



**Florence City Council  
Business Meeting  
Tuesday, May 24, 2022  
6:00 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

The City Council of the City of Florence, Kentucky, met in regular session on Tuesday, May 24, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. at the Florence Government Center, 8100 Ewing Boulevard, Florence, Kentucky, with Vice-Mayor, Dr. Julie Aubuchon presiding as chair.

**CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME:**

Vice-Mayor Aubuchon 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), Mel Carroll, J. Kelly Huff, Patricia Wingo, and Gary Winn. Councilmember David Osborne was absent.

Staff members present were: Assistant City Attorney, Thomas Nienaber; Fire/EMS Chief, Rodney Wren; Chief of Police, Tom Grau; Public Services Director, Eric Hall; City Engineer, Bill Viox; City Clerk, Melissa Kramer; Videographer, Spencer Foreman; and Police Lieutenant, Nathan Rettig.

The following were also present in the audience: LiveWell Florence Representatives Mary Price; Northern Kentucky Health Department Programs Manager, Marsha Bach; District Board of Health, Tom Cahill, Jr.; Boone County Alliance, Jennifer Welch; Boone County Youth Advocate, Chilota Iloegbunam; Boone County Youth Advocate, Anna Quinn; Resident of Florence, Aaron Gillum; Resident of Florence, Thomas Judd; Resident of Florence, Brian Kinross; Resident of Florence, Rick Hopple, and LINK NKY News Reporter, Kaitlin Gebby.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Vice-Mayor Aubuchon called for a motion to approve the minutes of the May 10, 2022, business meeting. Councilmember Winn motioned to approve the minutes with a second from Councilmember Huff. **All councilmembers present voted aye.**

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

**Municipal Aid Road Fund Hearing:**

Vice-Mayor Aubuchon called the meeting to order and read aloud the Municipal Aid Road Fund Legal Ad:

The City of Florence, Kentucky will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, May 24 at 6:00 p.m. local time inside the Council Chambers of the Florence Government Center, 8100 Ewing Boulevard, Florence, Kentucky for the purpose of obtaining written and oral comments of citizens regarding possible use of Municipal Aid Road Funds. The City is projecting \$1,804,274 in carry-over funds from fiscal year 2021-2022 and will be receiving \$765,000 during fiscal year 2022-2023 for a total of \$2,569,274. The City proposes to spend \$1,200,000 on road surfacing projects, street materials, and maintenance in fiscal year 2022-2023. All interested persons and organizations in the City are invited to attend the public hearing to submit oral or written comments on the proposed use of the Municipal Aid Road Funds. All proposed projects for the use of these funds will be identified during the hearing. Any person(s), especially seniors and disabled citizens, who cannot submit written statements or attend the public hearing, but wish to submit comments, should call the City Clerk at 859-371-5491 so arrangements can be made to secure their comments.

Vice-Mayor Aubuchon called upon Public Services Director, Eric Hall. Mr. Hall advised of the proposed uses of the Municipal Aid Road Fund. The Street Repair Budget & Schedule for Fiscal Year 2022/2023 includes street improvements to the Magnolia Trace Area, three streets in the Plantation Area and the final phase of the Kentaboo Street Improvements. Additionally, contracted and in-house repairs included: Tamarack Drive, Juniper Lane, Red Cedar Court, Hemlock Court, Larch Court, Grand Fir Court, Kelley Drive, Stonegate Drive, Surrey Court, East Cobblestone, West Cobblestone, Shadowridge Court, Fuller Street, Bankers Street, Merchants Street, Seligman Drive, Vandercar Way, Doering Drive, Kiley Place, and Crist Crossing.

Vice-Mayor Aubuchon asked if anyone in the audience desired to be recognized regarding the Municipal Aid Road Fund usage; no one responded.

Vice-Mayor Aubuchon asked if the City Clerk, Melissa Kramer, had received any written comments from citizens regarding the Municipal Aid Road Fund usage; Mrs. Kramer replied that she had not received any comments.

Vice-Mayor Aubuchon declared the Municipal Aid Road Fund public hearing closed at 6:05 p.m.

**PRESENTATION – LIVEWELL FLORENCE:**

Vice-Mayor Aubuchon introduced and welcomed representatives from LiveWell of Northern Kentucky. Mary Price, Co-Chair of LiveWell Florence, provided everyone with handouts and directed their attention to her presentation, a LiveWell Florence Overview. Ms. Price stated the LiveWell Florence Coalition is a partnership between the YMCA, the Northern Kentucky Health Department, and St. Elizabeth Healthcare. Their slogan is “Healthy, Happy, Here”.

The Florence LiveWell Coalition began in January of 2017. Since their creation, LiveWell Florence has focused their initiatives to help Florence residents increase physical activity, increase

healthy eating, and creating smoke-free environments. In doing so, they began produce distribution at Florence Christian Church, initiated a campaign of Live Smoke-Free Florence, and helped institute three community walking paths.

During their tenure, the Florence LiveWell Coalition has partaken in a food survey to identify baseline needs for the community, promote healthy menus and recipes on social media and direct mailers, and obtained a spin art bike to attract individuals to their booths at events. In 2020, the monthly produce distribution was increased to twice a month during the pandemic and continues. A LiveWell Florence Restaurant program was introduced in 2021 and anticipate implementation in 2022. Additionally, Ms. Price advised the coalition has applied for a LiveWell 2.0 Grant. This year, the Florence LiveWell Coalition collaborated with the Boone County Public Library and Northern Kentucky Community Action Center for a “Spring into Wellness Health Fair” and walking event. Additionally, virtual walking events have been created documenting historical spots within the city.

Ms. Price advised the LiveWell Florence Steering Committee meets monthly. The committee members include Aetna, Anthem, American Cancer Society, BCA-Boone County Alliance, Boone County Extension Office, Boone County Farmer’s Market, Boone County Libraries, Boone County Schools, City of Florence and their residents, Florence Christian Church, Florence Y’alls, Interact for Health, Kentucky Cancer Program, NKY Health, Northern Kentucky Community Action Commotion, One NKY Alliance, St. Elizabeth Healthcare Well Care, and the YMCA.

Ms. Price identified a photograph of the healthy eating produce distribution at Florence Christian Church. The food distribution is provided in partnership with Florence Christian Church, Free Store Foodbank, and Master Provisions. All Florence residents are targeted. The program continues to grow and volunteers are always welcome.

Ms. Price advised a Florence Tobacco Use Survey was conducted in conjunction with Interact for Health, University of Cincinnati and University of Kentucky Healthcare. Survey results indicate residents believe second hand smoke is harmful. LiveWell Florence also promotes Smoke-Free Environments and provides presentations to schools regarding the harmful use of tobacco usage. Additionally, LiveWell participates in “Days of Action-Clean Events” to clean up debris including cigarette waste in the city. Ms. Price informed everyone the next day of action will be held on July 28, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. at the Florence Y’alls Thomas More Stadium.

Ms. Price introduced Young Boone Advocates, Chilota Iloegbunam and Anna Quinn. Youth representative, Chilota Iloegbunam, stated she is the President Chair of Young Boone Advocates for Boone County Alliance. She became involved to help prevent smoking and alcohol abuse amongst her peers. Youth representative, Anna Quinn, Assistant Chair with the Young Boone Advocates of Boone County Alliance, stated she became involved to also help prevent nicotine addiction and e-cigarette use among her peers.

Chilota informed everyone the Boone County Alliance (BCA) has devoted their energy to develop and implement community strategies to reduce substance abuse in Boone County since 2010. BCA has continued during the pandemic to bring awareness and education regarding mental illness.

Anna stated BCA's goal is to educate and advocate to youth to reduce and prevent substance abuse within the community. Anna informed everyone the Boone County Alliance meets every third Monday of the month at 11:00 a.m.

Ms. Price thanked Chilota and Anna and continued her presentation. She stated LiveWell Florence provides benefits to the Florence Community including improving access of Healthy Eating to all community members, employs sustainable strategies to increase an active lifestyle for those living and working in Florence, encourage residents and businesses toward clean air environments, and reduce chronic diseases such as cancer, obesity, and heart disease. Ms. Price invited everyone to attend their meetings.

Councilmember Carroll inquired with regard to the fresh produce distribution. Ms. Price stated the distribution is held via a drive-thru at the Florence Christian Church on the second and fourth Tuesday from 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Vice-Mayor Aubuchon thanked Ms. Price and the LiveWell Florence representatives for attending the meeting.

#### **SECOND READING ORDINANCE O-7-22:**

Vice-Mayor Aubuchon 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.

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

#### **SECOND READING ORDINANCE O-8-22:**

Vice-Mayor Aubuchon 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.

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

**FIRST READING ORDINANCE O-9-22:**

Vice-Mayor Aubuchon read Ordinance O-9-22. An Ordinance amending Ordinance No. O-37-91 relating to the Urban Forest Commission of the City of Florence, Kentucky.

The purpose of this Ordinance is to decrease the membership on the City's Urban Forest Commission from seven (7) members to five (5) members.

The full text of Ordinance O-9-22 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.

Vice-Mayor Aubuchon called for a motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance O-9-22. Councilmember Carroll motioned to approve, with a second from Councilmember Winn. **All councilmembers present voted aye.**

**MUNICIPAL ORDER MO-3-22:**

Vice-Mayor Aubuchon read Municipal Order MO-3-22. A Municipal Order approving the reappointment of Lance Howard to the City of Florence Code Enforcement Board for a three (3) year term.

Vice-Mayor Aubuchon called for a motion to approve Municipal Order MO-3-22. Councilmember Huff motioned to approve Municipal Order MO-3-22 with a second from Councilmember Winn. **All councilmembers present voted aye.**

**MUNICIPAL ORDER MO-4-22:**

Vice-Mayor Aubuchon read Municipal Order MO-4-22. A Municipal Order approving the reappointment of David Spille to the City of Florence Code Enforcement Board for a three (3) year term.

Vice-Mayor Aubuchon called for a motion to approve Municipal Order MO-4-22. Councilmember Carroll motioned to approve Municipal Order MO-4-22 with a second from Councilmember Wingo. **All councilmembers present voted aye.**

**MUNICIPAL ORDER MO-5-22:**

Vice-Mayor Aubuchon read Municipal Order MO-5-22. A Municipal Order approving the appointment of Eric Hall as the City’s representative and Joshua J. Hunt as the City’s alternate representative to the Intermodal Coordinating Committee of the Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Council of Governments.

Vice-Mayor Aubuchon called for a motion to approve Municipal Order MO-5-22. Councilmember Winn motioned to approve Municipal Order MO-5-22 with a second from Councilmember Wingo. **All councilmembers present voted aye.**

**MAYOR’S REPORT:**

- Vice-Mayor Aubuchon reminded everyone the Florence Aquatic Center will open Saturday, May 28 and hours of operation will be 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- Vice-Mayor Aubuchon reminded everyone city offices will be closed on Monday, May 30 in observance of Memorial Day.
- Vice-Mayor Aubuchon reminded everyone 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.
- Vice-Mayor Aubuchon reminded everyone next Tuesday is the 5<sup>th</sup> Tuesday and there will be no council meeting.

**RECOGNITION:**

Vice-Mayor Aubuchon 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.

Members of the audience:

Brian Kinross, resident of Florence, wanted to remind everyone of the upcoming 5K race on Saturday, May 28, 2022. The race is entitled “Race Back to the FAC 5k”. Entry is \$25 and food trucks will also be at the event. Mr. Kinross informed everyone the proceeds from the race

will sponsor aquatic center swim lessons, memberships and day passes for the those in need. He also expressed appreciation for the assistance received by the city in facilitating the race.

Rick Hopple, resident of Florence, expressed concern with the lack of sidewalks on Weaver Road to Saddlebrook and requested sidewalks. He is confined to his wheelchair and experiences difficulties commuting alongside the road. Additionally, there is no bus service in the area.

Public Services Director, Eric Hall, advised Mr. Hopple there is a project underway to install sidewalks from the fire station on Weaver to Saddlebrook. Funding was received and the project was bid out. The project came in one million over budget due to time restraints which were required in the bid based on the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet. Following negotiation with the KYTC, the time restraints have been readjusted and the project will be placed out to bid again.

Councilmember Carroll thanked Mr. Hopple for his time he spent as a volunteer Florence fireman.

Mr. Hopple invited everyone to attend the American Legion Memorial Day Cookout and Flag Dedication.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business to come before the Council, Vice-Mayor Aubuchon called for a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Huff so moved, with a second from Councilmember Wingo. **Councilmembers present voted aye**, the time being 6:43 p.m.

**ATTEST:**

/s/ Melissa Kramer  
Melissa Kramer, City Clerk

**APPROVED:**

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

