



**Florence City Council
Business Meeting
Tuesday, April 11, 2023
6:00 p.m.**

MINUTES

The City Council of the City of Florence, Kentucky, met in regular session on Tuesday, April 11, 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 five (5) members of council were registered present: Mel Carroll, Lesley Chambers, David A. Osborne, Patricia Wingo and Gary Winn. Councilmember Jenna Kemper was absent.

Staff members present were: Assistant City Attorney, Thomas Nienaber; CFO/HR, Linda Chapman; Fire/EMS Chief, Rodney Wren; Chief of Police, Tom Grau; 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 Police Department new police officer, Tanner Pinkston; Family and Friends of the new Florence Police Department Employee, Tanner Pinkston; Boone County Public Safety Communications Center Director, Sherri Knipper; Boone County Public Safety Communications Center Dispatch Supervisor, Daniel Aylor; Bellwether Enterprise Real Estate Capital, LLC, Jerry Atkins; Viox & Viox, Brock MacKay; 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 28, 2023, business meeting. Councilmember Wingo motioned to approve the minutes with a second from Councilmember Carroll. **All councilmembers present voted aye.**

OATH OF OFFICE:

Chief Grau introduced the newest member of the Florence Police Department, Tanner Pinkston. Chief Grau stated Tanner is twenty-five years old and currently resides in Florence. He is a 2015 graduate of Boyle County High School and grew up in Junction City, Kentucky. After graduating high school, Tanner enlisted in the Kentucky National Guard and served for seven years until 2022. Tanner left the National Guard to pursue a career in law enforcement and worked at the Marion County Detention Center before moving to the Northern Kentucky area. Tanner briefly worked for the Grant County Detention Center before being hired by the Lexington Police Department. Chief Grau stated the department is excited to be adding Tanner.

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

PROCLAMATION:

Mayor Aubuchon issued a Proclamation recognizing April 9, 2023 through April 15, 2023 as National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week and read the following Proclamation into record:

WHEREAS, the City of Florence recognizes that our health, safety, and well-being are often dependent on the commitment and steadfast devotion of our Public Safety Telecommunicators at the Boone County Public Safety Communications Center (PSCC); and,

WHEREAS, emergencies can occur at any time that require police, fire, emergency medical services, or other critical services; and

WHEREAS, the safety of our police officers, fire services and emergency medical services are dependent upon the quality and accuracy of information obtained from citizens who access the Boone County Public Safety Communications Center (PSCC) 911 emergency systems; and,

WHEREAS, Public Safety Telecommunicators are the first and most critical contact our citizens have with emergency services. These dedicated men and women are the First Responders and are more than anonymous voices on the telephone line; and

WHEREAS, Emergency responders rely on the knowledge and professionalism of Public Safety Telecommunicators to make critical decisions, obtain information, and quickly dispatch needed aid; and,

WHEREAS, each Telecommunicator exhibits compassion, understanding, and professionalism during the performance of their job assisting those in need.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Julie M. Aubuchon, Mayor of the City of Florence, Kentucky, do hereby proclaim the week of April 9 through 15, 2023, to be National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week in the City of Florence, in honor of the men and women whose diligence and professionalism keep our city and citizens safe.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Florence, Kentucky, to be affixed hereto, this 11th day of April, 2023.

Mayor Aubuchon introduced Sherri Knipper, Director of the Boone County Public Safety Communications Center (PSCC). Mayor Aubuchon expressed her appreciation for the telecommunicators and stated they are the connection between our citizens and our Police and Fire/EMS Department. Mayor Aubuchon commended them for their commitment and service to the city.

Ms. Knipper thanked Mayor Aubuchon and the councilmembers for the Proclamation in recognition of the telecommunicators. She stated it was an honor and privilege to serve the citizens in the community and expressed her appreciation. Ms. Knipper stated the telecommunicators of the Boone County PSCC receive special training to have the ability to answer the calls they receive for service promptly. Last year, the center received 148,769 inbound 911 emergency and non-emergency calls for service. Ms. Knipper extended an invitation to the Mayor and councilmembers to tour the center.

Councilmember Winn inquired with regard to how many employees are staffed by the PSCC. Ms. Knipper stated forty-one can be in the center and currently they can have thirty-three with eight support staff. Ms. Knipper stated they are always looking for people that love to serve their community and are currently accepting applications.

Councilmember Carroll thanked them for all the work they do for the community.

Councilmember Wingo expressed her appreciation and thanked them for all they do.

FIRST READING ORDINANCE O-7-2023:

Mayor Aubuchon read Ordinance O-7-2023 and called upon Joshua J. Hunt, Business and Community Development Director, with regard to discussion and possible action of Ordinance O-7-2023.

Mr. Hunt referred to his PowerPoint presentation and identified the proposed project located at 7841 Mall Road. He stated the site is the former Hollywood Video at the corner of Cayton and Mall Road. The project consists of two requests. The first request is to remove parking spots in front of the building and extend the sidewalk, adding parking spaces to the parking area closer to Mall Road. The second request was to permit additional signage. Mr. Hunt referenced his presentation and identified the proposed parking area and signage. He explained the building will become a two tenant building with AT&T and LensCrafters. Mr. Hunt introduced the owner of the building, Jerry Atkins, in the audience. Mr. Hunt explained Mr. Atkins also owns the adjacent property and commended Mr. Atkins and expressed his appreciation of the capital investment in the building.

Mayor Aubuchon read Ordinance O-7-2023. An Ordinance Adopting and Approving a Concept Development Plan and Zoning Map Amendment for a Special Sign District in a Commercial Two/Planned Development/Mall Road Overlay (C-2/PD/MR) Zone for an approximate 0.99 acre

site located at 7841 Mall Road, Florence, Kentucky, to allow redevelopment of the site, utilizing a portion of the Right-Of-Way of Mall Road, and to establish a Special Sign District to modify the requirements of building mounted and free standing signage. (LensCrafters)

The effect of this Ordinance is to allow a Concept Development Plan and Zoning Map Amendment for a Special Sign District in a Commercial Two/Planned Development/Mall Road Overlay (C-2/PD/MR) Zone, which would allow redevelopment of the site, utilizing a portion of the right-of-way of Mall Road, and a Special Sign District to modify the requirements of building mounted and free standing signage.

The full text of Ordinance O-7-2023, 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 first reading of Ordinance O-7-2023. Councilmember Winn motioned to approve, with a second from Councilmember Osborne. **All councilmembers present voted aye.**

MAYOR'S REPORT:

- Mayor Aubuchon informed everyone Florence Aquatic Center memberships are still discounted 25% through April 13. Memberships will be sold online only through the city website. She informed everyone the email for the Florence Aquatic Center questions is aquatics@florence-ky.gov. For more information, please call the Public Services Department at 859-647-5416.
- Mayor Aubuchon reminded everyone the Florence Police Department will be participating in National Prescription Drug Take Back Day Saturday, 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 at 7685 Mall Road. For more information, please call the Florence Police Department at 859-647-5420.
- Mayor Aubuchon reminded everyone Spring Clean Up 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 reminded everyone 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. She encourage everyone to participate in the parade. Currently, they are fourteen entries and the deadline to enter to participate in the parade is May 15.

RECOGNITION:

Mayor Aubuchon asked if any of the following desired recognition:

Members of City Council:

Councilmember Chambers inquired with regard to excluded items not included for disposal at the Spring Clean Up and whether the city intended to provide a time to dispose of those excluded items. Mayor Aubuchon stated in November a Northern Kentucky Household Hazardous Waste Event is held and the event provides residents an opportunity to dispose of some hazardous waste materials.

Department Heads:

Fire/EMS Chief, Rodney Wren:

Chief Wren did not desire recognition.

Chief of Police, Tom Grau:

Chief Grau did not desire recognition.

Members of the Audience:

No recognition requested from the audience.

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 Wingo. **Councilmembers present voted aye**, the time being 6:18 p.m.

APPROVED:

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

ATTEST:

/s/ Melissa Kramer
Melissa Kramer, City Clerk

