



**Florence City Council
Business Meeting
Tuesday, September 28, 2021
6:00 p.m.**

MINUTES

The City Council of the City of Florence, Kentucky, met in regular session on Tuesday, September 28, 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 four (4) members of council were registered present: Mel Carroll, J. Kelly Huff, Patricia Wingo, and Gary Winn. Absent was Dr. Julie Aubuchon (Vice-Mayor) (present at 6:01 p.m.). Councilmember David Osborne was absent.

Staff members present were: Assistant City Attorney, Dale T. Wilson; CFO/HR, Linda Chapman; Chief of Police, Tom Grau; Fire/EMS Chief, Rodney Wren; Public Services Director, Eric Hall; Business & Community Development Director, Joshua Hunt; City Engineer, Bill Viox; City Clerk, Melissa Kramer; Videographer, Spencer Foreman; and Police Lieutenant, Roger Allen.

The following were also present in the audience: Events Consultant, Victoria Wells; Florence Fire/EMS Department new employees, Holly Bowman, Nathan Dietz, Danielle Eilerman, Cory Garnett, Ryan Petronio, Taylor Schooler, and Josh Willoughby; Family and Friends of the new Florence Fire/EMS Department employees, Holly Bowman, Nathan Dietz, Danielle Eilerman, Cory Garnett, Ryan Petronio, Taylor Schooler, and Josh Willoughby; 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 14, 2021, business meeting. Councilmember Winn motioned to approve the minutes with a second from Councilmember Wingo. **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/Paramedic, Holly Bowman. Chief Wren stated Holly is coming to Florence from the Edgewood Fire Department where she has worked as a full-time Firefighter/Paramedic. She has an Associates of Applied Science from Gateway Technical and Community College in Paramedicine as well as Bachelor of Arts Degree in Criminal Justice from Thomas More College. Holly is a resident of Harrison, Ohio.

Chief Wren introduced Firefighter/Paramedic, Nathan Dietz. Chief Wren stated Nathan is a lifelong resident of Northern Kentucky residing in Crescent Springs. Nathan comes from a multigenerational fire service family with members of the Dietz family serving the citizens of Northern Kentucky for decades. Nathan entered the fire service in 2016 as a volunteer in Fort Mitchell, and currently works part-time for both the Crescent Springs and Independence Fire Departments. He is a graduate of Northern Kentucky University where he earned Bachelor's Degrees in Accounting and Finance, having worked in corporate accounting for five years before pursuing a career in Fire and EMS. Nathan will be getting married to his fiancée Amber on October 2.

Chief Wren introduced Firefighter/EMT, Danielle Eilerman. Chief Wren stated Danielle is originally from the St. Louis area having moved to Lexington, Kentucky, fifteen years ago working in the thoroughbred horse racing industry as a photographer and exercise rider at Turfway Race Course. While working in the horse racing industry, Danielle met her husband, Steve at Keenland, and both entered service into the fire and EMS fields. Steve with Lexington and Danielle with Jessamine County. Danielle is a graduate of the Gateway Technical and Community College Paramedic Program. During which time she completed clinical ride time with Florence Fire/EMS. Danielle expressed that during her ride time in Florence she fell in love with the crews and the service. Danielle and her husband Steve are the proud parents of three year old Evelyn who has already developed an obsession with fire trucks, ambulances, and horses.

Chief Wren introduced Firefighter/Paramedic, Cory Garnett. Chief Wren stated Cory comes to us from the Elsmere Fire District and has previous part-time and full-time experience in multiple settings of the fire and EMS service fields. Cory is a Level III EMS Instructor and has been a full-time fire service employee for four years. Cory currently resides in Florence.

Chief Wren introduced Firefighter/EMT, Ryan Petronio. Chief Wren stated Ryan is new to the Fire and EMS service. He is a 2016 graduate of Thomas More University and recently graduated from the Scarlet Oaks Fire Academy earning his Firefighter and EMT certifications. Ryan resides in Milford, Ohio.

Chief Wren introduced Firefighter/Paramedic, Taylor Schooler. Chief Wren stated Taylor comes to us from Jessamine County EMS, he has been an EMS provider for the past six years having become a paramedic three years ago. Taylor and his wife, Haley, who is a Cincinnati Police Officer, have a one month old daughter and reside in Northern Kentucky.

Chief Wren introduced Firefighter/Paramedic, Josh Willoughby. Chief Wren stated Josh is a 2003 graduate of Heritage Academy High School coming to us from the Central Campbell Fire District. He has previous part-time experience with Dry Ridge Fire Department, Owen County EMS, and the Elsmere Fire Department. Josh also served as a fire explorer in Florence and as a volunteer. He has an Associates of Applied Science in Fire Service Technology from Cincinnati State Technical and Community College. He obtained his paramedic certification from the Covington Fire Department in 2007. Josh, his wife, and children reside in Grant County.

Chief Wren stated all candidates are completing a comprehensive orientation program and will be starting on their assigned shifts the week of October 4, 2021. All candidates bring diverse experiences and skills to the department and we are 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.

SECOND READING ORDINANCE O-19-21:

Mayor Whalen read Ordinance O-19-21. An Ordinance relating to Authorization for the City of Florence, Kentucky, a Kentucky Home Rule City, by and through its Florence Fire/EMS Department, to establish, participate, and Administer as a Local Public Purchasing Unit, a Facility Agreement by and between the State of Minnesota MMCAP Infuse and the City of Florence, Kentucky Florence Fire/EMS Department, and approving this Facility Agreement serving as a Cooperative Purchasing Agreement.

The purpose of this Ordinance is to authorize the City to enter into a Facility Agreement for the purpose of purchasing pharmaceutical wholesaler services, products, medical supplies and distribution services.

Mayor Whalen called for a motion to approve the second reading of Ordinance O-19-21. Councilmember Winn motioned to approve, with a second from Councilmember Huff. **All councilmembers present voted aye.**

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION - MUNICIPAL ORDER MO-10-21:

Mayor Whalen advised that there were several reappointments upcoming to commissions. Mayor Whalen advised the first Municipal Order for reappointment was for the Boone-Florence Water Commission. She advised Jeffrey Koenig has served on the commission and has agreed to continue to serve.

Councilmember Carroll made a motion to take action on Municipal Order MO-10-21 with a second from Councilmember Wingo. **All councilmembers present voted aye.**

Mayor Whalen read Municipal Order MO-10-21. A Municipal Order Approving the Reappointment of Jeffrey P. Koenig to the Boone-Florence Water Commission as an Appointee of the City of Florence, Kentucky for a four (4) year term.

Mayor Whalen called for a motion to approve Municipal Order MO-10-21. Councilmember Winn motioned to approve Municipal Order MO-10-21 with a second from Councilmember Aubuchon. **All councilmembers present voted aye.**

Councilmember Carroll stated he appreciated all the reappointees contributions to the city and their willingness to continue to serve.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION - MUNICIPAL ORDER MO-11-21:

Councilmember Huff made a motion to take action on Municipal Order MO-11-21 and Municipal Order MO-12-21 with a second from Councilmember Winn. **All councilmembers present voted aye.**

Mayor Whalen read Municipal Order MO-11-21. A Municipal Order Approving the Reappointment of Ed Huddleston to the City of Florence, Kentucky Urban Forest Commission for a three (3) year term.

Mayor Whalen called for a motion to approve Municipal Order MO-11-21. Councilmember Wingo motioned to approve Municipal Order MO-11-21 with a second from Councilmember Huff. **All councilmembers present voted aye.**

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION - MUNICIPAL ORDER MO-12-21:

Mayor Whalen read Municipal Order MO-12-21. A Municipal Order Approving the Reappointment of Don Volland to the City of Florence, Kentucky Urban Forest Commission for a three (3) year term.

Mayor Whalen called for a motion to approve Municipal Order MO-12-21. Councilmember Aubuchon motioned to approve Municipal Order MO-12-21 with a second from Councilmember Winn. **All councilmembers present voted aye.**

Mayor Whalen stated she appreciated all the reappointees and their willingness to continue to serve. She advised a vacancy remains on the Florence Board of Adjustment and Zoning Appeals and stated if councilmembers had any potential candidates to let her know.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION - MUNICIPAL ORDER MO-13-21:

Mayor Whalen called upon Fire/EMS Chief, Rodney Wren, with regard to the discussion and possible action of Municipal Order MO-13-21.

Chief Wren presented to council a recommendation for donation of a surplus fire engine to the Blackberry Volunteer Fire Department. Chief Wren stated the Blackberry Volunteer Fire Department in Ransom, Kentucky, recently experienced a flood and all their fire equipment was damaged, including their station. The fire engine Chief Wren wanted to donate is a 1993 Seagrave Fire Engine. Chief Wren stated the fire engine is well past its recommended life expectancy and has been replaced with newer equipment.

No further questions or discussion were needed. Councilmember Winn made a motion to take action on Municipal Order MO-13-21 with a second from Councilmember Wingo. **All councilmembers present voted aye.**

Mayor Whalen read Municipal Order MO-13-21. A Municipal Order declaring one 1993 Seagrave Fire Engine as surplus property, approving its sale, and authorizing the execution of a Purchase and Sale Agreement with respect thereto.

Mayor Whalen called for a motion to approve Municipal Order MO-13-21. Councilmember Wingo motioned to approve Municipal Order MO-13-21 with a second from Councilmember Huff. **All councilmembers present voted aye.**

MAYOR'S REPORT:

- Mayor Whalen announced Fall Clean Up is scheduled for Monday, October 11 thru 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. Contact the City of Florence Public Services Department at 859.647.5416 for more information. Mayor Whalen advised the flyer for Fall Clean Up is on the city website and social media. She advised 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. There will be a household hazardous waste collection that takes place in November.
- Mayor Whalen announced the Trick or Treat Hours in the City of Florence are Sunday, October 31, from 6:00-8:00 p.m.
- 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. She advised 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 also be partnering with Go Pantry to accept donations of canned pasta and fruit cups.

RECOGNITION:

Mayor Whalen asked if any of the following desired recognition:

Members of City Council:

Councilmember Winn thanked the Urban Forest Commission for the Arbor Day Celebration. He was appreciative of the tree planting at the Florence Government Center and all those in attendance.

Councilmember Aubuchon inquired with regard to the deadline of the survey and when the results would be received. Public Services Director, Eric Hall, stated it is anticipated that the results of the survey would be presented at the Council Meeting on October 26, 2021.

Department Heads:

Fire/EMS Chief, Rodney Wren:

Chief Wren 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:

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 6:26 p.m.

ATTEST:

/s/ Melissa Kramer
Melissa Kramer, City Clerk

APPROVED:

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