



**Florence City Council  
Business Meeting  
Tuesday, January 10, 2023  
6:00 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

The City Council of the City of Florence, Kentucky, met in regular session on Tuesday, January 10, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. at the Florence Government Center, 8100 Ewing Boulevard, Florence, Kentucky, with Mayor Julie M. Aubuchon presiding as chair.

**CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME:**

Mayor Julie M. 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 six (6) members of council were registered present: Mel Carroll, Lesley Chambers, Jenna Kemper (Vice-Mayor), 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 Hunt; City Engineer, Bill Viox; City Clerk, Melissa Kramer; Videographer, Perry Weber; and Police Lieutenant, Nathan Rettig.

The following were also present in the audience: Emanuel Slaughter, Florence Police Department new police officer; Family and Friends of the new Florence Police Department Employee Emanuel Slaughter; Northern Kentucky Tribune Reporter, Trisha Scheyer; Resident of Florence, Brian Kinross; Resident of Florence, Jonathan Sterling; Naomi Liebson, Observer; and Resident of Florence, Thomas Judd.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Mayor Aubuchon called for a motion to approve the minutes of the December 20, 2022, special meeting. Councilmember Wingo motioned to approve the minutes with a second from Councilmember Winn. **All councilmembers present voted aye.**

Mayor Aubuchon called for a motion to approve the minutes of the December 21, 2022, special meeting. Councilmember Winn motioned to approve the minutes with a second from Councilmember Wingo. **All councilmembers present voted aye.**

**OATH OF OFFICE:**

Chief Grau introduced the newest member of the Florence Police Department, Emanuel Slaughter. Chief Grau stated Emanuel is twenty-four years old and currently resides in Union, Kentucky. He attended Heritage Academy in Florence and graduated with a GED High School Equivalency. In 2020, Emanuel enlisted in the United States Air Force Reserve and is currently stationed at Wright Patterson Air Force Base as a jet engine technician. Chief Grau stated Emanuel will stay in the Air Force Reserves and leaves for the academy on January 29.

Mayor Aubuchon administered the oath of office and welcomed Emanuel to the City of Florence.

**RESOLUTION R-1-23:**

Mayor Aubuchon read Resolution R-1-23. A Resolution accepting the Re-Appointment of Marcus Carey, Darryl Cummins, Robert Sanders, Tom Quirk, Bryce C. Rhoades, and Jack Westwood and the Appointment of James Dady as Members of the Northern Kentucky Regional Ethics Authority Enforcement Committee for a Two-Year Term, commencing February 1, 2023 and expiring on January 31, 2025.

Mayor Aubuchon called for a motion to approve Resolution R-1-23. Councilmember Carroll motioned to approve, with a second from Councilmember Winn. **All councilmembers present voted aye.**

**DISCUSSION – BUDGET AMENDMENT FOR 2022-2023 FISCAL YEAR – AQUATIC CENTER FUNDING:**

Mayor Aubuchon called upon Eric Hall, Public Services Director, with regard to initiatives needed to open the Florence Aquatic Center for the 2023 season.

Following the 2022 season, Mr. Hall stated the city received notification from SwimSafe, due to an increase in costs, SwimSafe would be unable to meet the obligations within the current contract and requested the management operations be placed out for bid.

Mr. Hall advised the Request for Proposal for the pool management was sent out to bid in November 2022. Two bids were received. One of the bidders provided an incomplete bid which did not meet requirements within the Request for Proposal. SwimSafe was the second bidder and met all requirements. The proposed cost to manage the facility for the 2023 season was increased to \$453,950. The Management Fee for the 2022 season was \$386,650. Additionally, as part of the management fee, several capital improvements would need to happen. Capital improvements include furniture replacement of the lounge chairs, sitting chairs, concession umbrellas, and lifeguard umbrellas in the amount of \$83,500; lifeguard equipment replacement costs in the amount of \$3,300; Motors/sand filters in the amount of \$37,500; and features including the pirate slide and octopus mats in the amount of \$72,000. Mr. Hall advised during the first week of the season last year, the pirate slide went down and was closed the entire season. Total cost for Capital Improvements is \$196,300. He is hopeful to have another year out of the octopus, but the octopus has been showing deterioration. The estimated replacement costs of the octopus is \$150,000 for

the next fiscal year. Mr. Hall advised the total cost to open the pool for the 2023 season would be approximately \$650,250. He requested authorization from city council on whether to move forward with the 2023 pool season.

Councilmember Chambers inquired with regard to the revenues for the 2022 season. Linda Chapman, CFO/HR, stated the total revenues for the 2022 pool season were \$505,893. Total expenses were \$650,000.

Councilmember Chambers inquired with regard to expenses/revenues for both the 2022 and 2023 seasons. She believed the loss would remain the same for the upcoming season. Ms. Chapman stated there were no capital expenditures during the 2022 season. Based on the increase in pool management costs and capital expenditures needed, Ms. Chapman stated the expenditures will be substantially more at approximately \$898,000 for the 2023 season.

Councilmember Chambers believed the amount as stated by Mr. Hall would be \$650,000. Ms. Chapman stated the amount stated by Mr. Hall does not include bank service fees, utilities, water, supplies, sewer and maintenance.

Councilmember Chambers inquired with regard to revenues from interest. Ms. Chapman replied there could be some revenue from interest, but not enough to offset the expenditures.

Mayor Aubuchon stated the revenues received for the 2022 pool season including memberships and daily admissions were approximately \$505,000. Ms. Chapman replied affirmatively.

Mayor Aubuchon stated amid the management contract, capital improvements, and expenses including chemicals and water to operate the pool, the total would be approximately \$895,000. Mayor Aubuchon requested direction from city council with regard to the operation of the 2023 season.

Councilmember Carroll recommended opening the pool for another season based on the current figures. He opined while councilmembers cannot comment for future years, he felt they could evaluate at the end of the season. Councilmember Carroll motioned to proceed with authorization to enter into an agreement with SwimSafe for the 2023 season and open the aquatic center for the 2023 season with a second from Councilmember Kemper. Additional discussion was held.

Councilmember Wingo wanted to ensure city council would evaluate operation of the pool on an annual basis to ensure they remain fiscally conservative.

Mayor Aubuchon inquired of Mr. Hall with regard to the contract for the pool management. Mr. Hall stated the contract is a one year contract with extensions of up to five years if the city elects to continue management.

Mayor Aubuchon stated the city had previously used SwimSafe for operation and management of the aquatic center and have always been able to work through any concerns. Mr. Hall stated SwimSafe has always been professional and he is confident moving forward with SwimSafe as the city's management group of the aquatic center.

Following discussion, Councilmember Carroll's motion to proceed with authorization to enter into an agreement with SwimSafe for the 2023 season and open the aquatic center for the 2023 season with a second from Councilmember Kemper, passed with unanimous approval.

Mayor Aubuchon advised a Resolution would be placed on an upcoming agenda for formal action.

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

- Mayor Aubuchon called upon Joshua J. Hunt, Business and Community Development Director, with regard to the recent purchase and sale of properties.

Mr. Hunt stated he was pleased to report all closings had occurred. The Dream Street property, often referred to as the Heritage Bank property and the former Knight's Inn, was purchased for the new fire station. He stated the Fire/EMS Department and Public Services Department is currently working on development of the new fire base. The Main Street property, identified as the strip center on Main Street, will be demolished within the coming weeks. He noted there were storm water issues on Dixie Hwy and they are hopeful to be able to alleviate the concerns. He advised the city may possibly hold planning workshops for reuse of the property. Additionally, Mr. Hunt announced the sale of the property at Freedom Way also occurred. The property will be a sports entertainment brewery concept plan. He advised the owner is working through the site plan and hopes to begin construction this spring.

Additionally, Mr. Hunt announced Ford's Garage Restaurant ribbon cutting will be held this Friday, with their grand opening the following week.

- Mayor Aubuchon informed everyone a ribbon cutting was held for Strive Health in Florence. Strive Health is a dialysis center with private suites for dialysis patients.
- Mayor Aubuchon informed everyone the Florence Government Center would be closed on Monday, January 16, in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.
- Mayor Aubuchon called upon Chief of Police, with regard to the Police Citizen's Academy beginning February 9.

Chief Grau stated the course is an eight-week course for citizens. The application can be completed online and submitted for approval. Chief Grau stated many of the citizens which complete the course often become one of their VIPS (Volunteers in Policing). The class will be held on Thursdays from 6:30-9:30 a.m. beginning February 9.

Councilmember Winn encouraged everyone to attend the class. He had attended the academy and stated it was a great class.

- Mayor Aubuchon announced Ryan Sullivan in the Public Services Department will be retiring on January 30.

**RECOGNITION:**

Mayor Aubuchon asked if any of the following desired recognition:

Members of City Council:

Councilmember Winn thanked the Florence Public Services Department for all their hard work clearing all the snow from the city streets during the blizzard over Christmas weekend.

Mayor Aubuchon commended them and stated she appreciated the city maintained streets being cleaned, especially while she finished last minute Christmas shopping.

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.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

There was no need for Executive Session.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Aubuchon called for a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Carroll so moved, with a second from Councilmember Wingo. **Councilmembers present voted aye**, the time being 6:25 p.m.

**APPROVED:**

/s/ Julie M. Aubuchon  
Julie M. Aubuchon, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

/s/ Melissa Kramer  
Melissa Kramer, City Clerk

