



**Florence City Council  
Business Meeting  
Tuesday, March 22, 2022  
6:00 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

The City Council of the City of Florence, Kentucky, met in regular session on Tuesday, March 22, 2022 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 six (6) members of council were registered present: Dr. Julie Aubuchon (Vice-Mayor), Mel Carroll, J. Kelly Huff, David Osborne, Patricia Wingo, and Gary Winn.

Staff members present were: Assistant City Attorney, Thomas Nienaber; CFO/HR, Linda Chapman; Fire/EMS Chief, Rodney Wren; Chief of Police, Tom Grau; Public Services Director, Eric Hall; Business & Community Development Director, Joshua J. Hunt; City Engineer, Bill Viox; City Clerk, Melissa Kramer; Videographer, Sean Mullins; and Police Lieutenant, Nathan Rettig.

The following were also present in the audience: Florence Fire/EMS Department Firefighter/Paramedic, Holly Bowman; Florence Fire/EMS Department Firefighter/Paramedic, Kyle Brant; Florence Fire/EMS Captain David Curtis; Family and Friends of the Florence Fire/EMS Department employees being recognized; St. Elizabeth Healthcare SVP/Chief Operating Officer, Florence/Grant, Bruno Giacomuzzi; St. Elizabeth Healthcare Educator for Emergency Services, Betty McGee; St. Elizabeth Healthcare Manager of EMS Community Outreach, Danielle Stiner; St. Elizabeth Healthcare Assistant Vice President of Emergency Services, Missy Miles; CASA Representative, Linnea Caldon; CASA Executive Director, Colleen Maier; Resident of Florence, Jenna Kemper; Resident of Florence, Aaron Gillum; 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 March 1, 2022, special meeting. Councilmember Winn motioned to approve the minutes with a second from Councilmember Huff. **All councilmembers present voted aye.**

**RECOGNITION:**

Mayor Whalen called upon Fire/EMS Chief, Rodney Wren with regard to the recognition of Florence Fire/EMS Department personnel. Chief Wren introduced Betty McGee with St. Elizabeth Healthcare and representatives.

Ms. McGee was thankful for the opportunity to attend the meeting on behalf of St. Elizabeth Healthcare. Ms. McGee is the Educator for Emergency Services. Ms. McGee introduced Missy Miles, Assistant Vice President of Emergency Services, Bruno Giacomuzzi, Chief Operating Officer at the Florence facility, and Danielle Stiner, Manager of the EMS Community Outreach.

Ms. McGee stated Target Stroke is a national quality improvement initiative started by the American Heart Association in 2010. She explained the initiative focuses on improving stroke care by reducing the time stroke patients receive treatment once they arrive at the hospital. Timely response, rapid identification, treatment and transport, prehospital notification and hand off from the field to the hospital are key links in the chain of survival for stroke patients.

During the month of October 2021, Florence Fire/EMS Personnel were involved in the transport of a stroke patient leading to the fastest door to needle delivery of t-PA for the St. Elizabeth Healthcare system. On behalf of St. Elizabeth Healthcare and the American Heart Association, Ms. McGee presented Firefighter/Paramedic Holly Bowman and Firefighter/Paramedic Kyle Brant with a certificate and a pink brain pin. Their exceptional care of a patient led to t-PA administration within forty-two minutes of arrival to the Florence facility. Ms. McGee thanked Holly and Kyle for their professionalism and collaboration with the patient.

Chief Operating Officer at the Florence facility, Bruno Giacomuzzi, congratulated Holly and Kyle. He expressed his appreciation to entire Florence/Fire EMS Department.

Mayor Whalen thanked everyone for attending the meeting and recognizing Holly and Kyle. Mayor Whalen expressed her appreciation and thankfulness for the entire Florence Fire/EMS Department.

**PRESENTATION – BOONE COUNTY CASA, INC.:**

Mayor Whalen introduced and welcomed Linnea Caldon and Colleen Maier with Boone County CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children).

On behalf of their organization, Ms. Maier wanted to bring awareness of the CASA program to the community. She stated CASA is a non-profit organization enlisted to provide specially trained community volunteers to advocate for abused, neglected and dependent children. Their goal is to assure that every child has a safe and permanent home. CASA recruits, trains, and provides ongoing support and supervision to the volunteers serving as advocates in the courtroom.

Ms. Maier explained CASA was established by a Seattle Juvenile Court Judge in 1977. The judge was concerned decisions regarding children's welfare were based on insufficient information and conceived the idea of citizen volunteers to speak on behalf of children in the courtroom. The CASA

program has grown into a network of more than nine hundred fifty CASA and Guardian Ad Litem Programs within forty-nine states and the District of Columbia. Kentucky has seventy-nine CASA programs throughout the state.

The Boone County CASA Program began in 1991, under the umbrella of Human Services, which funded and administered the program for two years. Ms. Maier explained when the affiliation with Human Services ended in June 1993, four active CASA volunteers formed a board, incorporated and began the search for funding to maintain the program. Today, the program has thirty-four volunteers, three paid staff members, and nine board members. In 2019, the Boone County CASA Program expanded services into Gallatin County. In 2021, there were four hundred seven petitions of abuse and neglect filed in the Boone County Family Court System. CASA volunteers were appointed to eighty-seven of those children. Seventy percent of the children lived in Florence.

Ms. Maier stated CASA volunteers provide their time and experience to represent the best interest of the child. Once appointed, volunteers obtain information regarding the child and provide recommendations. Volunteers remain a party to the case until permanency is achieved. To become a volunteer, potential community members must be at least 21 years old and undergo training, attend meetings and court dates, pass background checks and be screened as a suitable match for the local CASA program. Once approved, volunteers continue to receive ongoing training.

Ms. Maier concluded her presentation and encouraged everyone to volunteer. Mayor Whalen inquired of how an individual may become involved. Ms. Maier stated anyone interested may contact them for additional information and through the website at [www.casanky.com](http://www.casanky.com).

Attorney Nienaber stated he has served on the Board of Directors for CASA and is currently serving as president the last two years. He believed the experience is very rewarding and encouraged everyone to become involved.

### **PROCLAMATION:**

Mayor Whalen issued a Proclamation acknowledging April 2022 as Child Abuse Prevention Month reading the following Proclamation into record:

*WHEREAS, in Federal fiscal year 2020, 44,985 reports were made to child protective services in Kentucky; and*

*WHEREAS, child abuse and neglect is a serious problem affecting every segment of our community, and finding solutions requires input and action from everyone; and,*

*WHEREAS, our children are our most valuable resources and will shape the future of the City of Florence, Kentucky; and*

*WHEREAS, child abuse can have long-term psychological, emotional, and physical effects that have lasting consequences for victims of abuse; and*

*WHEREAS, effective child abuse prevention activities succeed because of the partnerships created between child welfare professionals, education, health, community and faith-based organizations, businesses, law enforcement agencies, and families; and*

*WHEREAS, communities must make every effort to promote programs and activities that create strong and thriving children and families; and*

*WHEREAS, we acknowledge that we must work together as a community to increase awareness about child abuse and contribute to promote the social and emotional well-being of children and families in a safe, stable, and nurturing environment; and*

*WHEREAS, prevention remains the best defense for our children and families.*

*NOW, THEREFORE, I, Diane E. Whalen, Mayor of the City of Florence, Kentucky, do hereby proclaim April, 2022 as CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH in Florence, Kentucky, and urge all citizens to recognize this month by dedicating ourselves to the task of improving the quality of life for all children and families.*

*IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Florence, Kentucky, to be affixed hereto, this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of March, 2022.*

Mayor Whalen reminded everyone the Blue Ribbon Ceremony would be held at Tom Gill Chevrolet on Friday, March 25. The 2022 theme is “Everyday Advocate”. The event will begin at 11:30 a.m. and conclude at 1:00 p.m. Featured speaker will be Kentucky First Lady Brittainy Beshear and Special Guest Speaker, Craig McKee, WCPO Anchor/Reporter. Mayor Whalen encouraged the community to support the event and appreciated Tom Gill for sponsoring the event.

### **MAYOR’S REPORT:**

- Mayor Whalen announced The Florence Community Band will host a concert on Monday, March 28 at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Rooms of the Florence Government Center. Their program is entitled “A New Beginning.”
- Mayor Whalen reminded everyone next Tuesday is the 5<sup>th</sup> Tuesday and there will be no council meeting.
- Mayor Whalen announced The Cirque Italia Water Circus will be at the Florence Mall, March 31 until April 10. Tickets may be purchased online at [cirqueitalia.com/tickets](http://cirqueitalia.com/tickets).
- Mayor Whalen announced the Florence Aquatic Center will open for the 2022 season. Memberships will go on sale beginning April 1 online through the city website. Individuals will receive a 20% discounted membership April 1 through April 3. There is an additional discount for Florence residents. Check the city website for additional information.
- Mayor Whalen advised the Student Ambassador Applications are available on the city website. The application must be completed by Friday, April 8 and returned to the Administration Department.
- Mayor Whalen announced city offices will be closed on Good Friday, April 15.
- Mayor Whalen announced the Florence Police Department will host an Easter Candy Drive Through Event on Saturday, April 16 from 9:00 until 11:00 a.m. The event will be for ages up to 12 years and the first 1,000 children receive Easter treats. For additional information, please contact the Florence Police Department at 859.647.5420.

- Spring cleanup week is scheduled for Monday, April 25 through Sunday, May 1. Florence residents may bring unwanted trash and debris, excluding hazardous waste, to the Public Services Facility located at 7850 Tanners Lane for disposal. Must show proof of residency. Contact our Public Services Department at 859.647.5416 for additional information.
- National Prescription Drug Take Back Day is scheduled for April 30, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Individuals may drop off at the Florence Government Center or Kroger location on Mall Road. No liquids or needles.

**RECOGNITION:**

Mayor Whalen asked if any of the following desired recognition:

Members of City Council:

None desired recognition.

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.

**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 6:22 p.m.

**APPROVED:**

/s/ Diane E. Whalen

Diane E. Whalen, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

/s/ Melissa Kramer

Melissa Kramer, City Clerk

