



**Florence City Council  
Special Meeting  
Tuesday, December 20, 2022  
6:00 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

The City Council of the City of Florence, Kentucky, met in special session on Tuesday, December 20, 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 special meeting to order and declared the meeting open for the presentation of items on the special meeting agenda.

**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 Clerk, Melissa Kramer; and Police Lieutenant, Nathan Rettig.

The following were also present in the audience: Councilmember Elect, Jenna Kemper; Family of Councilmember Elect, Jenna Kemper; Family and Friends of Councilmembers; Family and Friends of Councilmember/Mayor-Elect Dr. Julie Metzger Aubuchon; Judge Christopher J. Mehling, Kenton County Family Circuit Judge; State Senator John Schickel; Colleagues of the Florence Police Department; Colleagues of the Florence Fire/EMS Department; Colleagues of the Florence Finance Department; Colleagues of the Florence Public Services Department; Assistant City Attorney, Dale T. Wilson; Associates of the Florence Y'all's Baseball Team; Gaby Batshoun, Global Business Solutions; Assistant City Clerk, Brandi Roundtree; Community Services Coordinator, Victoria Wells; and Resident of Florence, Thomas Judd.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Mayor Whalen called for a motion to approve the minutes of the December 13, 2022, business meeting. Councilmember Carroll motioned to approve the minutes with a second from Councilmember Winn. **All councilmembers present voted aye.**

**SECOND READING ORDINANCE O-25-22:**

Mayor Whalen read Ordinance O-25-22. An Ordinance of the City of Florence, Kentucky, amending the budget for the 2022-2023 Fiscal Year of the City (Amendment #1).

The purposes of this amendment are as follows: (a) to reflect increases in the Administrative Department resulting from expenditures for computer software; increases in capital outlay in all departments for carryover amounts from the FY 2021 budget; increases in City Projects for additional requests for projects; (b) to reflect an increase in Municipal Aid Expenditures for a carryover for Resurfacing Projects; (c) to reflect increases in Infrastructure Fund revenues and expenditures for the Weaver Road Sidewalk Project and carryover amounts from the prior fiscal year; (d) to reflect pool season results in the Aquatic Fund; (e) to reflect an increase in the Capital Contribution account in the Water/Sewer; (f) to reflect an increase in expenses in the Water/Sewer fund for the grant fund expense, accounting software upgrade and maintenance line items; (g) Fund Balances were changed to reflect the ending fund balance amounts per the June 30, 2021 year-end audit report.

Mayor Whalen called for a motion to approve the second reading of Ordinance O-25-22. Councilmember Wingo motioned to approve, with a second from Councilmember Osborne. **All councilmembers present voted aye.**

**FIRST READING ORDINANCE O-24-22:**

Mayor Whalen read Ordinance O-24-22. An Ordinance relating to the approval and adoption of the 2020 Boone County Zoning Regulations (2020 Zoning Update), Text and Map, as applicable to the City of Florence, Kentucky, these Zoning Regulations, Including Text and Zoning Map, Serving as amendments to the current Boone County Zoning Regulations, Text and Map, and having been prepared and recommended by the Boone County Planning Commission for adoption pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 100 of the Kentucky Revised Statutes to update the current Zoning Regulations, Text and Map, for timely and appropriate implementation of the 2019 Boone County Comprehensive Plan that is entitled "Our Boone County Plan 2040".

The purpose of this Ordinance is to adopt the 2020 Zoning Regulations, text and map, as an update to the current Zoning Regulations, text and zoning map, and thereby constituting amendments thereto for purposes of timely and appropriate implementation of the Boone County Comprehensive Plan as updated in 2019. The title of that 2019 Boone County Comprehensive Plan is "Our Boone County Plan 2040". This update of the Boone County Zoning Regulations followed the provisions of Chapter 100 of the Kentucky Revised Statutes for amending Zoning Regulations, text and map.

Mayor Whalen called for a motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance O-24-22. Councilmember Aubuchon motioned to approve, with a second from Councilmember Osborne. **All councilmembers present voted aye.**

**MUNICIPAL ORDER MO-21-22:**

Mayor Whalen read Municipal Order MO-21-22. A Municipal Order declaring an approximate 3.97(±) acre tract of real estate as surplus property of the city and ordering a sale pursuant to KRS 82.083(3)(A), (B), (C), and (D).

Mayor Whalen called for a motion to approve Municipal Order MO-21-22. Councilmember Wingo motioned to approve Municipal Order MO-21-22 with a second from Councilmember Winn. **All councilmembers present voted aye.**

**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION - MUNICIPAL ORDER MO-22-22:**

Mayor Whalen read Municipal Order MO-22-22. A Municipal Order authorizing and directing the City Attorney to file an Eminent Domain Proceeding for the acquisition of real estate at 283 Main Street, Florence, Kentucky.

Mayor Whalen called upon Business and Community Development Director, Joshua J. Hunt, with regard to the proceeding of eminent domain. He advised the city had attempted over the course of three years to either purchase or lease property on Main Street with no success. Eminent domain was necessary with regard to issues with storm water on Main Street and expansion of public parking.

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

**SWEARING-IN CEREMONY - OATHS OF OFFICE:**

Mayor Whalen called upon Judge Christopher J. Mehling, Kenton County Family Circuit Judge, to administer the oath of office to Councilmember/Mayor-Elect, Dr. Julie Metzger Aubuchon. Judge Mehling stated he had known Councilmember Aubuchon and her family for years. Judge Mehling was honored to be able to administer the oath of office and channeled Councilmember Aubuchon's father by wearing red socks. Judge Mehling informed Councilmember Aubuchon her father would have been very proud of her.

Judge Mehling administered the oath of office to Councilmember/Mayor-Elect Aubuchon for the office of Mayor of the City of Florence, Kentucky.

Judge Mehling administered the oaths of office to Councilmember Mel Carroll, Councilmember Elect Jenna Kemper, Councilmember David A. Osborne, Councilmember Patricia Wingo, and Councilmember Gary Winn. Councilmember Elect Lesley Chambers was unable to attend due to illness and would be sworn in at a later time.

**MAYOR’S REPORT:**

- Mayor Whalen reminded everyone the Florence Government Center would be closed on Friday, December 23 and Monday, December 26 for the Christmas holiday. The city would resume regular hours on Tuesday, December 27, 2022.
- Mayor Whalen reminded everyone city offices will be closed on Monday, January 2, 2023 for New Year’s Day and resume regular hours on Tuesday, January 3, 2023.
- Mayor Whalen stated the city will have Christmas Tree Recycling Pickup on Wednesday, January 4, 2023. Trees must be placed at the curb prior to 7:00 a.m. to be collected. Please remove all tinsel, ornaments, ribbons, and lights. Please do not place the tree in a bag. Contact the City of Florence Public Services Department at 859.647.5416 for more information.
- Mayor Whalen advised the Boone County Christmas Tree recycling drop off is scheduled for Saturday, January 7, 2023. Drop off location in Florence is Stringtown Park. Please remove all tinsel, ornaments, ribbons, lights and bags.
- Mayor Whalen advised due to the extreme cold weather, Boone County has activated the Boone County Winter Shelter beginning December 15 through December 29. She encouraged individuals in need of shelter to contact the Welcome House.
- Mayor Whalen thanked and recognized Councilmember J. Kelly Huff for his service and commitment to the Florence City Council by reading the following Proclamation:

*WHEREAS, the City of Florence recognizes, with respect, pride, and admiration the contribution and dedication of citizens within the community; and*

*WHEREAS, J. Kelly Huff has been a dedicated servant to residents of the City of Florence as a councilmember for twelve years; and*

*WHEREAS, during his tenure, Kelly has displayed the highest example of character, ethics, moral, and unselfish service, exemplifying the noble endeavor to leave a place better than when found and in doing so, inspires all of us to do the same; and*

*WHEREAS, on behalf of the City of Florence, I want to express our sincere appreciation to Kelly for his loyalty to the City of Florence and express our grateful appreciation for his service and commitment to the Florence City Council.*

***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 recognize and honor,***

***J. Kelly Huff***

*and offer sincere congratulations and best wishes to Kelly for many more happy days in the future to share with family and friends.*

*IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Florence, Kentucky, to be affixed hereto, this 20<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2022.*

**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.

Councilmember Winn so moved with a second from Councilmember Huff. **All councilmembers present voted aye, the time being 6:18 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 Osborne so moved, with a second from Councilmember Winn. **All councilmembers present voted aye, the time being 6:35 p.m.**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business to come before Council, Mayor Whalen called for a motion to adjourn the Special Meeting. Councilmember Aubuchon so moved, with a second from Councilmember Huff. **Councilmembers present voted aye, the time being 6:36 p.m.**

**APPROVED:**

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

**ATTEST:**

/s/ Melissa Kramer  
Melissa Kramer, City Clerk

