



**Florence City Council  
Business Meeting  
Tuesday, August 9, 2022  
6:00 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

The City Council of the City of Florence, Kentucky, met in regular session on Tuesday, August 9, 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: 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, Dale T. Wilson; Business & Community Development Director, Joshua J. Hunt; Public Services Director, Eric Hall; City Engineer, Bill Viox; City Clerk, Melissa Kramer; Videographer, Perry Weber; Police Lieutenant, Nathan Rettig; and Police Sergeant Jon Newton.

The following were also present in the audience: People Working Cooperatively, Director of Corporate & Community Partnerships and Programs, Ron Henlein; People Working Cooperatively, Project Manager, Eric Donohue; People Working Cooperatively, Outreach Coordinator, Connie Porter; Retired Florence Volunteer Firefighter/EMT, Marty Thomas; Resident of Florence, Aaron Gillum; and Resident of Florence, Thomas Judd.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Mayor Whalen called for a motion to approve the minutes of the July 12, 2022, business meeting. Councilmember Winn motioned to approve the minutes with a second from Councilmember Aubuchon. **All councilmembers present voted aye.**

**PRESENTATION – PEOPLE WORKING COOPERATIVELY:**

Mayor Whalen introduced and welcomed People Working Cooperatively Representatives. Mayor Whalen informed everyone People Working Cooperatively is a non-profit organization based in Cincinnati. Their organization provides critical home repairs to low-income homeowners in Northern Kentucky, Southeast Indiana and Southwest Ohio.

Connie Porter, Outreach Coordinator, thanked everyone for the opportunity to attend the meeting and provide information regarding their organization. Mrs. Porter introduced Ron Henlein, Director of Corporate and Community Partnerships and Programs.

Mr. Henlein referred to his presentation and stated People Working Cooperatively currently provides services to eighteen counties in Kentucky, Indiana and Ohio. People Working Cooperatively operates 365 days a year, twenty-four hours a day and has approximately 4,000 volunteers. With the volunteers, People Working Cooperatively has the ability to provide 9,000 services to approximately 5,000 households annually. Over 50% of those services are provided to senior households. A majority of the products used for the repairs are donated by companies such as Duke Energy, Amazon, and Home Depot.

Mr. Henlein introduced Eric Donohue, Project Manager, to provide information with regard to the energy conservation services provided by People Working Cooperatively.

Mr. Donohue stated People Working Cooperatively provides weatherization to homes including installation, air sealing, lighting upgrades, furnace replacements, and refrigerator replacements. Services provided also include health and safety measures for smoke and carbon dioxide alarm installation, furnace repair/replacement, water heater repair/replacement, gas line repair, bath fan installation, dryer vent installation, electric panel replacement and plumbing repair.

In addition to the critical home repair and energy conservation, Mr. Henlein stated People Working Cooperatively provides home modifications to help clients reside safely in their homes and assist with their mobility and independence. Modifications include grab bars, bathroom modifications, handicapped-accessible ramps, stair lifts, and kitchen modifications. Additionally, People Working Cooperatively is a federal provider for the Veterans Affairs Hospitals which can assist injured veterans. Mr. Henlein provided a handout regarding their programs and upcoming events.

Mr. Henlein stated the organization has three divisions. The first division is People Working Cooperatively. People Working Cooperatively is a forty-seven year old 501C3 social service non-profit agency and is funded through grants, fundraising and donations received by corporations. The second division is Whole Home. Whole Home is a fee for service company providing home renovation and remodeling services. Whole Home provides free in-home consultations and all proceeds from their work directly benefit People Working Cooperatively. The third division is Whole Home Innovation Center. Whole Home Innovation Center is a community resource offering educational services designed to keep people healthy and safe in their homes.

Councilmember Osborne inquired whether their organization was comparable to Habitat for Humanity. Mr. Henlein replied no and stated People Working Cooperatively provides home repairs and Habitat for Humanity builds new homes.

Councilmember Osborne inquired as to how a homeowner could utilize their services. Mr. Henlein stated the homeowner would need to call their office and apply for assistance.

Councilmember Osborne inquired as to the history of People Working Cooperatively. Mr. Henlein stated the company had been in business for forty-seven years and he has been a part of the organization for forty years. He initially served as a volunteer for eighteen years, next a board member for twelve years, and currently is employed as their Director of Corporate and Community Partnerships and Programs. Initially, People Working Cooperatively did not advertise to ensure discreetness for the homeowners needing assistance. As a result of funding becoming increasingly difficult to obtain, People Working Cooperatively recognized the need to advertise and publicize their services to obtain the necessary funding to operate.

Councilmember Osborne inquired with regard to the inspection of their work performed. Mr. Henlein stated People Working Cooperatively applies for permits and the work is inspected by the appropriate officials.

Councilmember Wingo stated she previously worked on Prepare Affairs in Newport and the individuals receiving assistance are very thankful. She encouraged everyone to become involved and volunteer.

Mayor Whalen thanked them for attending the meeting and was appreciative of the information provided.

#### **FIRST READING ORDINANCE O-16-22:**

Mayor Whalen read Ordinance O-16-22. An Ordinance annexing certain territory consisting of a parcel of approximately 0.8574 acres located at 919 Weaver Road, adjacent to the city limits. (Fullerton)

This Ordinance annexes a tract of approximately 0.8574 acres located at 919 Weaver Road, adjacent to the City limits.

The full text of Ordinance O-16-22, 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 Boulevard, Florence, Kentucky, during regular office hours.

Mayor Whalen called for a motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance O-16-22. Councilmember Winn motioned to approve, with a second from Councilmember Huff. **All councilmembers present voted aye.**

#### **MUNICIPAL ORDER MO-7-22:**

As a result of the devastating flooding in Eastern Kentucky, Mayor Whalen advised municipalities were donating surplus vehicles to assist in replacements of vehicles lost due to the flooding. The Kentucky League of Cities sent a request to local municipalities requesting donations of trucks. Following the request, Mayor Whalen requested Public Services Director, Eric Hall, determine if the city had any surplus vehicles to assist in the request. Mr. Hall identified a 2012 F-150 Ford Truck. The truck was loaned to the City of Hindman and should council concur, the city would donate the truck as surplus property.

Councilmembers were in agreement with the donation of the surplus property. Therefore, Mayor Whalen read Municipal Order MO-7-22. A Municipal Order declaring one 2012 Ford F-150 Truck 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-7-22. Councilmember Aubuchon motioned to approve Municipal Order MO-7-22 with a second from Councilmember Osborne. **All councilmembers present voted aye.**

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

- Mayor Whalen announced the Florence Community Band will host a concert on Saturday, August 13, 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. at Boone Woods Park. Their program is entitled “A Tribute to Heroes”. The first half of the concert will be music from bands including Journey; Earth, Wind and Fire; Led Zeppelin; and the Beatles. The second half of the concert salutes heroes featuring music from Star Wars, Superman, James Bond, and the Olympics. The concert will end with a salute to the veterans and armed forces requesting each veteran to stand and be recognized. Mayor Whalen stated the city is very proud of our community band and encouraged everyone to attend the concert.
- Mayor Whalen reminded everyone the Boone County Senior Picnic is scheduled for September 14 beginning at 9:00 a.m. at the Boone County Fairgrounds. Tickets are available for purchase at the Finance Department and the Florence Senior Center.
- Mayor Whalen informed everyone the city is planning a Halloween Night Out on Tuesday, October 25. Nightmare at the Ballpark will be a spooktacular family friendly event.

### **OTHER:**

Mayor Whalen called upon Joshua Hunt, Business and Community Development Director, with regard to a proposed amendment to the ABC Ordinance.

Mr. Hunt advised the city has received requests from restaurants to be permitted to serve alcohol, including mimosas, on Sundays. Currently, restaurants may serve beer at 11 am and distilled spirits and wine at 1 pm. The city has been examining the possibility of selling malt beverages, distilled spirits and wine beginning at 9 am on Sundays.

Mayor Whalen advised the amendment would assist restaurants in preparations for Sunday football games, restaurants serving brunch, and Turfway Park with their reopening. Mayor Whalen requested authorization from councilmembers to review and possibly present an amendment to the ABC Ordinance. No objections from councilmembers were expressed.

Mayor Whalen advised Fire/EMS Chief Wren and Fire/EMS Assistant Chief Black traveled to Eastern Kentucky in support of the counties affected by the devastating flooding.

Chief Wren stated he and Assistant Chief Black accompanied the Northern Kentucky All-Hazards Incident Management Team and assisted in the Area Command Post in Hazard. They assisted in gathering and providing supplies to those in need. Chief Wren stated the damage from the flood was devastating and any equipment and donations are much needed.

Mayor Whalen advised the city partnered with the Life Learning Center to collect cleaning supplies. Donations were picked up Monday. Mayor Whalen stated the outpouring of support and compassion in the city is heartwarming.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Mayor Whalen called for a motion to go into Executive Session pursuant to KRS 61.810 (1)(b) acquisition/sale of real property - where publicity would be likely to affect the value of property to be acquired for public use or to be sold by the city and 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 Wingo. **All councilmembers present voted aye, the time being 6:39 p.m.** Mayor Whalen advised they would return to the room to adjourn and did not anticipate any further business taking place following Executive Session.

Mayor Whalen called for a motion to come back into session after the Executive Session. Councilmember Aubuchon so moved, with a second from Councilmember Huff. **All councilmembers present voted aye, the time being 6:50 p.m.**

Mayor Whalen recognized Retired Florence Volunteer Firefighter/EMT, Marty Thomas, in 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 6:51 p.m.**

**APPROVED:**

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

**ATTEST:**

/s/ Melissa Kramer  
Melissa Kramer, City Clerk

