



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

**MINUTES**

The City Council of the City of Florence, Kentucky, met in regular session on Tuesday, March 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.

**INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

Mayor Aubuchon and Members of City Council recited the invocation.

All attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**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 A. 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, Jeff Mallery.

The following were also present in the audience: LiveWell Florence Representative and Respiratory Therapist with St. Elizabeth Healthcare, Tom Cahill; Northern Kentucky Health Department Programs Manager, Marsha Bach; Northern Kentucky Health Department, Matthew Hawkins; Boone County Alliance Chair, Ben Brown; Student Youth Advocates from Cooper High School, Isabella Deere, Drew Schilling, Isaac Brown, Audrey Schilling, and Maleah Alexander; St. Elizabeth Healthcare SVP/Chief Operating Officer, Florence/Grant, Bruno Giacomuzzi; Executive Director of Student/Community Services of the Boone County Schools, Ms. Kathleen Reutman; BSA Troop 727, Scout Newport; Parent of BSA Scout, Larry Newport; Northern Kentucky Tribune Reporter, Trisha Scheyer; Resident of Florence, Brian Kinross; and Resident of Florence, Thomas Judd.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

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

**PRESENTATION – LIVEWELL FLORENCE:**

Mayor Aubuchon called upon and welcomed representatives from LiveWell Florence and the Boone County Alliance.

Tom Cahill introduced himself and thanked everyone for the opportunity to attend the meeting. Mr. Cahill directed everyone's attention to his PowerPoint presentation. He explained LiveWell Florence is a group working together to create healthy environments and opportunities for all that live, work and play in the City of Florence. LiveWell Florence currently receives their financial support through grants, St. Elizabeth Healthcare and the Northern Kentucky Health Department. Members consists of residents and community members and they meet monthly. Their goal is to help citizens make healthy choices and sustain a healthy lifestyle.

In partnership with Florence Christian Church, Free Store Foodbank, Master Provisions, Well Care, Anthem and United Healthcare, LiveWell Florence distributes free and fresh produce to all Florence residents. In 2022, they served 14,015 individuals in 4,753 households. So far in 2023, they have served approximately 3,000 individuals in 1,000 households. The Healthy Eating sub-committee has organized free and fresh produce distributions since October 2017. The produce distributions are held the second and fourth Tuesday of the month from 2:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m. Mr. Cahill encouraged all to volunteer.

As part of their mission, LiveWell Florence holds day of action events in the city. In July of 2022, they held an event at Thomas More Stadium and collected three pounds of tobacco waste and seventeen pounds of litter. Additionally, they promoted LiveWell Smoke-free Florence by providing cessation resources, education and a display of a MegaLung. At the Florence Government Center on November 3, LiveWell collected approximately one pound of tobacco waste. The tobacco waste collected from both events will be recycled and used for making benches. Mr. Cahill noted the number one littered item in the United States is cigarette butts which contain carcinogens and plastic cellulose acetate filters. In addition, e-cigarettes have created additional litter containing plastic and hazardous waste.

Mr. Cahill stressed the importance of Smoke-Free Environments and explained the dangers associated with exposure to secondhand smoke. LiveWell Florence has collaborated with Interact for Health, UC Healthcare and UK Healthcare to gather data and conduct public opinion polls. Their coalition believes smoke-free policies would protect employees, residents and children from the dangers of secondhand smoke inside workplaces and public spaces.

Mr. Cahill introduced Ben Brown, Chair of the Boone County Alliance. Mr. Brown stated the mission of the Boone County Alliance is to reduce youth substance abuse, educate students on the dangers of vaping, and support mental wellness for students in Boone County. Vaping is becoming

a concern within the schools. Mr. Brown conducts a class every Friday for students that have been caught with vapes in his school. He stated students are not aware of the dangers and the chemicals in the e-cigarettes.

Mr. Brown introduced students from Cooper High School that attended the Northern Kentucky Vaping summit and developed an infographic for their high school. Isabella Deere, Junior at Cooper High School, expressed her desire to be smoke free and encouraged people to cease vaping. Drew Schilling, Senior at Cooper High School, stated he had lost loved ones to lung cancer and wants to encourage people to stop smoking. Isaac Brown, Sophomore at Cooper High School, expressed his desire for a smoke free environment to protect young children. Audrey Schilling, Sophomore at Cooper High School, expressed her disappointment in her peers that have lost interest in their academics and sports as a result of vaping. Maliah Alexander, Junior at Cooper High School, believes creating laws against vaping and smoking would detract individuals from starting.

Mr. Brown encouraged everyone to take a stance on a smoke-free environment and believes it would help curb the epidemic of vaping. He thanked the Mayor and councilmembers for their time.

Mr. Cahill stated he believes the momentum is building in the Northern Kentucky Area for a smoke-free policy. He encouraged Florence to join other communities and lead the way to help stand up for cleaner air and the children in the community.

### **SECOND READING ORDINANCE O-5-23:**

Mayor Aubuchon read Ordinance O-5-23. An Ordinance Adopting and Approving a Zoning Map Amendment for a Special Sign District in a Suburban Residential Two (SR-2) and Office One (O-1) District for an approximate 20.7 acre site located at 7216 US 42, Florence, Kentucky, to allow a free standing sign having an electronic message board/panel. (Heritage Fellowship)

The effect of this Ordinance is to allow a zoning map amendment for a Special Sign District in a Suburban Residential Two (SR-2) and Office One (O-1) District, which would allow a free standing sign having an electronic message board/panel.

The full text of Ordinance O-5-23, 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-5-23. Councilmember Osborne motioned to approve, with a second from Councilmember Carroll. **Councilmember Carroll, Councilmember Winn, Councilmember Kemper, Councilmember Wingo, and Councilmember Osborne voted in favor with a nay from Councilmember Chambers. Motion passed 5-1.**

**SECOND READING ORDINANCE O-6-23:**

Mayor Aubuchon read Ordinance O-6-23. An Ordinance Adopting and Approving a Change in an Approved Concept Development Plan in a Commercial Two/Planned Development/Parkway Corridor Study Overlay (C-2/PD/PO) District for an approximate 1.3 acre site area located at 7592 and 7600 Burlington Pike, Florence, Kentucky, to allow a car wash. (Prime Car Wash, LLC)

The effect of this Ordinance is to allow a car wash on an approximate 1.3 acre site in a Commercial Two/Planned Development/Parkway Corridor Study Overlay (C-2/PD/PO) District.

The full text of Ordinance O-6-23, 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 Blvd., Florence, Kentucky, during regular office hours.

Mayor Aubuchon called for a motion to approve the second reading of Ordinance O-6-23. Councilmember Wingo motioned to approve, with a second from Councilmember Winn. **All councilmembers present voted aye.**

**MUNICIPAL ORDER MO-5-23:**

Mayor Aubuchon read Municipal Order MO-5-23. A Municipal Order declaring an approximate 0.1970(±) acre tract of real estate as surplus property of the City of Florence and ordering a transfer pursuant to KRS 82.083(3).

Mayor Aubuchon called upon Joshua J. Hunt, Business & Community Development Director, with regard to the transfer of property. Mr. Hunt explained Drury, Inc. requested the city vacate a small parcel of property to allow a new access point from their development to Freedom Way. As discussed at the Caucus Meeting, a Municipal Order was needed to provide authorization to the Mayor to sign documents to allow the property to be transferred. Once executed, Drury, Inc. would proceed with development of the area.

Mayor Aubuchon called for a motion to approve Municipal Order MO-5-23. Councilmember Osborne motioned to approve Municipal Order MO-5-23 with a second from Councilmember Wingo. **All councilmembers present voted aye.**

**MUNICIPAL ORDER MO-6-23:**

Mayor Aubuchon read Municipal Order MO-6-23. A Municipal Order approving a Non-Exclusive Shared Parking Agreement with Church of Scientology of Ohio, Inc.

Mayor Aubuchon called upon Joshua J. Hunt, Business & Community Development Director, with regard to the Non-Exclusive Shared Parking Agreement with the Church of Scientology. Mr. Hunt explained the city had been working for approximately four years to enter into a shared parking agreement with the Church of Scientology. He identified the parcel which would be obtained in the shared parking area. The Church of Scientology has agreed to enter into a shared parking

agreement with the city. Once the agreement is in place, the city will issue a Request for Proposal to proceed with a user for the Historic Main Street Firehouse.

Councilmember Carroll commended the city for working toward the agreement and believes it will help drive the momentum of the improvement to the Main Street Area.

Councilmember Chambers inquired with regard to any costs associated with the agreement. Mr. Hunt replied no and stated the only the cost associated with the agreement would be preparing the legal paperwork.

Mayor Aubuchon called for a motion to approve Municipal Order MO-6-23. Councilmember Carroll motioned to approve Municipal Order MO-6-23 with a second from Councilmember Kemper. **All councilmembers present voted aye.**

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

- Mayor Aubuchon reminded everyone Florence Aquatic Center memberships go on sale Thursday, March 30. The pre-season sale is March 30-April 6 with a 25% discount and entry into the pre-season prize giveaway. Memberships will be sold online only through the city website. Passbooks for day visits are on sale at the Finance Department. For more information, please call the Public Services Department at 859-647-5416. Once the season commences, Mayor Aubuchon informed everyone SwimSafe would take over the day to day operation of the pool. She encouraged individuals seeking employment to apply through SwimSafe.
- Mayor Aubuchon reminded everyone the Florence Police Department will host their Annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday and called upon Chief Grau. Chief Grau stated the event will be held this Saturday, April 1 at Thomas More Stadium, Home of the Florence Y'all. He explained this would be the first time back at the stadium since 2019. The event will have games, local vendors and 11,000 eggs to hunt. Chief Grau stated they are excited to return to the field for the event. Mayor Aubuchon stated there will also be music and photos with the Easter Bunny. She encouraged everyone to come out. Councilmember Carroll inquired where the vendors would be located. Chief Grau stated the vendors will be set up inside the stadium on the walk around. The kids participating in the hunt will enter on the third baseline and exit on the first baseline.
- Mayor Aubuchon announced city offices would be closed on Good Friday, April 7.
- Mayor Aubuchon announced the Florence Police Department will be participating in National Prescription Drug Take Back Day which is scheduled for April 22, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Individuals may drop off at the North Parking Lot of the Florence Government Center or the Kroger Marketplace on Mall Road. Chief Grau stated this year they will be collecting e-cigarettes and vape pens. While the Drug Enforcement Agency no longer sponsors a box for returns, the Florence Police Department has a drop off during normal business hours for people to utilize.

- Mayor Aubuchon announced Spring cleanup week is scheduled for Monday, April 24 through Sunday, April 30. Florence residents may bring unwanted trash and debris, excluding hazardous waste, to the Public Services Facility located at 7850 Tanners Lane for disposal. Must show proof of residency. Contact the Public Services Department at 859-647-5416 for additional information.
- Mayor Aubuchon stated the Memorial Day Parade will be held Monday, May 29. 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 Program will be held at the Boone County Veterans Memorial located at the Florence Government Center. Information and an application to participate in the parade can be found on the city website.
- Mayor Aubuchon stated last weekend she attended the Habitat for Humanity Event and there was a great showing of the Florence Police Department and VIPS. She felt it was a great turnout and lots of good sales. Mayor Aubuchon stated she also attended the Jeff Ruby Steaks on Saturday at Turfway Racing & Gaming. The event was a fabulous way to showcase the City of Florence.

In the audience, Mayor Aubuchon recognized BSA Scout Lucas Newport from Troop 727 in Burlington. BSA Scout Newport stated he was working on his citizenship badge and community badge. Mayor Aubuchon thanked him and his father for attending.

**RECOGNITION:**

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:

Resident of Florence, Brian Kinross, stated he saw the Caucus Notes from the Caucus Meeting and wanted to comment on campaigning in the Memorial Day Parade. He stated Memorial Day is a day to honor and respect our fallen heroes and those that served in the military for the protection of our liberties, our constitution, and the rights they protect. Mr. Kinross felt it was a great honor to have members such as Florence City Council in the parade. Until he ran for city council, he was

unaware of the non-campaigning rule. Having councilmembers in the parade helped him recognize them as their names were on the side of their vehicles. Mr. Kinross requested the city reconsider the policy on no political campaigning in the Memorial Day Parade and allow all to participate.

Mayor Aubuchon thanked Mr. Kinross for his comments. She stated the city cannot stop someone from participating in the parade or control what they wear. The policy was to prevent distribution of campaign material. Mayor Aubuchon stressed anyone could participate in the parade and pass out candy. However, she requested respect for remembrance of the day and did not feel it was appropriate to promote an individual's interest. Historically, when councilmembers and the Mayor have participated in the parade, they were representing the city. Material was not distributed. Mayor Aubuchon stated the purpose of the parade was to honor and respect our military that have paid the ultimate sacrifice and honor our veterans.

Mr. Kinross stated the Memorial Day Form states there is no political campaigning permitted. Mayor Aubuchon reiterated the statement is to not permit distribution of political literature.

Mr. Kinross stated the application should be clarified and commented that now officially on the record the no campaigning means no distribution of campaign materials.

Councilmember Carroll wanted to remind everyone that while the parade is on Memorial Day, the city conducts a program to honor the fallen heroes and veterans for their service. He encouraged everyone to come to the parade and the program.

Executive Director of Student/Community Services of the Boone County Schools, Ms. Kathleen Reutman, expressed appreciation to the students in attendance that spoke against vaping. She stated the schools are having significant issues with vaping and applauded their initiative.

**CLOSED SESSION:**

There was no need for Closed 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 Winn. **Councilmembers present voted aye**, the time being 6:39 p.m.

**APPROVED:**

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

**ATTEST:**

/s/ Melissa Kramer  
Melissa Kramer, City Clerk

