



**Florence City Council  
Business Meeting  
Tuesday, May 10, 2022  
6:00 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

The City Council of the City of Florence, Kentucky, met in regular session on Tuesday, May 10, 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 five (5) members of council were registered present: Mel Carroll, J. Kelly Huff, David Osborne, Patricia Wingo, and Gary Winn. Councilmember Dr. Julie Aubuchon was absent.

Staff members present were: Assistant City Attorney, Dale T. Wilson; 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, Spencer Foreman; and Police Lieutenant, Nathan Rettig.

The following were also present in the audience: St. Elizabeth Healthcare SVP/Chief Operating Officer, Florence/Grant, Bruno Giacomuzzi; St. Elizabeth Healthcare Director, Community Relations, Scott Sedmack; Eagle Scout Jakob Walz and Family; Resident of Florence, Aaron Gillum; Resident of Florence, Thomas Judd; and LINK NKY News Reporter, Trisha Scheyer.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Mayor Whalen called for a motion to approve the minutes of the April 26, 2022, business meeting. Councilmember Winn motioned to approve the minutes with a second from Councilmember Wingo. **All councilmembers present voted aye.**

**PRESENTATION – ST. ELIZABETH HEALTHCARE:**

Mayor Whalen introduced and welcomed Bruno Giacomuzzi, Chief Operating Officer at the Florence/Grant facilities.

On behalf of St. Elizabeth Healthcare, Mr. Giacomuzzi wanted to provide an update on the redevelopment of the St. Elizabeth Healthcare Florence Campus. As part of the redevelopment, Mr. Giacomuzzi stated St. Elizabeth Healthcare is relocating and consolidating their inpatient orthopaedic services and endoscopy from the Edgewood campus to the Florence campus. The project includes renovating ten existing operating rooms, creating five new operating rooms, and a total reconfiguration and expansion of the Pre/Post and Post Anesthesia Care Unit (PACU) areas to support the growth of general surgery and Bariatric Surgery. St. Elizabeth Healthcare is recognized as a Blue Center of Excellence in Bariatric Surgery. In addition, they will be reconfiguring the campus roadways for a more natural flow of traffic on campus. The project will also include renovation and reconfiguration of 24,000 square feet of inpatient space.

Mr. Giacomuzzi identified architectural renderings and the new view of the hospital from Houston Road with renderings of the new main entrance and lobby/reception area. Mr. Giacomuzzi identified additional renderings of the concourse to the hospital patient rooms, main entrance view to the concourse and entrance to physical therapy. Exterior work to the hospital including parking and the reconstruction of Ring Road was identified. New building additions including the St. Elizabeth Physicians Endoscopy building and the spine facility were shown. Additional renderings of the interior work including the sterile supply processing department, nursing room renovations, new inpatient spine unit, and significant upgrades to the infrastructure and renovations to the patient rooms were shown. Renovations to the Post Anesthesia Care Unit /Operating Rooms expansion, administration, conference, inpatient physical therapy, orthopaedic education, and addition of the third floor were identified. As a result of the increase in staff and services at the Florence location, Mr. Giacomuzzi stated expansions will occur to the physicians lounge, support areas, and cafeteria seating. All of the renovations are anticipated to be completed by the end of 2023.

Councilmember Osborne inquired with regard to how many employees the Florence campus will need to accommodate the additions. Mr. Giacomuzzi stated some of the employees will relocate from the Edgewood campus to the Florence campus. Currently there are approximately one thousand employees on the campus daily and an increase of two hundred employees could occur.

Councilmember Carroll believes St. Elizabeth Florence to be a “crown jewel” of the community. He stated the upgrades and additions were very welcomed and appreciated.

Mr. Giacomuzzi was appreciative of the help and support received by the city. Mayor Whalen thanked Mr. Giacomuzzi for attending the meeting and for providing an update on the redevelopment.

**PROCLAMATION:**

Mayor Whalen recognized National Public Works Week and issued a Proclamation proclaiming May 15, 2022-May 21, 2022 as Public Works Week reading the following Proclamation into record:

*WHEREAS, public works professionals focus on infrastructure, facilities and services that are of vital importance to sustainable and resilient communities and to the public health, high quality of life and well-being of the people of Florence; and*

*WHEREAS, these infrastructure, facilities and services could not be provided without the dedicated efforts of public works professionals, who are engineers, managers, and employees at all levels of government and the private sector, who are responsible for rebuilding, improving, and protecting our nation's transportation, water supply, water treatment and solid waste systems, public buildings, and other structures and facilities essential for our citizens; and,*

*WHEREAS, it is in the public interest for the citizens, civic leaders and children in Florence to gain knowledge of and to maintain an ongoing interest and understanding of the importance of public works and public works programs in their respective communities; and,*

*WHEREAS, the year 2022 marks the 62<sup>nd</sup> annual National Public Works Week sponsored by the American Public Works Association; and,*

*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, do hereby proclaim the week May 15 – 21, 2022 as National Public Works.*

*IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Florence, Kentucky, to be affixed hereto, this 10<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2022.*

Mayor Whalen expressed her appreciation to the Public Services Department for all of their behind the scenes work and service every day.

**PROCLAMATION:**

Mayor Whalen recognized Emergency Medical Services Week and issued a Proclamation proclaiming May 15, 2022-May 21, 2022 as EMS Week reading the following Proclamation into record:

*WHEREAS, emergency medical services is a vital public service; and*

*WHEREAS, personnel from the City of Florence Fire/EMS Department are ready to provide lifesaving care to those in need 24 hours a day, seven days a week; and*

*WHEREAS, access to quality emergency care dramatically improves the survival and recovery rate of those who experience sudden illness or injury; and*

*WHEREAS, the emergency medical services system consists of first responders, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, emergency medical dispatchers, firefighters, police officers, educators, administrators, pre-hospital nurses, emergency nurses, emergency physicians, trained members of the public, and other out of hospital medical care providers; and*

***WHEREAS**, the members of emergency medical services teams, whether career or volunteer, engage in thousands of hours of specialized training and continuing education to enhance their lifesaving skills; and*

***WHEREAS**, it is appropriate to recognize the value and the accomplishments of the City of Florence Fire/EMS Department and all emergency medical services providers by designating Emergency Medical Services Week.*

***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, do hereby proclaim the week May 15 – 21, 2022 as Emergency Medical Services Week.*

***IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Florence, Kentucky, to be affixed hereto, this 10<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2022.*

Mayor Whalen expressed her appreciation for the city employees including the Fire/EMS Department and stated they are on call twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week ready to serve.

### **PROCLAMATION:**

Mayor Whalen recognized National Police Week and issued a Proclamation proclaiming May 15, 2022-May 21, 2022 as Police Week reading the following Proclamation into record:

***WHEREAS**, in 1962 President Kennedy proclaimed May 15 as National Peace Officers Memorial Day and the calendar week in which May 15 falls as National Police Week; and*

***WHEREAS**, the members of the Florence Police Department play an essential role in safeguarding the rights and freedoms of the citizens of our community; and*

***WHEREAS**, it is important that all citizens know and understand the duties, responsibilities, hazards, and sacrifices of their police department, and that members of our police department recognize their duty to serve the people by safeguarding life and property, by protecting them against violence and disorder, and by protecting the innocent against deception and the weak against oppression; and*

***WHEREAS**, the men and women of the Florence Police Department unceasingly provide a vital public service.*

***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, do hereby proclaim the week the week of May 15-21, 2022, as Police Week and call upon all citizens of Florence to observe the 15th day of May 2022, as Peace Officers' Memorial Day in honor of those law enforcement officers who, through their courageous deeds, have made the ultimate sacrifice in service to their community or have become disabled in the performance of duty, and let us recognize and pay respect to the survivors of our fallen heroes.*

***IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Florence, Kentucky, to be affixed hereto, this 10<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2022.*

Mayor Whalen expressed her appreciation to the Florence Police Department and stated the city is blessed by the employees and she will always support them.

**SECOND READING ORDINANCE O-6-22:**

Mayor Whalen read Ordinance O-6-22. An Ordinance annexing certain territory consisting of a parcel of approximately 2.391 acres located at the Southwest Intersection of Kentucky Highway 1829 (Industrial Road) and U.S. Highway 25 (Dixie Highway), adjacent to the city limits. (Holland Dixie Development, LLC)

This Ordinance annexes a tract of approximately 2.391 acres located at the Southwest Intersection of Kentucky Highway 1829 (Industrial Road) and U.S. Highway 25 (Dixie Highway).

The full text of Ordinance O-6-22, including its exhibits, is available for examination in the office of the City Clerk of the City of Florence, Kentucky, in the Florence Government Center, 8100 Ewing Blvd., Florence, Kentucky, during regular office hours.

Mayor Whalen called for a motion to approve the second reading of Ordinance O-6-22. Councilmember Osborne motioned to approve, with a second from Councilmember Winn. **All councilmembers present voted aye.**

**FIRST READING ORDINANCE O-7-22:**

Mayor Whalen read Ordinance O-7-22. An Ordinance adopting and approving a change in a Concept Development Plan in a Commercial Two / Planned Development / Mall Road Overlay (C-2/PD/MR) District for an approximate 11.5 acre site located at 828 Heights Boulevard, Florence, Kentucky, to allow alternative building colors. (Crossroads Community Church, Inc.)

The effect of this Ordinance is to allow alternative building colors in a Commercial Two/Planned Development/Mall Road Overlay (C-2/PD/MR) District.

The full text of Ordinance O-7-22, including its exhibits, is available for examination in the office of the City Clerk of the City of Florence, Kentucky, in the Florence Government Center, 8100 Ewing Blvd., Florence, Kentucky, during regular office hours.

Mayor Whalen called for a motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance O-7-22. Councilmember Huff motioned to approve, with a second from Councilmember Wingo. **All councilmembers present voted aye.**

**FIRST READING ORDINANCE O-8-22:**

Mayor Whalen read Ordinance O-8-22. An Ordinance annexing certain territory consisting of a parcel of approximately 0.584 acres located on the northwesterly side of Old Toll Road, adjacent to the city limits. (BCBC, LLC)

This Ordinance annexes a tract of approximately 0.584 acres located on the northwesterly side of Old Toll Road.

The full text of Ordinance O-8-22, including its exhibits, is available for examination in the office of the City Clerk of the City of Florence, Kentucky, in the Florence Government Center, 8100 Ewing Blvd., Florence, Kentucky, during regular office hours.

Mayor Whalen called for a motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance O-8-22. Councilmember Osborne motioned to approve, with a second from Councilmember Wingo. **All councilmembers present voted aye.**

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

- Mayor Whalen recognized and congratulated Jakob Walz in the audience. Jakob is a senior at Union Pointe Academy and recently earned his Eagle Scout Badge following his completion of his project at Potter's Ranch.
- Mayor Whalen announced a carnival will be held at the Florence Mall by Big Rock Amusements. The carnival will be held May 12 through May 22, Monday-Friday 5:00 p.m.-11:00 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday 1:00 p.m.-11:00 p.m. Tickets and wristbands will be sold at the event. Additional information is on the Florence Mall and Big Rock Amusements websites.
- Mayor Whalen announced Public Works Night Out will be held Tuesday, May 17 at the Florence Mall Parking Lot from 4:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.
- Mayor Whalen informed everyone the Kentucky Driver Licensing Regional Office has opened a second location in Northern Kentucky. The new location is at 1840 Simon Kenton Way, Covington. The Burlington location is located at 6159 First Financial Drive. At either location you may obtain standard and REAL ID license, permits and ID cards. Mayor Whalen recommended scheduling an appointment online.
- Mayor Whalen reminded everyone the Florence Aquatic Center will open May 28 and hours of operation will be 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- Mayor Whalen announced city offices will be closed on Monday, May 30 in observance of Memorial Day.
- Mayor Whalen stated the Memorial Day Parade will be held Monday, May 30. The parade will begin at Boone County High School at 10:00 a.m. and will end at the Florence Government Center. Following the parade, the Memorial Day Ceremony will be held at the Veterans Memorial located at the Florence Government Center.
- Mayor Whalen informed everyone former Boone County Court Judge, Robert F. Greene passed away. She offered her condolences to the family.

### **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 announced the Northern Kentucky Police Memorial Service would be held Wednesday, May 11 in Covington. The Florence Police Department Honor Guard is participating.

**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 6:36 p.m.

**APPROVED:**

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

**ATTEST:**

/s/ Melissa Kramer  
Melissa Kramer, City Clerk

