



**Florence City Council  
Business Meeting  
Tuesday, October 12, 2021  
6:00 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

The City Council of the City of Florence, Kentucky, met in regular session on Tuesday, October 12, 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 registered present: Dr. Julie Aubuchon (Vice-Mayor), J. Kelly Huff, David Osborne, Patricia Wingo, and Gary Winn. Councilmember Mel Carroll was absent.

Staff members present were: Assistant City Attorney, Thomas Nienaber; Fire/EMS Chief, Rodney Wren; Public Services Director, Eric Hall; City Clerk, Melissa Kramer; Videographer, Spencer Foreman; and Police Officer, Alex Ewald.

The following were also present in the audience: Florence Fire/EMS Department new employees, Reed Bertke, Tate Hatton, Ryan Johnston and Austin Messer; Family and Friends of the new Florence Fire/EMS Department employees, Reed Bertke, Tate Hatton, Ryan Johnston and Austin Messer; Assistant Fire/EMS Chief Chris Miller; Assistant Fire/EMS Chief, John Black; Battalion Chief of Prevention/Fire Marshall, Randy Childress; Fire/EMS Captain, Dave Curtis; The River City News Reporter, Trisha Scheyer; and observer, Thomas Judd.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Mayor Whalen called for a motion to approve the minutes of the September 28, 2021, business meeting. Councilmember Winn motioned to approve the minutes with a second from Councilmember Aubuchon. **All councilmembers present voted aye.**

### **OATHS OF OFFICE:**

Rodney Wren, Fire/EMS Chief, introduced the newest members of the Florence Fire/EMS Department.

Chief Wren introduced Firefighter/EMT, Reed Bertke. Chief Wren stated Reed comes to us from the Edgewood Fire Department, he resides in Burlington, Kentucky. Reed has served as a Combat Engineer in the United States Army Reserve 450<sup>th</sup> Engineering Battalion since 2017. He has previously worked for St. Elizabeth Hospital as an electrician. He is married to his wife Abby and they have two sons, Calen and Elijah.

Chief Wren introduced Firefighter/EMT, Tate Hatton. Chief Wren stated Tate comes to us from the Crescent Springs Fire Department and completed an internship with the Independence Fire Department. He resides in Independence, Kentucky and is engaged to be married to his fiancé, Callie. Tate is also a paramedic student at Cincinnati State.

Chief Wren introduced Firefighter/EMT, Ryan Johnston. Chief Wren stated Ryan is a resident of Delhi Township, he is a recent graduate of the Cincinnati State Fire Service Program, coming to Florence as his first Fire/EMT job. Ryan and his wife, Kaley, were married four months ago.

Chief Wren introduced Firefighter/EMT, Austin Messer. Chief Wren stated Austin is coming to us from the Southern Campbell Fire Department, he is a resident of Alexandria, and is currently a paramedic student at Cincinnati State.

Chief Wren stated all candidates are completing a comprehensive orientation program and will be starting on their assigned shifts the week of November 1. Chief Wren stated all candidates bring diverse experiences and skills to the department and the department is excited to have all of them as part of the Florence family.

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

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

- Mayor Whalen announced Fall Clean Up is underway until this Sunday, October 17. Drop off is at the Public Services Maintenance Facility located at 7850 Tanners Lane. The clean-up is available for Florence residents only and you must show proof of residency. Computer and electronic equipment will be accepted by Tri-State Escrap. Confidential documents will be accepted by Shred-It. The city will not be accepting tire, non-rechargeable batteries, oil, paint, antifreeze, insecticides, pesticides, and fungicides as these are hazardous waste.
- Mayor Whalen announced the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event at Florence Y'all's Stadium is scheduled for Saturday, November 6, 2021 from 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Free disposal of the following items: aerosol cans, antifreeze, batteries, corrosives/flammables, electronics including computers, monitors, printers, cell phones, ink/toner cartridges, light bulbs, oil, paint, ten can limit, pesticides, cylinders and tanks, TVs, limit of two per vehicle. Appliances, fertilizer, mercury-containing devices, medications, or tires will not be accepted

at the event. Paper is no longer accepted. A registration form must be filled out and individuals can find the form on our website and the county website. Mayor Whalen advised you must be a Boone, Kenton, or Campbell County resident to participate and no businesses. The Boone County Coordinator for the event is Megan Clere and you may contact her at 859.334.3151 if you have any questions.

- Mayor Whalen advised local phone calls soon will require the area code effective on October 24. All local calls in the 513 and 859 area code will require an area code to complete the call. To learn more about the change and the reasons behind it, visit [cincinnatiBell.com](http://cincinnatiBell.com).
- Mayor Whalen announced the city will host the Annual Halloween Night Out on Tuesday, October 26, 2021. Halloween Night Out will be held at the Florence Y'all's Stadium from 5:00-7:00 p.m. as a drive-thru event. Participants will stay in their car, drive to a checkpoint, and provide the number of children in their vehicle. As the car makes the way around the loop with the trunk open, each sponsor at the Spooky Station will have treats for the children. The city will be partnering with Go Pantry to accept donations of canned pasta and fruit cups.
- Halloween Trick or Treat Hours are Sunday, October 31, from 6:00-8:00 p.m.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Mayor Whalen called for a motion to go into Executive Session pursuant to KRS 61.810 (1) (c) litigation, proposed or pending against or on behalf of the city. Councilmember Huff so moved with a second from Councilmember Winn. **All councilmembers present voted aye, the time being 6:12 p.m.**

Mayor Whalen called for a motion to come back into session after the Executive Session. Councilmember Huff so moved, with a second from Councilmember Aubuchon. **All councilmembers present voted aye, the time being 6:32 p.m.**

### **RECOGNITION:**

Mayor Whalen asked if any of the following desired recognition:

Members of City Council:

None desired recognition.

Department Heads:

Public Services Director, Eric Hall:

Mr. Hall did not desire recognition.

Audience:

No recognition requested from the audience.

**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.

**ATTEST:**

/s/ Melissa Kramer  
Melissa Kramer, City Clerk

**APPROVED:**

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

