid off last year. Mr. Kinross thanked Ms. Chapman for the clarification and stated, "Just looking at the pool operation costs per day of the aquatic center, \$7,500 average per day, the revenue is \$5,115, that operating costs per day is \$2,385, based on the total annual cost, based on the fund data, \$255,000, that's the cost per resident is \$4.85 per year. Or for a family of five, \$25 to keep that, to contribute, to cover the deficit that currently exists around the pool. Good information is that the debt payments are resolved. So the fund that is currently, 2.9 million, again, and the city has been contributing \$200,000 a year annually to that fund to cover the deficit to continuing to run the operation of the pool. That's correct?"

Ms. Chapman stated, "\$200,000 was transferred annually, but also every now and then transferred a million dollars into that fund for replacement and repairs."

Florence City Council  
Minutes: Tuesday, July 13, 2021

Mr. Kinross interrupted and stated, “2018 there was 1.7 million transferred into that fund.” Ms. Chapman replied, “Correct.”

Mr. Kinross continued, “125,000 was used for some renovations and updates to the pool. And this is all in the record. That is my math to make sure I am reading this correctly. So based on that fund, what I hear is, that fund is going to be depleted to demolish and renovate the existing facility and no bond issuance or additional funds will be required for that demolition is that correct. So, spend now instead of later is what I am hearing. If that fund was used and if the current deficits continued, that fund could keep that pool open for another eighteen years with the amount of funds which is available in that aquatic center fund. It would be depleted to zero today, this year, is what I am hearing is the plan of the city council and the Mayor. Is that correct?”

Mayor Whalen stated the funds in that account are transferred to provide for capital expenses, replacement of equipment, repairs, not for the operation itself. Mr. Kinross interjected and stated, “They are transferred from the general fund.”

Mayor Whalen continued, “From the general fund for the repairs, maintenance, and upkeep.”

Mr. Kinross stated the funds transferred for \$200,000 the past two years equating to \$400,000 and believed that the annual cost to run the pool including maintenance, repairs, and the costs for the facility to contract and manage the pool was \$155,000. He opined that \$200,000 would cover the deficit that the pool runs and the revenues generated and costs exceeded those revenues. He stated it was \$155,000 to operate the pool last year without the capital and he believed the capital was gone.

Ms. Chapman responded the city incurs capital expenses every year to operate the pool including, but not limited to, pumps, trash cans, chairs, slides. There is a replacement cycle.

Mr. Kinross interrupted and stated, “But that is included in those costs.”

Ms. Chapman stated, “No, that is not,”

Mr. Kinross interrupted and stated, “Is that additional costs coming out of the general fund.”

Ms. Chapman stated, “It’s in the pool fund, but we have lost an average of \$300,000 the last three years.”

Mr. Kinross stated, “I understand that, but the revenues generated that are offsetting that and the remaining deficit is what I am talking about.”

Ms. Chapman stated, “The remaining deficit has been an average of \$300,000 for the last three pool seasons.”

Mr. Kinross inquired where that accounting was coming from. Ms. Chapman stated that was operation and capital outlook. Mr. Kinross stated it was not showing in the fund. Ms. Chapman replied it was in the audit report which is online.

Florence City Council  
Minutes: Tuesday, July 13, 2021

Mr. Kinross stated, "Okay, then I guess I need to update myself on the report. Regardless, you say it is \$300,000."

Ms. Chapman stated, "That has been the average including capital and operating expenses,"

Mr. Kinross interrupted, "So that is ten years of operation if the fund was not, if no monies were transferred from general funds to that aquatic center fund, the pool could operate for ten years."

Ms. Chapman stated: "Assuming the level funding of maintenance, repairs and cost. You replace a pool liner, that is \$200,000 a year."

Mr. Kinross interjected and stated: "If I replace the pool, which was just replaced in 2018. So the pool liner should last for another ten or fifteen years."

Ms. Chapman replied, "What you are saying is that the expenses could be more or could be less."

Mr. Kinross stated he understood and making some assumptions, "that the spending you are discussing today is going to continue for the next ten years, and that's an assumption, I understand that, I am a business man so I understand that things change, budgets change, but that pool, instead of depleting those funds today, to create a new facility that would provide a different service to the community, there are funds in there to continue that operation for the next ten years. And it can be debated on how long it can continue. But, so, that basically answers my questions, how it is going to be funded, what I hear, is that, instead of keeping the pool and running it with the aquatic center funds, close to three million dollars that are in there, the city has decided to deplete those funds completely today, provide a service to the community, that they believe is a better benefit to the community, that would serve the community year round. Looking at that fund, some facts. Over the last few years, revenues generated have increased. In the last two years, 3.5 and 3.9 increases of revenue generated by the operations of the pool. So that data indicates that service usages turning upward and not downwards, Mayor and city council have communicated publically. In a poll that I took, I don't say it's completely scientific, I surveyed 288 individuals that came to our fireworks show, which was very wonderful, thank you for providing that, just asked a couple questions, one was, do you agree with the Mayor's and city councils plan to demolish and renovate the pool, and turn it into a splash ground and an amphitheater, and 99% of those surveyed, said no, that they do not agree with that decision. When I asked, would you prefer to have a splash pad over the current aquatic center, 93% said that no they did not prefer that. The survey that, and it maybe, let me ask a question here, in 2020, there was a survey done by Boone County Parks and Recreation asking the question, what additional services would you like to see added to Boone County Parks and Services, parks and recreation services. The top response, from the public was, a splash ground. Now, that was from Boone County. Florence pool is not a Boone County asset, nor is it part of the Boone County Parks and Recreation Services. Am I correct?"

Mayor Whalen stated: "We are part of Boone County and they surveyed..."

Mr. Kinross interjected: "Oh, you are part of Boone County, of course."

Florence City Council  
Minutes: Tuesday, July 13, 2021

Mayor Whalen continued, “They surveyed Boone County residents, which I am assuming included Florence residents,”

Mr. Kinross interrupted and stated “In Boone County’s survey, what I understand when I looked at that survey, it was specific to the services offered by Boone County Parks and Rec today.”

Mayor Whalen stated she believed it was what the residents of Boone County would like to see in the parks and stated that when a survey is sent out by Boone County, it is sent to all residents of Boone County, which includes Florence residents.

Mr. Kinross stated, “But in that survey, they never asked so, Florence Aquatic Center, was an existing service in 2020, and was closed because of Covid, we understand that. But it was an existing service and the question was, what service do you want to add to. Not delete from. Add to. So if I am taking that survey I am not going to request a pool or aquatic center, I am not going to put that down on my survey, because it exists. So, if the survey had said, what services would you want to delete and replace, that’s a different survey. But the survey did not say that, it asked, what services would you like to add to the existing services in Boone County. And the response was splash pad.” Mr. Kinross identified Mrs. Kemper’s photograph including a splash pad.

Mr. Kinross stated he has been conducting his own surveys. Mr. Kinross stated he did not agree with their decision and did not understand why the pool would be demolished.

Deborah Williams, resident of 8242 Rose Petal Drive, stated the following:

Mrs. Williams was appreciative of speaking with Mayor Whalen. Following their conversation, Mrs. Williams stated she saw a post on the internet regarding the meeting and posted on the Nextdoor app regarding the meeting. She inquired whether another survey could go out and request the pool remain open. Mrs. Williams did not agree with a splash park concept and felt a dome over the pool would be a wonderful idea.

City of Florence Resident, William Hinkle, 2693 Ridgecrest Drive, stated the following:

Mr. Hinkle thanked councilmembers and the Mayor for allowing him to speak. Mr. Hinkle inquired with regard to what the “end goal” and intent would be as he had heard many rumors.

Mayor Whalen informed Mr. Hinkle it is a work in progress and a survey should go out Monday identifying different options which could occur there. Mayor Whalen stated, “The goal of the city council is to provide a space that is open to the public ten-eleven months out of the year, where families can come, free of charge and spend time together, whether that is with a splash ground, an adventure playground, a performance stage for our community band, community chorus, community Shakespeare groups, something that would bring the community together, and all of those things are in the mix until we get those surveys back that talk about what pieces of that, people would want to see. One thing that is not on the survey, and is not included, is a lane or lap pool. It is not part of the plan at all. We will not be asking that question. We want to make sure that this facility, this area, is something that can be used and not padlocked on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of August or even Labor Day. We did that the first few years, but the cost of the contract from the

Florence City Council  
Minutes: Tuesday, July 13, 2021

swim management team, goes up with every week that you add, and the revenues go down when the kids go back to school, so it was determined that we would close when the kids went back to school. To have a place that is open and available year round as much as it could be. So that people can continue to come up and enjoy the different features and area together. It is sad for us to look at something that we worked on as a group, but when you see that facility locked up from August 15 until the end of May, when you know that property could be used for an opportunity for our residents to come and interact and recreate is the ultimate goal that council wants. Spending an additional \$300,000 for ten weeks of operation, it is not something council is willing to continue to do.”

Mr. Hinkle inquired with regard to the survey felt the residents may feel that the value of the pool for three months is more valued than a Shakespearean play venue which would not be available in January. Mayor Whalen agreed and stated the city would like to see the facility open ten-eleven months a year and available for play.

Mr. Hinkle opined the band would not play every day of the three months the pool might be open as well. He felt that the weight giving a swimming venue in a place where the venues are limited is not equal to the value that it brings to the community. Mr. Hinkle’s biggest concern is that he does not believe the public has been as informed about the decisions as they could have been or should have been and requested the survey be amended to include maintaining the current option. Mr. Hinkle stated he has heart and back issues and his primary mode of exercise is in a pool. He stated there are other options such as the YMCA he could go to take advantage of a pool, but he is unable to use the Northern Kentucky University pool. He felt the pool would be great if the pool was indoor/outdoor. He encouraged councilmembers to make sure that “if it is the decision to demolish and go with something else, that it is the right decision for a well-informed public.”

Mayor Whalen thanked Mr. Hinkle for his respectful approach and genuinely appreciated him.

City of Florence resident, Caroline Kemper, stated the following:

Caroline is the daughter of Jenna Kemper. Caroline stated she has spent eight years of her life at the Florence Aquatic Center and it is a second home to her. She opined that the pool means so much to everyone in the city and swimming is keeping people alive. She stated a friend of hers struggles with medical issues, is an amazing swimmer, and the pool was the only normal thing in her life because of Covid and her issues. Caroline stated the pool meant a lot to her, her siblings, and many of her friends, and felt no marketing was ever done for the pool because she had not seen them. She felt if there was better marketing to inform people the aquatic center was there that it would make more money. She also believed that kids depended on the aquatic center that do not have money to go to a pool and this is the only the place to swim. She did not feel people could get exercise at a splash park or at least as good as the swim team can at the pool. She urged councilmembers to think of their families.

City of Florence resident, Vicky Fritz of 6 Claiborne Court stated the following:

Mrs. Fritz is a resident of the Saddlebrook community for twenty-six years. Her family went to the aquatic center a few times and she let her children go with neighbors. She is in support of the

Florence City Council  
Minutes: Tuesday, July 13, 2021

aquatic center for the kids. She has a pool in her community which she is grateful for and requested everyone to listen to the community. She requested the survey be concise with regard to the demolition of the aquatic center and replaced with another amenity.

Mayor Whalen thanked Mrs. Fritz.

Tim Johnson, resident of Richwood, stated the following:

Mr. Johnson is concerned with the amount of vacant commercial real estate within the City of Florence. He did not feel it “moved” much.

Mayor Whalen inquired with regard to what real estate he was referring to.

Mr. Johnson identified the vacant lot by Fifth Third and believed that there is a lot of vacant real estate in the area, restaurants, and stores. He believes councilmembers should reconsider and listen to their constituents until there is a sound plan to go forward which would be successful in the community.

Mayor Whalen thanked Mr. Johnson.

Charles Butta, resident of 2293 Berkshire Court, stated the following:

Mr. Butta has been a resident of Boone County for twenty-four years. He relocated to the area after an internship. He praises the economy in the area with jobs and the amenities within the community. He believes the aquatic center is the only public pool within Boone County and stated the YMCA was only for members.

Mayor Whalen informed Mr. Butta the YMCA is open to the public for access to their outdoor pool. She informed him that it was an agreement made when the YMCA relocated to Burlington from Florence that the YMCA would make their outdoor pool available to the community at a day rate.

Mr. Butta appreciated the clarification. He believed that city council's job is to attract people to the community and provide services to the public. He believed the aquatic center was a gem and inquired with regard to how much creativity had been put into the aquatic center over the past seventeen years. He felt demolishing the aquatic center and putting in a splash pad would only appeal to one genre and requested the survey be transparent.

City of Florence resident, Leslie Chambers of 7777 Cedar Wood Circle, stated the following:

Ms. Chambers addressed Councilmember Osborne and inquired with regard to families on his street, as she had also lived on Miriam. She also inquired if he was aware that a public pool decreased juvenile crime rate and felt it was something for everyone to think about. Ms. Chamber felt it should be the community's decision to subsidize a pool.

Florence City Council  
Minutes: Tuesday, July 13, 2021

Ms. Chambers inquired of councilmembers what they did as children during summer months. Ms. Chambers stated her children love the pool. She recently bought a pool and it is a pain; however, believes all kids deserve to have a pool and it was crazy to get rid of the pool.

Ms. Chambers inquired whether councilmembers had looked at the facility in Woodford County. She believed it was something to consider as it was a nice facility. She also felt instead of spending money on a splash pad, it would make more sense to build an indoor facility which could help Boone County Schools and the Boone County High School Swim Team. She did not believe the city was in support of the schools.

Councilmember Aubuchon stated the city has established a partnership with the Boone County Schools and the city works very closely with the schools.

Ms. Chambers was under the assumption the city would not help with the schools or the preschool. Councilmember Aubuchon replied there was a Boone County Preschool on Ewing and for what she was referring with regard to land that was never brought before council. Business and Community Development Director, Joshua Hunt, stated that was not true and it was never brought to the city. The city has been more than willing to help.

Councilmember Aubuchon stated she works on a board with Boone County Board of Education Members and their main concern is addressing learning gaps from the Covid-19 pandemic, not a public pool.

Ms. Chambers interrupted, "They are not concerned with a preschool? They don't need a piece of land for a preschool?"

Councilmember Aubuchon stated, "I am on the Boone County Board of Early Childhood Fund and I assure you that has not been brought up before that board or this council."

Ms. Chambers stated her daughter is 14 years old and has spent every summer that she can remember at the pool. For the last two years, her daughter has hardly come out of her bedroom. She believes the pool is where kids from RA Jones and Collins see their friends. She felt while it is only ten weeks of the year, it's a full day of fun while these kids are out of school for the summer. She stated there was no slide at the pool at Saddlebrook or a lazy river there. The kids deserve what they have and they don't deserve to have it taken away. Ms. Chambers encouraged councilmembers to look at other options and felt there is no reason that the city could not make it work too.

Mayor Whalen thanked Ms. Chambers.

Tom Johnson, resident of Hebron, stated the following:

Mr. Johnson believes the right thing to do, is when the survey is released, there is 100% transparency. Anything short, would be omitting the truth.

Mayor Whalen thanked Mr. Johnson.

Florence City Council  
Minutes: Tuesday, July 13, 2021

Brian Kinross interjected from the audience wanting to check his numbers with Ms. Chapman. Mayor Whalen requested Mr. Kinross wait until after the meeting. He replied no, he would do it right now. Mayor Whalen requested he have a conversation with Mrs. Chapman if he would like to check numbers. Mr. Kinross interrupted and said he disagreed with her numbers, because they do not add up. Another member of the audience was shouting to hear Mr. Kinross.

Mr. Kinross stated, "I think the public needs to understand the real numbers Mayor Whalen. I stated some numbers and she refuted them. I wanted to challenge her on the numbers that she believes that I said were incorrect. So, just looking at 2017, because 2018 was an unusual year, there was some extra expenditures because the pool liner was replaced in 2018, we can look at 2018 to take that into account."

Mr. Kinross identified a poster of numbers he created and read numbers including: Revenues \$347,291. Mr. Kinross inquired whether this was correct of Ms. Chapman and informed her they were monies she cited. He identified interest as a revenue of \$11,000; miscellaneous of \$2,000. Mr. Kinross stated his poster showed revenues of \$360,000 that were generated by the operating of the aquatic center. Expenditures were \$514,077."

Ms. Chapman attempted to reply and Mr. Kinross interjected and stated if revenues were \$360,000 and expenditures were \$514,017, he believed the net cost to operate the pool would be \$153,000.

Ms. Chapman replied: "What I said was that the average loss for the past three years was \$300,000,"

Mr. Kinross interjected and questioned where those numbers were on his poster.

Ms. Chapman continued, "What I said for 2018 and 2019, the average loss for the pool was \$300,000,"

Mr. Kinross interjected and stated in 2019, the pool did not even operate.

Ms. Chapman stated, "It was, it was closed in 2020."

Mr. Kinross interrupted and stated "It was closed in 2019. We are in 2021 now."

Ms. Chapman stated, "It was closed in 2020."

Mr. Kinross interrupted and stated "you are right, it was closed in 2020, correct. So 19 and 18 you are saying the operations were."

Ms. Chapman continued, "We had a \$310,000 loss,"

Mr. Kinross interrupted, "I don't have the actuals for 19 to discuss that to be honest, the report that I was looking at had actuals up to 2018. And I just picked 2017, because again 2018 had an expenditure that exceeded what was normal."

Florence City Council  
Minutes: Tuesday, July 13, 2021

Ms. Chapman replied, “As we talked about the capital,”

Mr. Kinross interrupted and stated “exactly, I understand, I understand, but the revenue also went up in that year.”

Ms. Chapman replied, “Not as much as the capital did,”

Mr. Kinross interrupted “correct, the revenue went up 3.9% because the capital also went up. It’s a one-time expense, it’s a one-time expense just like when you funded the pool to begin with that will last 20 years.”

Ms. Chapman attempted to explain and was cut off by Mr. Kinross and an audience member stating there was no marketing.

Ms. Chapman continued to attempt to reply with interruption from the audience. She stated there have been coupons, buy four get one pass free, Christmas sales, and was interrupted by Mr. Kinross again.

Mr. Kinross interrupted and stated, “I know you do that, but you don’t find that out, until you come in the door and the people running the front desk tell you about that.”

Ms. Chapman stated the city has marketed the pool. Mr. Kinross replied: “I understand. I am not disputing the marketing that has been done, I know Vanessa has done marketing, I am aware of that, I know that there has been efforts. I don’t know that they have been done to the level a normal business would do though. But my point is not to argue that point. My point is to check these numbers, it is not \$300,000, it is \$153,000.”

Ms. Chapman replied, “The average cost the last three years the pool season was open was \$300,000.”

A member of the audience interjected and stated the costs would go up since it had been open for fifteen years. Another member yelled she could not hear.

Ms. Chapman continued to try to respond and members of the audience continued to interrupt Ms. Chapman as she attempted to respond.

Mr. Kinross interrupted and stated, “2016 actual fund balance, was \$1,369,642 in 2016. So let me just say that again, \$1,367,000; 2017, actual was \$1,452,000; 2018, the actual was \$1,498,000. Does anyone here hear numbers going down? The actual fund is growing. Contributions to the fund for those three years, these are the only actuals that I have, that I found online, so the actuals are going up, the contributions for those three years transfers \$200,000, \$200,000, and then there was a \$1.7 million dump in 2018, and that took the fund balance from, the numbers I cited first are budgetary funds, the fund balance, it took the fund balance, fund balance from \$1.498 million dollars to \$2.698 million, \$2.9 million. So the 1.7 million dollars to put into the fund was not to cover future, it doesn’t seem to be, to cover future, previous losses, it was just in additional amount

Florence City Council  
Minutes: Tuesday, July 13, 2021

of money put in there, I really question why so much money was put into the fund to change the fund almost twice.”

Ms. Chapman replied, “The money was put into the fund because the average capital maintenance and repairs, replacement costs, were going up each year, so we chose to dump 1.5 million extra into the fund to start putting a replacement fund in there for those costs.”

Mr. Kinross stated: “Yes, and there were some additional costs that year. I understand.” Mr. Kinross believed if you look at the last three years of budget the revenues in 2019 totaled \$320,000 and the city added \$500,000. He believed the changes in the revenue to provide funds in had not changed other than the one single year. He opined that the revenues were increasing and the fund was growing. He did not see the logic for stating that the pool was losing \$300,000 a year. However, even if it was, he believes there is \$3 million in the fund to use to keep the pool open for ten-twenty year. Mr. Kinross believes the first question on the survey should be, “do you agree with our decision to demolish and replace the Florence Aquatic Center.” Mr. Kinross stated if it was not, he would reject the survey by the city and send a survey out himself.

Mrs. Kemper believed the money the city would be receiving from the American Rescue Act should be used to keep the pool open and stated “This is about the physical and mental health of our kids. It really is. Stop worrying about the money. You’ve got money, you’ve got \$117 million in cash, \$80 million in reserves, and we can find a way that you do not run this deficit every single year, because we can do things, like for instance, I’m starting a non-profit, okay, where we are actually going to be able to get grants, for these kids to get free swim lessons. We can go through Boone County Schools and do the free and reduced lunch kids get free swim lessons through grants okay, I showed you pictures of the dome, there’s answers for it to be year round, were talking to sponsors that are interested, read the sheet I gave you on all the benefits of swimming and educate yourself on the importance of swimming in this area. Thank you.”

**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 Carroll. **Councilmembers present voted aye**, the time being 7:17 p.m.

**APPROVED:**

/s/ Diane E. Whalen

Diane E. Whalen, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

/s/ Melissa Kramer

Melissa Kramer, City Clerk