



**Florence City Council
Business Meeting
Tuesday, February 28, 2023
6:00 p.m.**

MINUTES

The City Council of the City of Florence, Kentucky, met in regular session on Tuesday, February 28, 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 five (5) members of council were registered present: Lesley Chambers, Jenna Kemper (Vice-Mayor), David Osborne, Patricia Wingo and Gary Winn. Councilmember Mel Carroll 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; Business & Community Development Director, Joshua Hunt; City Engineer, Bill Viox; City Clerk, Melissa Kramer; Videographer, Perry Weber; and Police Lieutenant, Jeff Mallery.

The following were also present in the audience: Florence Fire/EMS Department new employee, Firefighter/EMT, Coby Brown; Family and Friends of the new Florence Fire/EMS Department employee; Battalion Chief of Prevention/Fire Marshall, Randy Childress; Florence Fire/EMS Captain David Curtis; Assistant Fire/EMS Chief, Chris Miller; Executive Director of Boone County Schools Student Services, Kathleen Reutman; Jones Middle School Cadet Corps Instructor, Blair Sullivan; Jones Middle School Cadet Corps Students; For Family by Family, LLC Representatives, Dashai Thompson and Sienna Thompson; LINKnky Reporter, Grace Tierney; and Resident of Florence, Thomas Judd.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Aubuchon called upon Jones Cadet Corps to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Blair Sullivan, Jones Middle School Cadet Corps Instructor, stated this is the first year for the Cadet Corps Program at Jones Middle School. Cadet Corps is a character development class with military ideology based on health, service and leadership. Comprised of 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students, there are a 116 cadets. Mr. Sullivan thanked the Mayor and Councilmembers and invited them to visit Jones Middle School.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mayor Aubuchon called for a motion to approve the minutes of the February 14, 2023, business meeting. Councilmember Wingo motioned to approve the minutes with a second from Councilmember Osborne. **All councilmembers present voted aye.**

OATH OF OFFICE:

Rodney Wren, Fire/EMS Chief, introduced the newest member of the Florence Fire/EMS Department, Firefighter/EMT Coby Brown. Chief Wren stated Coby started in the fire service in 2015 as an explorer at Burlington and went on to become a volunteer at the Crescent Springs Villa Hills Fire and EMS. Next, Coby obtained his EMT certification in December of 2021 and began working full time at Gallatin County EMS, along with part time jobs at Williamstown Fire and Dry Ridge Fire. Coby credits his Uncle Zack, a full time firefighter, for getting him involved in the fire service.

Chief Wren stated Coby is excited and thankful for the opportunity to work for the Florence Fire/EMS Department. Coby's mother, Jamie, two sisters, Cassidy and Caylie, and his Aunt Danielle and Uncle Zack were in attendance.

Mayor Aubuchon administered the oath of office and welcomed Coby and his family to the City of Florence Fire/EMS Department and the City of Florence.

SECOND READING ORDINANCE O-4-23:

Mayor Aubuchon read Ordinance O-4-23. An Ordinance Adopting and Approving, with conditions, a request of Vision Engineering, LLC, Per Jihad Hillany (Applicant) for City of Florence (Owner) for a Zoning Map Amendment for a Special Sign District in a Recreational/Planned Development/Houston-Donaldson Study Corridor Overlay (R/PD/HDO) for an approximate 196.5 acre site located at 7500 Turfway Road, Florence, Kentucky, to allow for an electronic message board/screen. (Vision Engineering, LLC)

The effect of this Ordinance is to allow a zoning map amendment for a Special Sign District in a Recreation/Planned Development/Houston-Donaldson Study Corridor Overlay (R/PD/HDO) district to all for an electronic message board/screen. This Ordinance does not change the zoning of the site, but approves a zoning map amendment for a Special Sign District based on its current zoning.

The full text of Ordinance O-4-23, 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 Aubuchon called for a motion to approve the second reading of Ordinance O-4-23. Councilmember Winn motioned to approve, with a second from Councilmember Wingo. **All councilmembers present voted aye.**

MUNICIPAL ORDER MO-3-23:

Mayor Aubuchon read Municipal Order MO-3-23. A Municipal Order authorizing the sale of personal property deemed to be surplus, outdated, or otherwise of no use to the city.

Mayor Aubuchon called upon Public Services Director, Eric Hall, with regard to the auction. Mr. Hall stated the auction will commence on March 20 at www.GovDeals.com. The auction will end on March 30.

Mayor Aubuchon called for a motion to approve Municipal Order MO-3-23. Councilmember Osborne motioned to approve Municipal Order MO-3-23 with a second from Councilmember Winn. **All councilmembers present voted aye.**

MAYOR'S REPORT:

- Mayor Aubuchon announced the 17th Annual Early Childhood Fair, hosted by the Boone County Public Library and Boone County Schools, will be held Saturday, March 4, at the Main Library, 1786 Burlington Pike, in Burlington. The library is encouraging individuals to register at bcpl.org/events for a 10:00 a.m. or 11:00 a.m. timeslot. Mayor Aubuchon stated city representatives will be at the event promoting the parks and pool memberships.
- Mayor Aubuchon informed everyone she attended KLC City Day/City Night on February 22 with representatives from each city department. They were able to meet with legislatures to discuss issues and legislation which could affect the city.
- Mayor Aubuchon reminded everyone, the city will host the Youth in Government Program. The local schools will visit the Florence Government Center for field trips from March 14-March 16. The city will host an evening program on Tuesday, March 14 from 4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. The event will be open to the public in an open-house format; attendees may arrive any time after 4:00 p.m.

RECOGNITION:

Mayor Aubuchon called upon For Family by Family LLC Representatives in the audience, Sienna Thompson and Dashai Thompson.

Dasahi Thompson stated their organization was For Family by Family, LLC. Ms. Thompson invited everyone to attend their upcoming First Annual Juneteenth celebration. The event will be held on Monday, June 19, from 9:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. The event will have a Memorial and Educational Ceremony at the Kentucky Historic Proclamation site of the First African American Church in Florence. After the memorial and education ceremony, there will be a Celebration of Juneteenth at Stringtown Park. At Stringtown Park, there will be educational resources, outreach agencies, local law enforcement, local healthcare, local agencies including the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Brighton Center, Northern Kentucky Community Action Commission (NKCAC), and information for voter registration. She encouraged everyone to attend and unify the community.

Mayor Aubuchon thanked them for attending and providing them with the information regarding the event.

CLOSED SESSION:

Mayor Aubuchon called for a motion to go into Closed 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 Wingo. **All councilmembers present voted aye, the time being 6:16 p.m.** Mayor Aubuchon advised they would return to the room to adjourn and did not anticipate any further business taking place following Closed Session.

Mayor Aubuchon called for a motion to come back into session after the Closed Session. Councilmember Wingo so moved, with a second from Councilmember Winn. **All councilmembers present voted aye, the time being 6:42 p.m.**

ADJOURNMENT:

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

APPROVED:

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

ATTEST:

/s/ Melissa Kramer
Melissa Kramer, City Clerk

